What’s New/Different about OLLI at NC State’s Fall 2021 Semester?

We are excited to offer you a choice of program formats this fall. We will be returning to the McKimmon Center, offering more study trips, and continuing to offer courses and lectures via Zoom. Here’s what you need to know as you register for fall programs:

Program Formats

• Our format types are Zoom, In-Person, and Study Trips. We will not be offering “hybrid” learning, which mixes Zoom and in-person. Instead, each offering will be taught either via Zoom or in-person.
• Zoom classes will be indicated as such in the OLLI catalog and in course descriptions.
• We will not be recording our Zoom offerings. We want to create the interactivity in real time that is the hallmark of OLLI at NC State. We also are not recording for other reasons, including privacy, content control, intellectual property, and to be in compliance with the principles of fair use of media content for educational purposes.
• We are experimenting with a 30-minute break between classes this fall, so please take note of the time changes.

Registration

• If you have participated in the past but took a break last year, be aware we launched a new registration system last March; your user ID will be your email and you will need to set up a new account to register online. Couples who in past have shared an email address will need to provide email addresses that are unique to each person.
• Members who participated in September 2020 through June 2021 already have an account in the new registration system. If you wish to register online, enter your email and set your password.
• Classes, lectures, and study trips overlap in time; double check your schedule before registering!
• Registration conducted in August will occur online or via the phone. The second floor of the McKimmon Center is not currently open to the public, but we expect it to reopen in September.

Keeping You Safe/COVID-19

• For our in-person offerings, we will be following NC State University’s directives that are in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, which include:
  o The UNC System is not requiring vaccines for participation in on-campus activities.
  o NC State and its colleges and units cannot require vaccines for participation in classrooms, labs, programs or other activities.
  o Anyone who has not been fully vaccinated is highly encouraged to wear a face covering while indoors and when in close contact with others. We also encourage everyone who feels safer or more comfortable wearing a face covering to continue doing so.
  o Departments and units cannot disregard the university’s requirements by establishing their own requirements (either more or less restrictive) for face coverings or physical distancing.
  o NC State is not requiring that people disclose their vaccination status at this time. Of course, people can choose to share their vaccination status with others, and the university has no intention of regulating personal or private conversations.
• Face coverings are not required for vaccinated individuals who participate in McKimmon Center programs, including OLLI classes.

McKimmon Center Building Updates

• The Corner Café has been converted to a vending machine area; hot coffee is available via the vending machines along with other snacks. There is a microwave you can use and seating will be available.
• For our in person courses at McKimmon Center – we will be limiting enrollment to allow spacing among participants. Max capacity of room 11/12 will be 45 instead of the 58 we had previously.
• Many OLLI members will be pleased to learn that a set of doors on the back hallway near the OLLI classroom are now automated with a ramp added for better accessibility.
• We have received some inquiries about air circulation at McKimmon. NC State Facilities Division and Environmental Health & Safety have evaluated all university buildings and their HVAC systems and developed an approach to each of them to ensure a level of indoor air quality that ensures a safe environment for their occupants. For the McKimmon Center they have reprogrammed the HVAC systems to bring in as much outside air as possible to improve ventilation and indoor air quality. They have also reprogrammed the systems to run for two hours before and after the normal building occupancy schedule, providing additional building air filtration and outside air for ventilation. NC State has also installed MERV 13 filters in the air handlers throughout the McKimmon Center. These filters are recommended by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and are somewhat more effective at capturing smaller airborne particles. NC State will continue reviewing ongoing recommendations from the CDC, public health experts, and professional society and trade organizations.
• You may also wish to read the "Indoor Air Quality and COVID-19" document that Facilities prepared which can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pKVkZ4O2ItJsJ0ZwldR5xJjW7hOzn05G9jzQEl3iAQ/edit

Answers to other FAQs, not specifically related to these recent changes, can be accessed here.

Here’s how McKimmon Room 11-12 will be set for the fall courses: