Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning

www.BRCLL.com 828-694-1740

November and December 2026 Volume 2026 Number 11

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.

Historical Cross-Country Narratives: Travelers and Landscapes*

CANCELLED

2 Sessions
Mondays
November 2 & 9

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Room 259
Sink Building/ZOOM

Fee: $40

Course Code: 82826





Manifest destiny drove the expansion of the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast and gave rise to an ever-evolving transcontinental compulsion. Whether traveling on foot, in horse-drawn wagons, via telegraph messages, on railroads, highways, airlines or the internet, writers and artists of all sorts have followed different routes and used their observations as narratives that explore the landscapes, the society, and sentiment of this diverse land.

Join Craig Colten as he compares the 19th century accounts of explorers and foreign commentators on the new American scene, starting with a focus on the South. Moving to the 20th century he will compare observations of writers traveling by train, automobile and airplane. For the current century, he will focus on social geography and the lingering compulsion to use the transcontinental journey for competition, political advocacy, and nostalgia.

Craig Colten retired as the Carl O. Sauer Professor of Geography at Louisiana State University. He is the author of several books on historical geography and traveled across the country in cars, planes, trains, and hitch-hiking, and as the guide for a circum-U.S. camping tour. He has been a long-time student of travel accounts and the compulsion of visitors to traverse the country and the geography they reveal to the armchair traveler.

Click here for online registration or hold your camera over the QR code.

Solo Agers – Issues and Resources*

1 Session
Thursday
November 5

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

Fee: $30

Course Code: 82202



Are you a Solo Ager? A "solo ager" is defined as an older adult who lives alone and is making plans to remain independent. Solo Agers may be unmarried, single, or have no living children, and, often lacking a built-in family safety net, must proactively plan for healthcare, finances, and social support in the future.

If this describes you, consider joining us on November 5, as Lisa Laney guides us in considering:

- Questions to ask yourself now
- What professionals and services could be useful to assist you in creating your plan for solo aging
- How to build your plan, including:
- Building your Toolbox and Table of Contents
- Where to store your toolbox: Hardcopy? Digital? In the Cloud?
- Who should have the key(s) to your toolbox
- Community and the value of others in our lives as we age

Lisa Laney is a Masters Level Social Worker who did her graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill with a double concentration in Aging and Health Care. Lisa has worked in medical social work and care management her entire career, in settings such as skilled nursing facilities, Medicare Home Health agencies, the VA Hospital in Asheville, Mission Hospital, and CarePartners for 25 years (advancing to Director of Geriatric Care Management). In 2012 Lisa founded a Care Management firm, *Lisa Laney & Associates*. In 2015 she co-founded a caregiver registry, *Choice Care Your Way* which now has over 200 caregivers. Lisa serves on the Board and as facilitator for the Asheville Parkinson's Support Group.

Personal Memoirs

2 Sessions
Thursdays
November 12 and 19

10 a.m. — Noon
Room 239
Sink Building

Fee: $40

Course Code: 83488



Whether your goal is to publish a commercial memoir for the public or to leave a heartfelt "legacy" book for your children and grandchildren, this two-day workshop provides the tools to transform your memories into a lasting narrative.

Structured to respect your time and your voice, Lorraine Norwood will help you explore "Memory Anchors" on Day One - using sensory triggers and era-specific prompts to unlock vivid details. Day Two shifts into narrative structure, where you will learn how to organize your stories by theme or "braid" them together, focusing on the "kitchen table" style of storytelling: authentic, engaging, and uniquely yours.

This workshop prioritizes **actual writing time:** you won't just sit and listen; you will spend a significant portion of each session putting pen to paper (or fingers to keys) with real-time support. By the end, you will have a clear roadmap for your project and the confidence to continue your journey as a family historian or emerging author.

What to Bring:

- **Your Preferred Writing Tools:** A favorite notebook and pen, or a fully charged laptop/tablet.

- **One "Memory Anchor":** A physical object (an old photo, a piece of jewelry, a letter, or a small keepsake) that holds a story you'd like to tell.

An Open Mind: No formal writing experience required!

Lorraine Norwood is an NC native with over 20 years in print and television reporting. After earning an English degree in creative writing from UNC-CH, she later earned degrees in anthropology and medieval archaeology. She has been writing and teaching for over 30 years and is a certified book coach and developmental editor. She wrote the historical novel *The Solitary Sparrow,* a finalist for 2025 Best Novel in the Women's Fiction Writers Association.

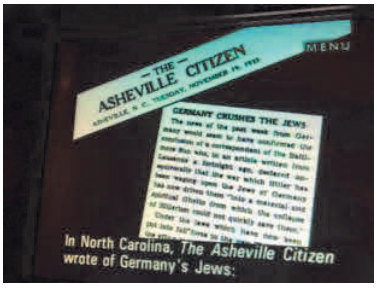
Americans & the Holocaust*

1 Session
Monday
December 2

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

Fee: $30

Course Code: 83183



Holocaust history raises important questions about what Europeans could have done to stop the rise of Nazism in Germany and its assault on Europe's Jews. Questions arise of the international community, including the United States: What did the US government and the American people know about the threats posed by Nazi Germany and when did they know?

Join Stacie Dotson, Holocaust educator, to explore what was happening in America at the time, enhanced by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's current exhibit.

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.

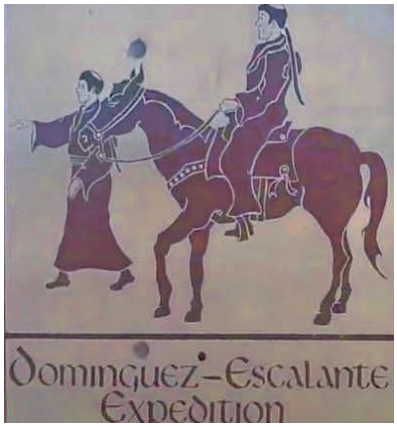
Discovering America's West

2 Sessions
Mondays
December 7 & 14

1 p.m. — 3p.m.
Room 239
Sink Building

Fee: $40

Course Code: 82958



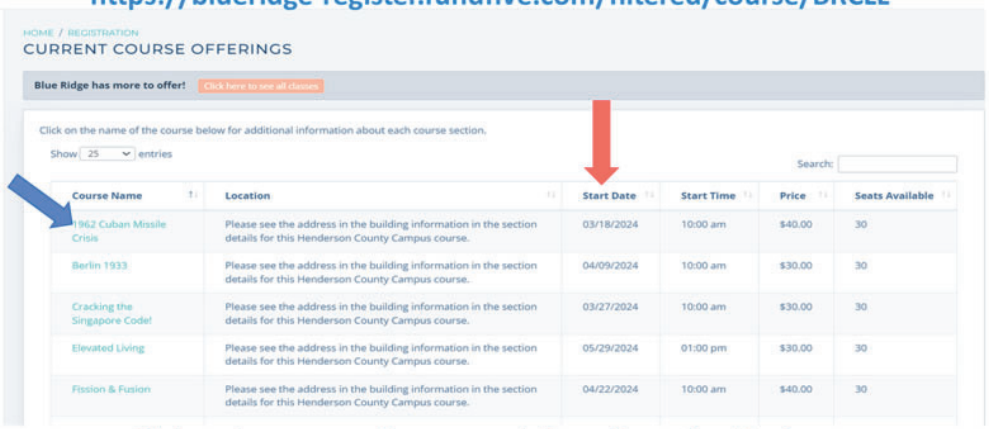
Discover the American West through a fascinating story that predates Lewis and Clark by over twenty-five years. In 1776, Franciscan priests Atanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante set out from Santa Fe to find a safer route to the California missions. Their journey made them the first Europeans to witness much of the dramatic landscape, striking geology and ancient dwellings of today's Four Corners Region. The trails they mapped later supported trade among European settlers and Native peoples of the Southwest.

Two centuries later, our speaker, Paula Veaudry Withrow, retraced their path on horseback, experiencing the same rugged terrain and history firsthand. In this 2-session presentation, she shares the story of the original expedition and her own modern-day recreation of the route.

Paula Veaudry Withrow holds an MA in history from Colorado State University and has explored and mapped historic trails with the Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey, and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. She has presented widely, including at BRCLL, OLLI Asheville, Transylvania Library, Givens, Deerfield, and Lake Pointe Landing.

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

Go to: ≡ https://blueridge-register.fundfive.com/filtered/course/BRCLL



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 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**). 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 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

Mary Johnston Joan Kershner Carl Schoendorfer Laurel Ela