



Registration Reminders

The physical office of the Senior Adult Learning Center remains closed at this time due to the pandemic. SALC staff are working remotely, and the majority of winter quarter courses will be remote. [Portland State's Coronavirus Response page](#) has details. Please refer to the [How to Register page](#) of the SALC website for registration information.

- To register for a course, auditors must send 2 items to salc@pdx.edu :
 - 1.) Instructor's approval email
 - 2.) Completed course registration form
- **Auditors are required to wait until the week before the term begins to ask instructors for permission to audit their course.**
- Online course materials are accessed through D2L at d2l.pdx.edu.
- Check your Portland State University email account for updates from PSU or your instructor. This email is tied to your Odin account. Odin accounts expire 1 year after the last class an auditor has taken. When you register next, it will reactivate.
- Some classes carry fees, including those defined as Online, which is different from Remote. Fees are indicated on the Class Schedule.
- Charges are applied to one's Student Account which can be viewed at my.pdx.edu.

Important Dates:

12/28

Auditors may begin
to contact instructors

1/4

Class begins

1/10

Last day to drop a class
with a full refund



Meet the SALC Staff

The daily operations of PSU's Senior Adult Learning Center (SALC) are managed by three part-time staff members. Claire Ghazal, Program Administrator for the Institute on Aging, has been assigned as SALC Coordinator. PSU students Poem Olson and Stacy Wilfong are a dedicated work study duo.



Claire Ghazal



Poem Olson



Stacy Wilfong

Claire is originally from California, but moved to Oregon by way of Hawaii in 2018. She completed the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology program at PSU in March of 2020. Her background is in nonprofit management, but she discovered her passion is aging services. Claire says, "I'm excited for this opportunity to help make PSU courses available to more older adults across Oregon." She enjoys discovering new artists and spending time with loved ones.

Poem currently lives in Portland, but is originally from Keizer. She is a junior at PSU, studying mathematics and philosophy with a focus on statistics. She found SALC a year ago while seeking a position that would work with her class schedule. She has enjoyed her time working at SALC and shared that her favorite part of the job is "getting to know people when they tell me stories about their life." When she's not studying, Poem likes reading, making playlists, taking care of plants, and watercolor painting.

Stacy resides in Albany, but is originally from Portland. Her studies focus on community psychology and communications. She has been with SALC since Fall term 2016 and says "SALC has become a big part of my life. I enjoy the connections I make with our auditors and I'm honored to be part of the SALC team." Some things Stacy enjoys are gardening and spending time with her family, especially her granddaughter.

This is Us

The Senior Adult Learning Center (SALC) Leadership Council, or LC as we like to call it, is three to fifteen senior auditors who volunteer to help the SALC thrive. In addition to community members, two PSU faculty are also members of the LC. Every year, a Nominating Committee interviews potential new members, and the current Council approves those recommendations.

The council is an advisory body to the Director of the Institute of Aging (IOA) at PSU and offers advice and ideas to enhance the learning experience of senior auditors but also assists with implementing those ideas. This past year, the Council :

- Developed an on-line registration and instructor approval process.
- Partnered with IOA to develop an online application process for new SALC members with an increase of 94 new members.
- Offered significant support this fall during the unexpected transition of SALC staff.
- Solicited over \$40,000 in donations to fund SALC operations.
- Collaborated with PSU staff to design an interim SALC webpage to comply with PSU's new platform.
- Hosted a SALC donor event featuring PSU history professor Jack Miller.
- Focused the fall newsletter, which was both mailed and sent via email, on the new registration process.

Members of the 2020-21 LC are: Linda Mantel and Judy Bradley, Co -chairs, Carole Beauclerk, Larry Fester, Tom Gornick, Elka Grisham, Roy Lambert, Rebecca MacGregor, Dave Mitchell, Evelyn Murphy, John Ott, Eva Nunez, Barbara Simon and Steve Waddington.

Did You Know?

The Senior Adult Learning Center (SALC) was established in the 1973 as part of PSU's Institute on Aging to facilitate and encourage lifelong learning for Oregon residents 65 years of age and older. In 2010, Oregon House Bill 2011 required state institutions of higher education to waive tuition for any course audited by this cohort contingent upon space and instructor's approval. During any given term between 300 and 600 auditors register for classes. It is a vibrant, growing part of the PSU family. This fall, the most popular courses taken by auditors were:

- World Language and Literatures: 111 auditors
- History: 84 auditors
- Political Science: 24 auditors
- English: 21 auditors
- School of Music and Theatre: 20 auditors

A Look Back. What's Ahead.

By: Judy Bradley

Despite numerous challenges, the SALC program mobilized early this fall to develop an online registration process enabling Senior Auditors to continue taking classes during the campus shutdown.

