

# Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning

www.BRCLL.com

828-694-1740

June and July 2026

Volume 2026 Number 6

Go [here](#) to register online.

To drop a class go [here](#).

Please note that while we welcome walk-ins with [exact fees/credit card](#) (pending late class cancellations and space availability) Online registrations can occur up to the day before the course.

## When Music is History\*

1 Session  
Tuesday  
June 2

10 a.m. — Noon  
BRCC - Room 239  
Sink Building/Zoom

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 83489



Photo Credit: Rolling Stones Facebook



Photo Credit: thesongbook.org

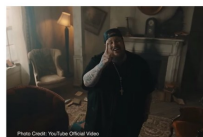


Photo Credit: YouTube Official Video

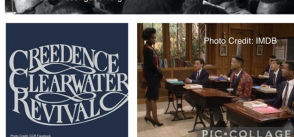


Photo Credit: IMOB

PIC-COLLAG

Music and history are deeply intertwined. Historians can look to music to learn more about society and cultures. Music often reflects a regional or community's cultural identity, expressing shared values and beliefs. It can unite people with different backgrounds, fostering community and shared identity. Music has played a significant role in social movements and inspiring change. Slave spirituals, Civil Rights,

Vietnam, Live Aid, Concert for the Carolinas are examples of music preserving stories and experiences that might otherwise be forgotten. Join us on a stroll down memory lane to explore history inspired by and reflected in their songs.

**Stacie Dotson**, a retired English teacher and history buff, has studied at Western Carolina University, NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, Pearl Harbor, and primary sites of WWII and the Holocaust. A National Board-Certified Teacher and a Holocaust education professional, she volunteers at the NC Council on the Holocaust and presents workshops about the Holocaust and World War II.

Stacie teaches literature through a historical lens because the humanities reflect the events of the day. Words, music and art often record the creator's impressions, thoughts and feelings on what is happening around them. From seemingly mundane daily routines to the cries of a generation, and everything in between, these creations become lessons from history.

Click [here](#) for online registration or  
hold your camera over the QR code.



## History of WNC Black Lives

1 Session  
Monday  
June 15

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 81830**



The decades following the Civil War were rife with social, cultural, and economic change in Western North Carolina. Although Black Americans were legally freed from bondage, oppressive and discriminatory policies continued. Join local historian and 6th generation Western North Carolinian Katherine Calhoun Cutshall as she provides an overview of the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras in Buncombe County covering topics including criminal justice, health and wellness, housing, economic development, and education.

**Katherine Calhoun Cutshall** is an "aggressively enthusiastic" historian and archivist with deep roots in Western North Carolina. She earned degrees in History (BA) and Liberal Studies (MLAS) at UNC Asheville.

Katherine has worked in museums, historic sites, and served on boards and commissions across the region since 2014 including the Gov. Zebulon B. Vance State Historic Site, The Asheville-Buncombe African American Heritage Commission, Swannanoa Valley Museum & History Center, The Joint Vance Monument Task Force, and the North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center. Her research primarily focuses on the WNC region before the Civil War.

Today Cutshall oversees the Buncombe County Special Collections library and serves as a member of the North Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board.

## WNC's Land Barons\*

1 Session  
Tuesday  
June 23

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**Room 239/ZOOM**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 80511**



Owning land in WNC was a dubious prospect in the early days. After all, if resources abounded, how could one get them to market? And so the mountains were gradually settled by "mountain people," folks who weren't trying to get resources to market, folks in survival mode.

Things changed over time and moguls emerged: folks who saw value in large land holdings. We know about the famous WNC estate of Vanderbilt and his contemporaries from the 1880's . . . but who were Tench Coxe and Waightsell Avery, who acquired acreage by the tens of thousands in the 1780's? What about the railroad companies? The loggers? The federal government? The utilities (hello, Duke Energy)?

Join Chumley Cope to look at the story of large-scale land acquisition in WNC. We'll consider interesting cases of individuals who led the way, and corporations who made their mark. We'll evaluate the condition of those land holdings then and now.

