Lifelong Learning Community at Otterbein

Deepening Your Commitment to Education

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Spring 2026 Class Descriptions and Bios

February 19, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Opening Doors to the World Spring Exhibitions 2026: Deepening and Expanding Our Understanding

The Spring 2026 art exhibition schedule brings us into a deeper exploration of Louise Captein's new work, which will be exhibited in *The Mystery is the Meaning* sabbatical show in the Miller Gallery. Lousie will join us for the discussion and will focus on her unique and dynamic process, as well as the philosophies and worldviews that catalyze her creativity. In addition, *Opening Doors to the World* will continue our exploration of Japanese contemporary art that is deeply rooted in traditional art practices. We'll focus especially on Hiromi Mizugai Moneyhun's (水貝 宏美) breathtaking papercut art, which is based in Japanese *kirie* and builds on folklore and other traditional Japanese themes.

Dr. Janice Glowski is the director of The Frank Museum of Art and Galleries at Otterbein, where she also teaches art history and visual culture and museum and curatorial studies. She co-founded *Otterbein and the Arts: Opening Doors to the World* (ODW), a contemporary arts program and publication series, which has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEH), the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), University sources, and private donors. She curates contemporary art exhibitions across disciplines and has contributed scholarship to several international exhibition catalogs. In addition to museum-related work, Glowski researches, presents, and publishes on South Asian and Himalayan art.

Louise Captein is an associate professor of art at Otterbein. She earned her MFA at the Art Institute of Chicago, having also studied in Amsterdam at Kunstacademie Gerrit Rietveld Academie and Nieuwe Lerarenopleiding Hogeschool Holland. She is passionate about teaching and designing creative assignments tailored to fit the needs of her students. She teaches courses in Painting and Drawing, Color Principles and Inquiry and Society: Fine Arts in the Honors Program, as well as Integrative Studies courses.

February 26, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Can Sports Save the World? Thinking Critically about Global Sport

This talk will consider the philosophy and practicalities of using sport for diplomatic efforts in global contexts. It will equip participants with the knowledge needed to discuss sport as it relates to statecraft, soft power, boycotts, protests, social movements, and sportwashing. The talk will discuss the possibilities and limits of using sport for diplomacy and will evaluate present-day actions by sport leagues, teams, sponsors, and athletes. The presentation will focus special attention on examples from Ukraine and Kosovo.

Dr. Megan Chawansky is currently an associate professor of sport management at Otterbein. She teaches courses on global sports, sport marketing, sport facilities, sport psychology, and sport finance. Previously, she served as a lecturer and the Assistant Director of the Global Center for Sport Diplomacy at the University of Kentucky. She also worked at the University of Bath (UK) and the University of Brighton (UK), where she taught in the graduate program in sport for development. Her research interests reside in the use of sport for social change. She has worked with a number of organizations in the 'Sport for Development and Peace' (SDP) sector, and her research and consultancy experiences in the area of SDP include work with partners and colleagues in South Africa and Cambodia (Skateistan), India (Naz Foundation), Zambia (Go Sisters), Kenya (Moving the Goalposts-Kilifi), Sri Lanka (Commonwealth Secretariat), and the Caribbean (multiple organizations). Chawansky grew up in northeast Ohio (Lorain and Avon Lake) and played college basketball at Northwestern University.

March 5, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Problems Even the Fastest Computers Can't Solve

In the age of generative AI, it's tempting to believe computers are on the verge of answering all practical (and impractical) questions, but incredibly useful problems have been studied for decades that are too hard for computers to answer. These problems have definite, right-or-wrong answers, but they take billions of years for even the fastest computers to answer correctly. For example: Find the fastest route for a UPS driver to deliver all his packages. If you think you can solve this problem, a million-dollar prize is waiting for you.

Dr. Barry Wittman is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Otterbein. He earned a BS from Morehouse College and an MS and a PhD from Purdue University, all in Computer Science. His graduate research was in approximation algorithms for NP-hard optimization problems. He is the author of the programming textbook *Attacking Problems with Java* and creator of the programming language *Shadow*.