A total of 327 auditors signed up online for one or more classes this fall. Prior to Fall Term an enthusiastic group of 94 new auditors joined SALC, some of whom had been waiting to enter the program since the closure of SALC's physical office last spring.

Remote classes, with or without specific meeting times, will be in effect through the Winter Term. From all reports, many instructors who have not taught online previously are adapting quickly to the remote teaching format with minimal technical problems.

The online registration process for the Winter Term has been simplified by upgrading the SALC website and developing how-to videos on registration procedures.

SALC's physical office will remain closed for the Winter Term, but SALC staff will be available Monday through Thursday to promptly answer questions about registration and other auditor concerns.

If you have any questions, please send an email to salc@pdx.edu or leave a message on SALC's voicemail system at (503) 725-4739.

What did you do about classes in Fall 2020?

We will have a questionnaire [here](#) and we would love to hear from you.

Have you donated to SALC yet?

By: **Dave Mitchell**

If you've already made a gift to support SALC this academic year (since July 1), thank you very much. If you haven't, please consider making your gift to SALC during this Holiday Season.

SALC's operations are supported 100% through charitable donations, allowing PSU to focus its resources on tuition-paying students. SALC's fundraising goal for 2020-2021 is \$40,000. Please help us reach this goal!

Each March during Spring Break, a special Donor Recognition Event is held to thank those who have supported SALC in the current academic year. The event this past spring featured PSU Political Science Professor Jack Miller delivering an enlightening talk entitled "The History and Impact of the Electoral College." We can guarantee that this spring's event will be timely and informative. Your contribution to SALC will ensure that you receive an invitation to the 2021 event.



You may send your check to SALC using a gift reply envelope you have previously received, or you may make an online credit card donation at:

<https://giving.psuf.org/salc>.

Thinking, Learning and Relating to Zoom

By: **Steven L. Thorne, PhD**

Professor of Second Language Acquisition at PSU



The pandemic has changed a great deal of what used to be taken-for-granted everyday life activity – how (and even if) we socialize, how we communicate with friends and family (even those that live nearby), and how we engage in work and educational activities. As a professor in the Department of World Languages and Literatures with a long-standing research interest in the use of contemporary technologies for teaching and learning, I have found the shift to remote education to be challenging. For example, teaching a class of more than fifty students via Zoom means that it is more difficult to “read the room” and modulate explanations and discussion appropriately. This said, my nearly three decades of teaching experience have proven relevant when teaching via Zoom.

A number of the qualities that make face-to-face teaching so rewarding, for example seeing the engaged facial expressions of students and having modest success with efforts at levity and humor, remain present and viable over Zoom. Similarly, Zoom allows a few communication channels to co-exist in real time, since in addition to the live video feed, there is also a text chat tool that participants can use to share comments, questions, and links to resources. I have been particularly impressed by the conviviality and positive social dynamic among participants in Zoom class meetings. Students are sympathetic and caring to one another and for many of us, myself included, the Zoom class meetings are not only educational, they have also become social events to look forward to. Lastly, to replicate the informal after-class interactions that typically happen on campus, I have taken to staying online after class to continue the discussion, answer questions, and to chat informally with whomever wishes to do so. These after-class sessions, fully voluntary, sometimes extend to 30 or 40 minutes and they are a delight, especially given the COVID-related restrictions on social activity.

Using the Zoom experience has some surprising benefits and satisfying elements. Also, you can attend class in a bathrobe and slippers!

Senior Auditor Profile: Christine Hamm

By: Evelyn Murphy

Christine moved to Portland to be near family, but this was not a straightforward decision, as Boise, Beijing and PDX were all candidates. Portland won, possibly because she was okay with giving up the harsh winters of New Hampshire where she had worked as a journalist, served 10 years in the State Legislature and organized local theater productions.

Since 2017, Chris has audited more than 20 classes: political science, literature, history, philosophy, art history, communications and film. Fall term, she audited two classes: "International Law", and "Stories in the Time of Pandemics: Plagues and Pestilence in World Literature." While missing in-person interaction due to the pandemic, she still enjoys auditing. Chris enjoys the opportunity to interact with the enrolled students as well as the senior auditors. She finds the variety of ages, life histories and regional and national backgrounds an enriching and rewarding experience.

"It's interesting to see how those differences play out in how people react to the material," she commented. "The range of perspectives adds to the learning experience."

In her first term, Chris was recruited by a fellow auditor to volunteer with a group that organizes school tours of downtown Portland, focusing on the city's history, architecture and inhabitants, both indigenous peoples and later arrivals.

"As a newcomer to Portland, I've been lucky. I realize how many of my friends are people I've met in class" she said. Moving forward, whether remote or in-person, Chris is invested in furthering her involvement in SALC.