**Chumley Cope** is an explorer whose roots grow out of NC and the Appalachian Mountains. His weekly "me-time smoothie" tastes of a drive down an unknown road, a new hiking trail under foot, or an opportunity to photograph that just-noticed dogwood branch catching the sun, both fuel and feed his discoveries to share. Much like his forebears marched in time to seasons and subtleties in this region, Chumley stakes a claim to the same. His questions and discoveries are fodder for his travel company, Explore Up Close, now in its 21st year.

**19th Century Dollar Princesses**

2 Sessions  
Wednesdays  
July 8 & 15

**1 p.m. — 3 p.m.**  
**Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$40

**Course Code: 82820**



Coined by Mark Twain, the term *Gilded Age* refers to the late 19th Century era of rapid U.S. industrial growth, great fortunes, stark inequality, and a glittering surface that concealed deep social problems. This course explores the era's practice of "Cash for Coronets," in which wealthy American heiresses married financially strained British aristocrats—exchanging immense dowries for noble titles and social prestige.

Across two sessions, Paula Veaudry Withrow will examine what created the Gilded Age, and cover some successful unions and some failures with some very adventurous young ladies. Some will be well known

(Jenny Jerome, Consuelo Vanderbilt and Consuelo Yzanga) and others much less famous but equally interesting.

**Paula Veaudry Withrow** holds an MA in history from Colorado State University and has long studied British history, royal families, aristocratic culture, and European conflicts. She has presented widely for libraries, OLLI UNCA, BRCLL, and local CCRCs.

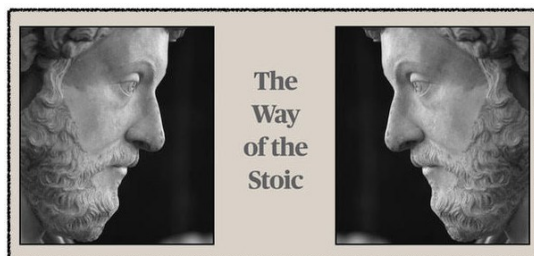
**The Way of the Stoic\***

2 Sessions  
Thursdays  
July 9 & 16

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**Room 239/ZOOM**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$40

**Course Code: 81689**



The popular notion of a "stoic" is an unemotional and inactive person who misses the value of classical Stoic thinking. Join Chris Highland as he introduces three central voices of Stoicism. We will consider how their practical guidance for the virtuous life can be relevant to what we are facing in today's anxious, uncertain times.

A key Roman philosopher, **Seneca** offers timeless advice on achieving tranquil mind by prioritizing virtue, using reason, and accepting fate. He championed Stoic ideals like living in accordance with nature, mastering destructive emotions and finding meaning through challenges and purpose.

Born into slavery, **Epictetus** became a Greek Stoic philosopher who taught that personal freedom and peace of mind come from understanding and controlling what is within our power.

The "Philosopher King," **Marcus Aurelius** was the last of the "Five Good Emperors," a period of stability in the Roman Empire. He was known for just and rational governance.

**Chris Highland** holds degrees from Seattle Pacific University and San Francisco Theological Seminary and has over 30 years experience in interfaith work. He has taught in a variety of venues for decades: a former ordained minister, he is now a humanist celebrant and freethinker. The author of over 30 books, he writes the weekly "Highland Views" column for the *Asheville Citizen-Times* and the "Friendly Freethinker" column for the *Black Belt News Network* in Alabama. For more information see the Friendly Freethinker at [www.CHighland.com](http://www.CHighland.com).

### Leadership: What Works. Examples from Asia

1 Session  
Tuesday  
July 21

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 81692**



Join Surain Subramaniam as he explores and identifies the core features of successful leadership, drawing from examples of political leadership in Asia, to explain the critical role of good leadership in explaining successful outcomes. What are the effects of good leadership on a society's development, what lessons can we draw from Asian societies, and what are some of the challenges of selecting and sustaining good leadership?

**Surain Subramaniam** is a Professor of International and Asian Studies at UNC-Asheville, where he has been on the faculty for over 20 years. He holds a B.A. in International Studies and Political Economy from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in International Studies from the University of South Carolina. His research and teaching focuses on the linkages between development, governance, democracy, and dissent in Asia, specifically in East and Southeast Asia. Dr. Subramaniam has also been a featured speaker at the Great Decisions lectures.