March 12, 2026 – 12:30 p.m. NOTE TIME CHANGE

History in Film: Jean Renoir's *Grand Illusion*

In this seminar we will view and discuss Jean Renoir's classic 1937 film, *Grand Illusion*. Franklin D. Roosevelt said of the movie at the time: "Everyone who believes in democracy should see this film." In *Grand Illusion*, Renoir examined nationalist and class attitudes during the First World War and simultaneously drew attention to the political and social dangers facing Europe on the eve of the Second World War. A masterpiece of cinematic art, *Grand Illusion* demonstrated the ways in which Renoir utilized film to interpret and confront the historical moment in which he lived. Through the movie's characters and filmmaking techniques we will explore how Renoir conceived the connection between history and film and how *Grand Illusion* still lives up to FDR's claim.

Dr. Louis Rose is Executive Director of the Sigmund Freud Archives and Professor Emeritus of Modern European History at Otterbein. He received his B.A. in History from Clark University and his Ph.D. in History from Princeton University. His book *Psychology, Art, and Antifascism: Ernst Kris, E. H. Gombrich, and the Politics of Caricature* (Yale, 2016) has appeared in Chinese translation (Guangxi Fine Arts, 2022). His first book, *The Freudian Calling: Early Viennese Psychoanalysis and the Pursuit of Cultural Science* (Wayne State, 1998), received the 1999 Austrian Cultural Institute Prize for Best Book in Austrian Studies. His publications include *The Survival of Images: Art Historians, Psychoanalysts, and the Ancients* (Wayne State, 2001). From 2011-2018, he was editor of the interdisciplinary psychoanalytic journal *American Imago*. In 2017, he became an Honorary Member of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

March 19, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

From Otterbein's Cardinals to Jaloni Cambridge: Let's Talk About College Sports

College sport has evolved from a student-driven endeavor in the 1800s to a multi-billion-dollar industry in 2025. How did we get from the Harvard vs. Yale rowing competition of 1852 – for which the main goal was bragging rights! – to the NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) era for college players, with head coaches paid more than anyone else on the state payroll, and the NCAA desperately clinging to the little control they have left? This session will trace the evolution of college sport from its inception to where we are today, including insight to the differences amongst sports (including gender-based nuances), universities, and NCAA divisions. Special attention will be paid to how local central Ohio universities – Ohio State and Otterbein – fit into the conversation and drive (mis)perceptions about the status of intercollegiate athletics today.

Dr. Kristy McCray, Professor in the Department of Health & Sport Sciences at Otterbein, earned her PhD in Sport Management from The Ohio State University and her M.Ed. and BA from the University of Southern California. She uses her previous work experiences in college athletics and as the former executive director of a rape crisis center to inform her research on sexual violence in sports. Dr. McCray created *Fair Play: Sexual Violence Prevention for Athletes*, an 8-hour educational program designed specifically for college athletes, which has been facilitated with more than 1,300 athletes at three universities. A manuscript on the program's efficacy is forthcoming. Her current research focus is on women's perceptions and experiences of safety, fear, and harassment while running. When she's not teaching or researching, you can find Dr. McCray training for a marathon or curled up with a good book and her feline snuggle buddies at home.

March 26, 2026 – 1:30p.m.
Grading at Otterbein: How, Why, and What Could Be Different?

There is a national conversation today in the world of higher education about strategies to strengthen student learning. Otterbein faculty and students are engaged in several of those conversations, working on ways to improve student success in a variety of disciplines, and will share that work today.

Investigators surveyed Otterbein faculty about how we grade and why. Afterward, investigators conducted follow-up interviews with 15 survey participants. The survey and interviews reveal influences on personal grading practices; thoughts about how their grading supports student learning and how this could be improved; and barriers to more student-centered grading practices. Data, preliminary interpretations, and thoughts on alternative approaches will be presented.

