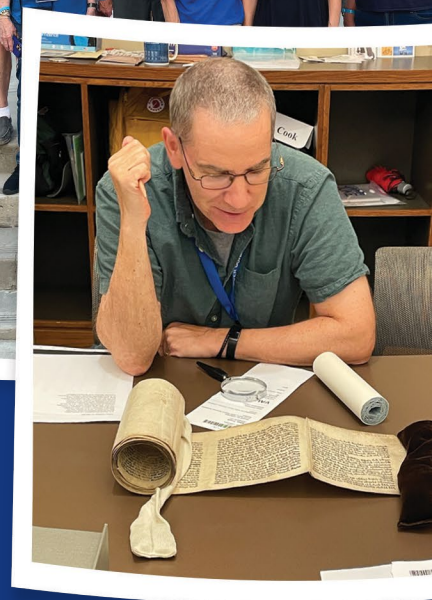


FOREVER LEARNING SUMMER ACADEMY 2025

Week 1: June 22-28 | Week 2: July 13-19

Duke
ALUMNI



Forever Learning Summer Academy

A Duke Alumni Lifelong Learning Program

Feel like a student again. Come back to Duke to engage with world-class faculty and experience college life at the Forever Learning Summer Academy.

Combining the intellectual energy of college and the camaraderie of summer camp, the Forever Learning Summer Academy provides an immersive, week-long experience for Duke University alumni and friends. Participants will engage with a captivating course curriculum, exclusive access to campus experiences, and exciting outings around Durham. Participants start their educational adventure by selecting a course from a catalog curated from Duke's most popular classes. Each seminar-style course amounts to 15 hours of intriguing and engaging class time with a phenomenal Duke faculty member and other lifelong learners. All course selections prioritize interdisciplinary study that is both intellectually

rigorous while also being engaging for those without a background in the subject area.

Each day begins with class on Duke's West Campus among the iconic Gothic stones and arches. In the afternoons, all participants have the opportunity to experience on-site educational and experiential tours and talks across campus and in Durham. To foster a communal and collegiate atmosphere, a premier Durham Hotel serves as the program's dormitory and supports the cohort experience with breakfast every morning for participants to engage in convivial conversation over coffee before class.

The vibrant academic, cultural, and social environment that defines both Duke University and the city of Durham will be on full display to enjoy during this week-long experience.

We cannot wait to see you on campus this summer.

"Attending FLSA provides the opportunity to reconnect with the university as a student, simply for the sake of learning. Remembrances of times past echo alongside your lived experiences since graduation. Such an opportunity is profoundly unique." -Linda Winikoff '76

Schedule

SUNDAY

3 p.m.	Check-in @ Hotel
5:30 p.m.	Orientation
6:15 p.m.	Opening reception
7 p.m.	Opening Dinner

MONDAY

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Hotel
9 - 10:30 a.m.	Classes @ West Campus
10:30 - 11 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
11 - 12:30 p.m.	Classes
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Plenary Lecture
Free evening	

TUESDAY

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Hotel
9 - 10:30 a.m.	Classes @ West Campus
10:30 - 11 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
11 - 12:30 p.m.	Classes
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Duke Experience Tour
Free evening	

WEDNESDAY

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Hotel
9 - 10:30 a.m.	Classes @ West Campus
10:30 - 11 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
11 - 12:30 p.m.	Classes
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 - 6 p.m.	Free Afternoon
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Group Durham outing

THURSDAY

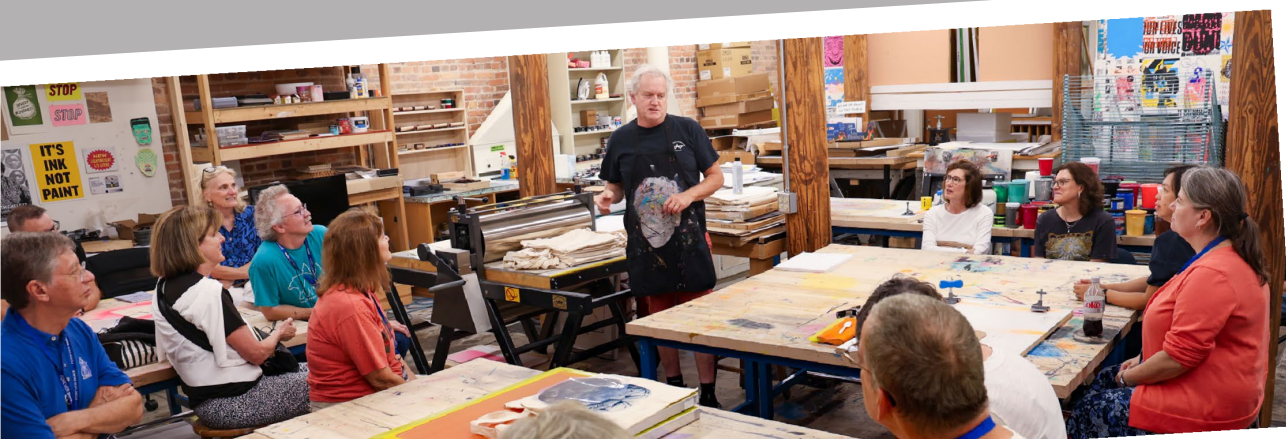
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Hotel
9 - 10:30 a.m.	Classes @ West Campus
10:30 - 11 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
11 - 12:30 p.m.	Classes
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Duke Experience Tour
Free evening	

FRIDAY

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Hotel
9 - 10:30 a.m.	Classes @ West Campus
10:30 - 11 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
11 - 12:30 p.m.	Classes
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Hands-on Workshop
6 p.m.	Goodbye Dinner & Celebration

SATURDAY

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Hotel
12 p.m.	Checkout



Classes

Week 1: June 22-28

The Dangerous 21st Century

When the Cold War ended, and democratic capitalism spread across the globe, the start of the 21st century seemed promising for a new era of peace and prosperity. But that promise never fully came through. In this course, participants will learn about the lasting impact of prominent events and advancements like 9/11, The Great Recession, drones designed for combat, COVID-19 pandemic and integration of AI on security challenges around the world. Participants will examine the security challenges of the 21st century and present ideas for how security and prosperity can be maintained despite the threatening environment.



Professor Bio: David Schanzer

David Schanzer is a professor of the practice at the Duke Sanford School of Public Policy University. He teaches courses, conducts research and engages in public dialogue on counterterrorism strategy, counterterrorism law, and homeland security. Prior to his academic appointments, Schanzer was the Democratic staff director for the House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security from 2003 to 2005. He previously served as the legislative director for Sen. Jean Carnahan (2001-2002), counsel to Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (1996-1998), and counsel to Sen. William S. Cohen (1994-1996). His positions in the executive branch include special counsel, Off ice of General Counsel, Department of Defense (1998-2001) and trial attorney, United States Department of Justice (1992-94). Schanzer has appeared on international, national and local radio and television discussing terrorism and homeland security and is the author of more than 100 op-ed articles on these subjects that have appeared in newspapers around the country and online. Currently, he writes about challenges facing modern democracies in his Substack newsletter -- Perilous Times.

Week 1: June 22-28

Dante's *Divine Comedy*

Take a voyage through other worldly places and immerse yourself in the words of Dante's *Divine Comedy*. This course offers a full exploration of Dante's *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso* as philosophical and ethical representations of human action. Participants will engage in conversations considering the poem's philosophical foundations from Plato and Aristotle, theological influences like Augustine and Catherine of Siena, historical context from tensions between Papacy and the Roman Empire, and literacy climate around others like Virgil and Ovid. Along with these outside influences, the course will trace the poem's lasting impact on thinkers, artists, poets, and popular culture including Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Botticelli, Galileo, Dalì, and more.

Required Pre-Reading: Dante's *Divine Comedy* in Allen Mandelbaum's translation

Site Visit: Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library



Professor Bio: Martine Eisner

Martin Eisner is Chair of Romance Studies and Professor of Italian at Duke University. He is the author of *Dante's New Life of the Book: A Philology of World Literature* (Oxford UP, 2021), which won the Howard R. Marraro Prize from the Modern Language Association. His first book *Boccaccio and the Invention of Italian Literature: Dante, Petrarch, Cavalcanti, and the Authority of the Vernacular* (Cambridge UP, 2013) has recently been published in Italian as *Boccaccio e l'invenzione della letteratura italiana* (Salerno, 2022). He is currently working on a life of Boccaccio for Renaissance Lives series published by Reaktion Books. He continues to develop the online research project *Dante's Library*. His articles on Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarch, and Machiavelli have appeared in *PMLA*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Dante Studies*, *Mediaevalia*, *California Italian Studies*, *Quaderni d'Italianistica*, *Annali d'Italianistica* and *Le Tre Corone*. His research has been supported by the Mellon Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, the American Academy in Rome, the American Philosophical Association, and the Fulbright Foundation.

