

OLLI Online Course Syllabus

The Gilded Age: A Turning Point in U.S. History

Fall Term 2024

Meet Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Facilitator: Anne Marshall Christner
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Week	Date	Topic & activity of the week
1	Sep. 18	<u>Intro to course: Precursors & significance of the Gilded Age</u> Lecture = “1865: ‘Bind Up the Nation’s Wounds’” and Setting the Stage discussion
2	Sep. 25	<u>Transformation & growth of the U.S. economy</u> Lectures = “Smokestack Nation: The Industrial Titans” and “New Technology: Cars, Electricity, Records”
3	Oct. 2	<u>Adulation of self-made men</u> Lectures = “Andrew Carnegie: The Self-Made Ideal” and “ <i>Ragged Dick</i> by Horatio Alger Jr.”
4	Oct. 9	<u>The role of the West in the Gilded Age – making history local</u> Rocky Mountain PBS documentaries = “The Boettchers” and “Hydro Power”
5	Oct. 16	<u>Urbanization & labor conditions back East</u> Lectures = “Big Cities: The Underbelly Revealed” and “The Homestead Strike”
6	Oct. 23	<u>The one percent and all the rest: Social class changes</u> Lectures = “Morals and Manners: Middle-Class Society” and “Mrs. Vanderbilt’s Gala Ball”
7	Oct. 30	<u>Literature and the arts during the Gilded Age</u> Lecture – “ <i>The House of Mirth</i> by Edith Wharton” and PowerPoint presentation (art & music)
8	Nov. 6	<u>Summing up the Gilded Age’s legacy . . . and what would come next?</u> Lecture = “Big Business: Democracy for Sale?” and a look forward to the Progressive Era

Most lectures to be shown are from The Great Courses series *America in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, featuring Professor Edward T. O’Donnell. The two lectures on books of the times are from another Great Courses series – *Great American Bestsellers: The Books That Shaped America*, featuring Professor Peter Conn.

**** Please send the facilitator an e-mail when you get your syllabus so that her messages to the class will not be screened out or sent to your spam folder.**