Dr. Joan Esson is a Professor of Chemistry at Otterbein, where she teaches general and analytical chemistry courses for STEM majors as well as classes connecting art and chemistry for non-majors. Her research involves technical studies of cultural heritage objects as well as developing and examining practices that improve student success and belonging in STEM. Joan lives in Westerville, and her mom Kathy is an LLC member.

Dr. Laine Schrewe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Engineering, Physics, and Computer Science at Otterbein. Before entering academia, she spent nine years as an engine design engineer at Honda R&D before transitioning into education, founding and teaching a high school engineering program for eight years. Her research reflects this professional journey, focusing on effective strategies to recruit, retain, and authentically prepare engineering students for successful careers in the workforce. Laine lives in Dublin with her husband and their two children.

Dr. Katie Wissman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Otterbein. Her research expertise is in cognitive science, with a specific focus on evaluating how to support student success and inform pedagogical instruction by examining best learning practices for inside and outside of the classroom. Katie and her partner live in Westerville with their two boys and one cat.

Dr. Paul Wendel taught high school physics for 18 years before migrating to higher education. He is a professor of science education and co-chairs Otterbein's Education Department. Paul's research interests include approaches to teaching specific topics in science (Newton's Laws, density, energy) as well as more general science education topics such as grading practices and level of inquiry in undergraduate laboratories. Paul and his wife live in Westerville, where they are always working to live more sustainably.

April 2, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Unveiling the Palette: Scientific Insights into Colorants of Modern Chinese Paintings

Traditional Chinese paintings reveal their history not only through brushwork and style but also through their chemistry. This presentation demonstrates how a suite of complementary analytical methods was applied to identify colorants in modern Chinese paintings held by regional museums, including the Frank Museum of Art at Otterbein University, the Cincinnati Art Museum, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. More than one hundred paintings by the Chinese American artist C. Y. Woo, his mentors, and contemporaries were examined using an integrated analytical approach that enabled the identification of both pigments and dyes. The results reveal shifts in colorant use, showing how materials evolved from traditional Chinese mineral and botanical sources to modern synthetic pigments - reflecting broader technological, cultural, and trade developments. This information has been used to establish timelines for undated works and to support authentication efforts, including the identification of several likely forgeries.

Dr. Joan Esson is a Professor of Chemistry at Otterbein. She teaches general and analytical chemistry as well as courses exploring the intersection of chemistry and art. Joan has been recognized for her excellence in teaching, receiving Otterbein's *Teacher of the Year* award in 2024 and the *Ohio Project Kaleidoscope STEM Educator of the Year* award in 2023. She also serves on the Design Team for the SCIENCE Collaborative, a consortium of 14 institutions dedicated to institutional transformation through evidence-based practices that promote student success in STEM. Her recent sabbaticals as a Project MUSE Fellow in the conservation science laboratory at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields focused on applying complementary analytical methods to characterize the materials used in cultural heritage objects, bridging the disciplines of chemistry, art, and conservation science.

April 9, 2026 - 1:30p.m.

From the Quadrant to the Roman Space Telescope: A History of Astronomical Instruments and their Impact

In this discussion, we will review milestones in astronomical instrumentation and how their invention and use revolutionized the field. The story runs from Tycho Brahe's "star castle" Uraniborg with its giant quadrant, and Galileo's use of the first telescope, via a series of *largest telescopes* to the modern age of space telescopes and multi-messenger astronomy. Indeed, nowadays we use not just telescopes sensitive to different wavelength bands such as X-rays and infrared, but also gravitational wave observatories and neutrino detectors to capture the information the universe sends us in very different ways. *Spoiler alert: The Romans did not have a space telescope, the title refers to the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope.*

