

OLLI at DU Syllabus

Facilitator Name	Natalie Conklin
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Course Title	The Greatest Stories Never Told
Site	OLLI South
Term	Fall, 2025
Course Sessions	7
Week 1	(September 18) An introduction to the class and a potpourri of untold stories from a variety of genres (including, among others, the history behind the Ponzi scheme, the origins of Sherlock Holmes, Shakespeare's First Folio, and the amazing things insured by Lloyds of London)
Week 2	(September 25) This is a 7-week class. WE WILL NOT MEET ON THE 25th!
Week 3	(October 2) The Greatest Presidential and Political Stories Never Told (including the origins of the elephant and donkey and red and blue states, interesting pets that have inhabited the White House, the President who saved football, and the president who inspired the expression "OK.")
Week 4	(October 9) The Greatest Music Stories Never Told (including the origins of some famous songs-Amazing Grace, Happy Birthday, The Star-Spangled Banner, and Take

Me Out to the Ballgame, Dixie, and Taps; Some iconic music event moments- “We Are the World” and “Live Aid”)

Week 5

(October 16) The Greatest Science, Medical and Technological Stories Never Told (including the mold that saved millions, and other scientific discoveries that happened by accident, the advances in robot technology and AI, animal to human organ transplants, and COVID recovery stories)

Week 6

(October 23) The Greatest War Stories Never Told (including the “Candy Bomber” during the cold war, toys that came from military experimentation and development (the slinky and G.I. Joe), Hedy Lamarr’s contributions to the war effort and the future development of Wi-fi, and Operation Mincemeat and other great hoaxes from war, and songs that came from wars)

Week 7

(October 30) The Greatest Animal Stories Never Told (including Cher Ami, the pigeon who helped save the lost battalion in WWI, Owey, the mascot of the US Postal Service, dolphins used in the military and panda diplomacy, animals in space, a whale in the Thames and sharks off Manhattan, animal cloning.)

Week 8

(November 6) Miscellaneous (stories found by class members, stories that occur between now and the end of the term, and all that I haven’t had time for from previous weeks...There are so many untold stories!)
