

ENCORE Course Schedule ~ Fall Term 2026



Geology of Volcanoes, Our Coastal Ocean, and the Columbia River Estuary

Instructor Ed Joyce

4 classes

September 21 – October 12

Mondays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Astoria Senior Center (classroom)

The geology of our local region is presented through various geological formations and their unique effects on our coastline and environment.

Class topics by date:

September 21 – Geology related to earthquakes and tsunamis

September 28 - Volcanic activity in Oregon

October 5 – Coastal Oregon oceanography

October 12 – The Columbia River Estuary and its connection to the ocean

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## Local Authors Series

Featuring various local authors and poets

**14 classes**

**September 21 – December 21**

**Mondays 2:00 pm – 3:45 pm at the Astoria Senior Center (classroom)**

Second Annual Local Authors Series includes local poets and writers of fiction and non-fiction, sharing published material, inspiration, and pointers. All presenters have published works and are interested in community education and sharing skills.

### **Featured presenters by date:**

September 21 – Marianne Monson

September 28 – Susan Banyas

October 5 – Jennifer Nightingale

October 12 – Jan Johnson

October 19 – Jim Dott (poetry)

October 26 – Peter Young

November 2 – Jan Bono

November 9 – Sean Davis

November 16 – Brad Pietzyk

November 23 – Robert Michael Pyle

November 30 – Florence Sage (poetry)

December 7 – Kama O'Connor

December 14 – John Ciminello

December 21 – Authors or poets share select Winter of holiday readings

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Online (Zoom) Writing Exchange

Instructor Eric Anderson

8 classes

September 22 – November 10

Tuesdays 9:45 am - 11:45 am online via Zoom

This short course writing class is aimed at awakening the writer within. Share memoirs, short stories, poems or fiction and receive kind and constructive feedback. Provides a safe environment for new writers to feel able to share their writing and receive feedback and encourages all levels of writers to continue their work and stretch their wings as they develop writing pieces throughout the course.

To join this ZOOM class, contact Eric Anderson (503) 325-3131 or email ericcander@aol.com

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## **IN-PERSON Writing Exchange – NEW time and location, same class!**

Instructor Eric Anderson

**8 classes**

**September 22 – November 10**

**Tuesdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at Astoria Library in the Media Room (lower level)**

This short course writing class is aimed at awakening the writer within. Share memoirs, short stories, poems or fiction and receive kind and constructive feedback. Provides a safe environment for new writers to feel able to share their writing and receive feedback and encourages all levels of writers to continue their work and stretch their wings as they develop writing pieces throughout the course.

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Astronomy: The Universe - From Here to the Edge

Instructor Dave Ambrose

7 classes

September 25 – November 6

Fridays 10:00 am – noon at the Astoria Senior Center (classroom)

A 7-part course starting here on earth and expanding out into the universe. History of how we humans discovered what is out there and the facts we learned along the way. Each segment consists of short videos, lectures, and demonstrations. No math is required, but participants are encouraged to bring a calculator to “do the math” and find some surprising answers.

Class topics by date:

September 25 - Introduction to astronomy, numbers and the particles that make our world

October 2 – The Earth and the Moon, speed and distance

October 9 - Our solar system, the Sun and the planets

October 16 – The Milky Way Galaxy, stars and dark matter

October 23 – The Local Galaxy Group, gravity and dark energy

October 30 – The Big Bang, in the beginning, in the end

November 6 - Our place in the Universe, we are at the center

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## **Discussion – Current Topics on Our Minds**

Facilitated by Elizabeth Hayes

### **5 discussions**

**September 25 – October 23**

**Fridays 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm at the Astoria Senior Center (classroom)**

Providing an opportunity for ENCORE members to express concerns and solutions for common issues in our current society and explore the complications inherent in all of them. These discussions provide discussion points and support the various voices of those attending.

### **Discussions topics by date:**

September 25 - Homelessness/unhoused

October 2 – What has happened to education?

October 9 – How do we live with Artificial Intelligence?

October 16 – Scams and how to deal with them

October 23 – What it means to be White in a multi-cultural world

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Financial Management for Retirees

Instructor Thom Allison, retired Financial Planner

5 classes

October 19 – November 16

Mondays 11:00 am – 12:30 pm at the Astoria Senior Center (classroom)

Identifies the six major components of effective personal financial management, the four components most relevant for retirees, and strategies to help provide financial security during retirement.

Class topics by date:

October 19 - The 6 major components of personal financial management & how they tie together

October 26 – Tax management strategies & investment specific to retirees

November 2 – Increase knowledge about effectiveness working with an advisor

November 9 – Learn how to manage financial risks

November 16 – Learn how to develop a generosity plan

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## **Murphy's Law & Advocacy: Planning Ahead with Confidence**

Instructor Ian Murphy, Attorney at Law

**3 classes**

**November 13, 20, and 23**

**Friday November 13 and 20 2:00 pm – 3:45 pm, Astoria Senior Center classroom**

**Monday, November 23 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Astoria Senior Center classroom**

An overview of legal tools to help elders protect their autonomy, plan and secure their wishes, access benefits they've earned, and more. Participants will learn practical strategies and key tools, understand key documents, and gain clarity about how to prepare for the future with confidence.

**Class topics by date:**

November 13 – Durable Powers of Attorney, Medical Powers of Attorney, Advanced Directives

November 20 – Wills Trusts, and Estate Planning

November 23 – Veteran's Benefits and Survivor Benefits, what benefits exist and how to apply

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Halloween Arrives but Once a Year

Instructor Mo Balaam

October 30

Friday 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm at the Astoria Senior Center (classroom)

Attend a short presentation about Halloween traditions, including the original purpose of witches and how society came to see them as something wicked. Review some scary stories from Astoria, too. Then enjoy social time and share stories if you have one. Wear costumes, bring treats to share!