### Russia, WWI and Ukraine\*

1 Session  
Wednesday  
July 22

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**Room 239**  
**Sink Building/ZOOM**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 81754**



In many ways, the modern world was born amidst the First World War. This is particularly true for Northeastern Europe, which changed dramatically due to the collapse of the Russian Empire and onset of Bolshevik rule. Join Jordan Kuck as he covers the First World War, the dual revolutions of 1917, and the subsequent Russian Civil War. If you want to understand what's happening today in the region, including in Ukraine, then start with this fascinating and dramatic history.

**Jordan Kuck** is an associate professor of history and Chair of Humanities at Brevard College. An expert on the modern history of Northeastern Europe, his research deals with the history of nationalism and authoritarianism in the Baltic states during the interwar period. Dr. Kuck has published material on the centennial of Latvian independence and has contributed chapters to two recently published books, *Dictatorship and Daily Life in 20th-Century Europe*, and *Transnational and Transatlantic Fascism in East Central and Southeastern Europe, 1918–2018*. He is currently working on a manuscript on the Kārlis Ulmanis regime in Latvia. Dr. Kuck has received a Fulbright and a U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship.

## NEW!! Online registration – try it – IT'S EASY!

Go to: <https://blueridge-register.fundfive.com/filtered/course/BRCLL> Gretchen

HOME / REGISTRATION  
CURRENT COURSE OFFERINGS

Blue Ridge has more to offer! [Click here to see all classes](#)

Click on the name of the course below for additional information about each course section.

Show 25 entries

Course Name	Location	Start Date	Start Time	Price	Seats Available
<a href="#">1962 Cuban Missile Crisis</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	03/18/2024	10:00 am	\$40.00	30
<a href="#">Berlin 1933</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	04/09/2024	10:00 am	\$30.00	30
<a href="#">Cracking the Singapore Code!</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	03/27/2024	10:00 am	\$30.00	30
<a href="#">Elevated Living</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	05/29/2024	01:00 pm	\$30.00	30
<a href="#">Fission &amp; Fusion</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	04/22/2024	10:00 am	\$40.00	30

Click on class you want to see more information on/register for.

- Classes are listed alphabetically.
- Click on the START DATE header to view classes in date order or reverse.
- On payment page, for "signature", type your name.

Click [here](#) for online registration or hold your camera over the QR code.



### Attention Zoom class participants!

Only classes listing a Sink Building /Zoom location in newsletter are available to Zoom

- Enter [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) in your browser or install Zoom app.
- Select "join meeting"
- Enter meeting ID: 573 909 3090
- Enter meeting passcode: BRCLL
- Be sure to use/monitor the group chat



## Miscellaneous

### Mission

To inspire curiosity, engagement and community among lifelong learners.

### Important Information

Office hours depend on many things including class schedules. In general, the office is open during class times. The office program specialist, Gretchen Koehler, can be reached at **828-694-1740** or by email ([g.koehler@blueridge.edu](mailto:g.koehler@blueridge.edu)). Messages may be left at any time and are returned as soon as possible.

As a reminder, BRCLL follows the inclement weather policy of Blue Ridge Community College. If the Community College is closed because of weather or another alert, BRCLL classes scheduled for that day will be canceled. If the campus is on a delayed scheduled. BRCLL classes will be held accordingly. Please don't expect individual communication from your specific class instructor/program.

Any decisions regarding college schedules for the weekend or the upcoming week will be communicated through Blue Ridge Alert notifications, the college website at [www.blueridge.edu/alert](http://www.blueridge.edu/alert) social media, and local broadcasters. The Blue Ridge Alert website also includes a list of local broadcasters that share official college updates.

You may also sign up for text notifications following the guidance in the graphic below:



Handicapped parking is available in front of the Sink Building.

Remember to bring a sweater if you tend to get cold as the temperatures in the rooms vary.

### Center for Lifelong Learning Board of Directors

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