Dr. Uwe Trittmann is a theoretical particle physicist. After receiving his doctorate from the University of Heidelberg in Germany, he did post-doctoral research at the Weizmann Institute in Israel and at the Ohio State University. His research focuses on the properties of lower-dimensional quantum field theories. Often he uses numerical methods to obtain results concerning the energies (masses) of bound states of fundamental particles. Dr. Trittmann teaches the gamut of physics offerings at Otterbein, from the introductory sequency to advanced topics, and the INST astronomy course. He is the director of the university's Weitkamp observatory, and mans a monthly lecture series on topics in astronomy. "Starry Mondays" – conducted every first Monday of the month – include the opportunity to see the night sky from the rooftop of Otterbein's Science Center. Dr. Trittmann has published a history-inspired introductory astronomy textbook titled *Constructing the Expanding Universe*.

April 16, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Fairly Determining Winners of Elections When There are More Than Two Choices

Determining a fair winner in elections with more than two candidates has been a central challenge in social choice theory for over two centuries. We will survey major voting methods—including plurality voting, the Borda count, and various Condorcet-based approaches—and compare them using standard fairness criteria (and elaborate on what that means). We will examine the strengths and weaknesses of each method, highlighting how they satisfy or fail key properties such as the Condorcet criterion. The talk will also introduce Arrow's Nobel Prize–winning Impossibility Theorem and clarify what it tells us is fundamentally unattainable in any rank-order voting system. Together, these ideas provide insight into the limitations of voting with more than two choices.

Dr. Jeremy Moore was born and raised in central Ohio. and is currently Chairman of the Mathematics and Actuarial Science Department at Otterbein where he has been teaching for 14 years. He received his Ph.D. from Ohio University. Originally, his research was in algebraic coding theory, but those projects spawned new areas of interest and now he focuses on the study of linear independence of invertible elements in modules. He enjoys teaching any course available, but particularly loves modern algebra. He has also had the good fortune of being the advisor for Otterbein Christian Fellowship (OCF) and is in awe of the students' passion. In his spare time, he enjoys being a good ol' country boy. This includes (but is not limited to hunting, fishing, shooting, and hiking.

April 23, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

The Qur'an and the Bible: Reading Genesis Across Scriptures

This lecture explores the interconnected relationship between the Bible and the Qur'an through the lens of the Genesis narrative. By reading the biblical and Qur'anic accounts in conversation with each other, I show how the Qur'an engages the Bible as a subtext—that is, by confirming, correcting, and complicating its stories in subtle yet significant ways. Far from standing in isolation, the Qur'an invites its readers into a deeper, more dynamic biblical narrative by filling in textual gaps and offering a new paradigm for engaging scripture.

Dr. Abigail Kulisz is Assistant Professor at Otterbein where she teaches courses on Abrahamic religious traditions. Her research focuses on Christian writings about Islam in the medieval period, with a particular interest in using critical theory to explore how scriptures interact and reinterpret each other.

April 30, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Homes, Community and Hope: The Habitat for Humanity Approach to Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is about more than roofs and walls—it's about creating stability, opportunity, and stronger communities. In this presentation, Todd Miller, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Delaware & Union Counties, will share how local families and volunteers are working together to create affordable homeownership opportunities in our community. You'll learn about the growing need for affordable homes in our area, the challenges Habitat faces in meeting that need, and the life-changing impact of Habitat's Homeownership and Critical Home Repair programs—how stable, affordable homes strengthen families, revitalize neighborhoods, and build stronger communities for all.

Todd Miller is the Executive Director of **Habitat for Humanity of Delaware & Union Counties**, bringing nearly 25 years of dedication to Habitat's mission of building homes, communities, and hope. Throughout his career, Todd has been a passionate advocate for affordable housing at every level of government. He has served on the **Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Ohio**, supporting and representing Habitat affiliates statewide. In 2007, he was invited to join the **U.S. Office of Habitat for Humanity International's Subject Expert Team**, sharing his expertise and presenting at conferences across state, regional, and national stages. Todd's leadership reflects his deep commitment to ensuring that everyone has an affordable place to call home.