Week 1: June 22-28

Giants of Jazz

In this course, participants will delve deeply into the music and lives of the biggest names in Jazz. Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Duke Ellington, Art Blakey and Cannonball Adderly (to name a few) are among those who created various levels of the art form known as jazz, and this course allows participants a unique opportunity to get down and dirty with the music and blueprint they left for the world to enjoy. This highly interactive course engages participants in an up close and personal experience with some of the greatest music and musicians of all time.



Professor Bio: John V. Brown

Bassist, composer, educator, and actor John Brown is a native of Fayetteville, NC.

He is a graduate of the School of Music at UNC-Greensboro and the School of Law at UNC-Chapel Hill. He currently serves as Vice Provost for the Arts, Director of the Jazz Program, and Professor of the Practice of Music at Duke University. He has taught at Duke since the spring semester of 2001 and has also been a faculty member at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC Central University, NC State University, and Guilford College. Vice Provost Brown has performed for President and Mrs. Barack Obama, and at major venues and festivals in the United States and abroad with artists like Elvin Jones, Diahann Carroll, Rosemary Clooney, Cedar Walton, Nicholas Payton, and Wynton, Ellis, and Delfeayo Marsalis. He boasts a Grammy nomination for his performance and co-writing on Nnenna Freelon's 1995 Concord release, *Shaking Free*, and an Emmy Award nomination for producing the first-ever Duke Arts Students Showcase. As an artist, Professor Brown has performed as a substitute with the North Carolina Symphony since 1992 and in other numerous settings with varied ensembles. His extensive performance experience includes feature films, television movies, theater, and recordings.



Week 1: June 22-28

Why Poetry Matters...

We poets hold on to poetry because it keeps us whole. In dark political days, poetry can provide a refuge to refuel. It can also serve as a respite to cope with isolation or grief. When you step into a poem, it allows you to see yourself differently and the world more fully. Writing poetry can flush out thoughts, feelings, and questions you didn't know were in you. In this course, we'll hold close readings of contemporary poetry from poets such as Poet Laureate Ada Limon, Mary Oliver, Ocean Vuong, Ross Gay, Claudia Rankine, Maggie Smith, and others. This course will also include craft workshops designed to provide us with the "tools" needed to construct meaningful poetry.



Professor Bio: Crystal Simone Smith

Crystal Simone Smith is an award-winning poet and educator. She is the author of *Dark Testament* (Henry Holt, 2023). She also authored three poetry chapbooks, *Down To Earth* (2020), *Running Music* (2014) and *Routes Home* (2013). In 2022, her collection of haiku, *Ebbing Shore*, won The Haiku Foundation Touchstone Distinguished Book Award. Smith is the recipient a Duke Humanities Unbounded Fellowship. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *Prairie Schooner*, *POETRY Magazine*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Frogpond*, and *Modern Haiku*. She teaches in the Thompson Writing Program at Duke University and writes poetry about the human condition and social change.

Classes

Week 2: July 13-19

#CREATORS: From Literary Celebrities to Instagram Influencers

Among people who aren't digital natives, social media has a reputation of being "that silly things kids do to waste time." It also has been blamed for causing an epidemic of loneliness, extreme polarization, and even global conflict. Is social media truly "ruining the world" as so many of its critics complain? This course begins with a deep dive into the historical lineage of social media to help participants appreciate social media and digital content creators within a broader historical narrative. Once that foundation is set, the course explores the fundamental strategies for growing and sustaining audiences online based on techniques that have been working for thousands of years. The course concludes by providing actionable tactics and processes members can use to create successful social media content. While this course isn't explicitly for people who want to become "TikTok famous," it is a class that hopes to help participants appreciate why social media fame might be more accessible (and useful) than they realize. For those interested, the class also gives participants a strong foundation for how to build large, valuable social media audiences of their own.



Professor Bio: Aaron Dinin

Aaron Dinin '05 is faculty in Duke's Innovation & Entrepreneurship program. He's one of the most read authors on Medium where he regularly writes about topics related to startups, entrepreneurship, business, and venture capital. In addition, his videos on Instagram and TikTok about teaching Duke students have been viewed by hundreds of millions of people. Dr. Dinin has a PhD in English Literature and spent 15 years as the technical co-founder and CEO of multiple venture-back software companies.

Week 2: July 13-19

History of the Book

This course investigates the history of the “book” as physical object from its earliest forms of clay, bamboo tablets, and papyrus scrolls through to texts in the digital age. Participants will learn how book production changed over the centuries from ancient Greece and Rome, through medieval monastic scriptoria, to the printing presses of the early modern world. Participants will also explore the evolution of scripts in the Latin West from Roman times to the type you’re reading right now. Throughout the week, this course will enjoy hands-on experience with rare and historic materials from the Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Participants will handle cuneiform tablets, decipher papyri, leaf through medieval manuscripts, and learn all about the printing revolution of the fifteenth century, paper making, and more.



Suggested Pre-Reading: Chapter 2, “From Orality to Literacy” in *Introduction to Book History* by David Finkelstein and Alastair McLeery (Routledge, 2nd Edition 2012).

Site Visit: Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library



Professor Bio: Clare Woods

Clare Woods is an Associate Professor in the Department of Classical Studies at Duke University. She received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from King’s College, London. Her research interests center on early medieval Latin literature and culture, manuscripts, and the transmission of classical texts. At Duke she teaches courses in classical and medieval Latin language and literature, Latin Paleography, and the History of the Book. She has published on early medieval sermon collections, on the Cult of Mary in the ninth century, on late ancient/early medieval glossaries, and Paul the Deacon’s *Epitome of Festus’* ancient Roman lexicon. She is currently at work on a book, *Manuscripts on the Move: Building Connections in Carolingian Europe*. The fruit of a decade of data gathering and analysis, the book argues that scholarly and intellectual networks cannot be fully understood without incorporating material evidence such as manuscripts, and the roads and riverways used to carry texts and connect communities. In addition to her monograph, Clare is also about to publish a study of one of Duke’s early printed books, our 1476 edition of Pliny’s *Natural History*.

Week 2: July 13-19

The Long Civil Rights Movement

This course offers a short history of the long civil rights movement. Participants will study local events and broader contexts of the civil rights movement, telling the story of the southern movement for freedom rights in the context of both national and international liberation struggles. Through readings and discussion, participants will explore some of the events, themes and questions that have shaped our understanding of the twentieth-century black freedom struggle. Participants will construct their own interpretations of what the movement was and is, along with their sense of its continued meaning and relevance. This course is an exploration of one the most fundamental stories of the making and re-making of American state and nation in the twentieth century, to be sure, but it is also a consideration of history's ongoing centrality to our complex and unfolding present.



Professor Bio: Adriane Lentz-Smith

Adriane Lentz-Smith researches and writes about modern American History and Black freedom struggles in the long twentieth century. An Associate Professor of History, African & African-American Studies, and Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, she also hosts the community conversations series, “The Ethics of Now,” through Duke’s Kenan Institute for Ethics. The author of *Freedom Struggles: African Americans and World War I*, Lentz-Smith has had work featured in documentaries for PBS and the History Channel, as well as in the BBC History Extra series on the U. S. civil rights movement, and in numerous journals, podcasts and radio shows.

Week 2: July 13-19

Restoring Ecosystems, Restoring Ourselves

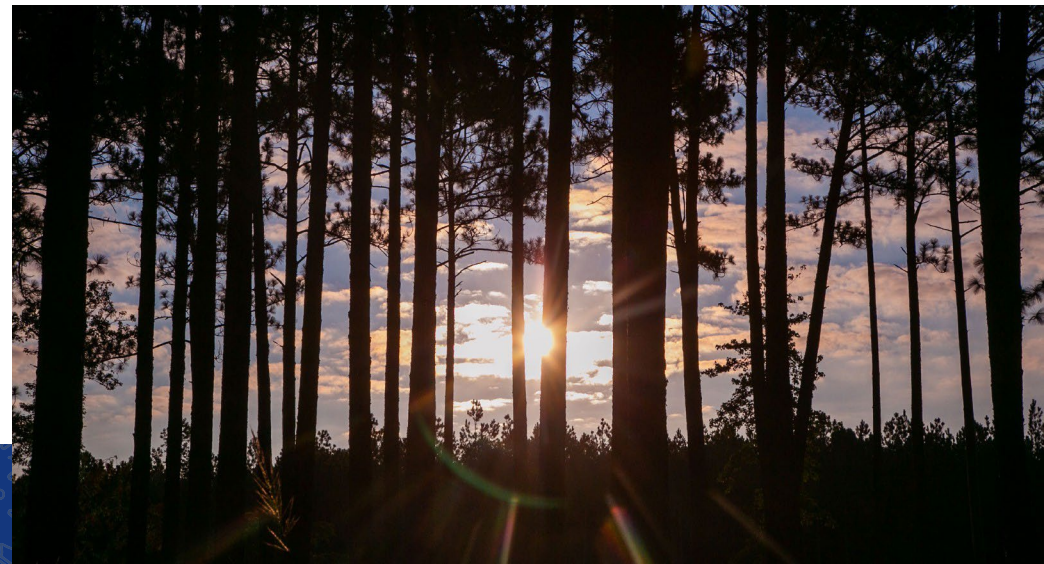
What if we built relationships with nature that were reciprocal? What if caring for our places also reconnected us to each other, our communities, and our cultures? What if we could grow food and heal the land at the same time? In this course, participants will explore eco-cultural restoration, a strategy that recognizes the importance of both humans and nature. Midway through the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, efforts are mobilizing to restore thousands of acres of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and coral reefs. We will learn how this work gets done - from researching the history of a site through project planning and monitoring for success. Course participants visit local restoration sites on Duke's campus, meeting with those who are implementing and stewarding these sites. Participants of this course will learn from the Coharie Tribal members from Clinton, NC, who have led a restoration of the Great Coharie River, which has inspired restoration of their cultural traditions and language, and other examples of cultural practices helping restoration around the globe. Participants will leave this class with an understanding of the broad range of ecological restoration projects and the promise they hold for creating new relationships with nature and each other.

Suggested Pre-Reading: *Healing Grounds*, Liz Carlisle (2022)



Professor Bio: Rebecca Vidra

Rebecca Vidra is a transdisciplinary scholar, integrating restoration ecology, ethics, and marine conservation in her work. She cultivates a sense of belonging and community in her classes, helping her students hone their powerful sense of purpose and meaning as they pursue just and sustainable solutions for planetary health. She currently leads the Eco-Cultural and Community Engagement team for Duke Restore and the Education team for Oceans@Duke and collaborates with her Divinity School colleagues on engaging pastors in climate care. Rebecca believes in the transformative power of education, particularly in the field, to help students become collaborative, inclusive, and resilient leaders.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

COST

\$3,500 per person, double occupancy (plus sales tax)

\$250 single-room supplement (plus sales tax)

CANCELATION/REFUNDS

A \$500 deposit minimum is required at registration. The balance of the fee is due May 15, 2025 or at time of registration if after that date. Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Refunds will be made in accordance with the following per person cancellation penalties based on the number of days before departure. Up to 120 days: \$150 administrative fee; 119-90 days: 50% of the total program price; 89-60 days: 75% of the total program price; 59 days or less: 100% of the total program price. In the event of cancellation of the program by Duke, a full refund will be given. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation and medical insurance. Information about trip insurance is included with your confirmation packet or may be viewed at <https://alumni.duke.edu/duke-travels/your-safety> and scroll to the section on Safeguarding Your Investment.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Selected course of study
- Accommodations for 6 nights
- Welcome reception and dinner
- Breakfast Monday through Saturday
- Meal Card to be used at campus eateries
- Transportation between the hotel and West Campus
- Closing reception and dinner
- Exclusive afternoon tours and lectures
- Group excursion in Durham

ACCOMMODATIONS

All guests will stay together at one of Durham's premier hotels. Breakfast and transportation between the hotel and West Campus are included. Guests will be able to select their room-type at registration.

REQUIRED READINGS

If your course has required readings, faculty will be conducting classes based on the assumption that all participants will have completed the required readings prior to arriving at Duke. Additional suggested readings may be provided along with other course information following the completion of registration.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Please note that this program will be challenging for anyone who has difficulty with walking or other mobility issues. Field trips and excursions often require up to one mile or more of walking including uphill terrain, stairways, and uneven ground. The age and layout of many buildings at Duke University can make them arduous to traverse as well. Our aim is to treat all participants equally and to keep our group together and safe throughout the program. Prospective participants with mobility difficulties, visual or hearing impairments, or other health concerns should make preliminary inquiries before signing up for this program.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

We strongly recommend that all participants take out insurance cover against cancellation of their travel plans (travel insurance can be obtained through the travel agent), and against personal accident and medical expenses, and against damage to or loss of personal property. Information about trip insurance may be viewed on the [Duke Alumni website](#). Scroll to the section on “Safeguarding Your Investment.”

REGISTRATION REFUSAL/PROGRAM REMOVAL

The Duke Alumni Education Office has the authority to refuse participation or remove someone if their physical or mental condition, actions, or attitude negatively impact the program’s functioning or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of other participants.

For more information and frequently asked questions please visit the [Forever Learning Summer Academy Registration Page](#). For assistance, please contact the Lifelong Learning team at (919) 684-6564 or lifelonglearning@duke.edu