
Literature of Aging and the Community

OSHER 328-001

Dates: Thursdays: January 14 – February 18

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Instructor: Sally Smith

Course Description:

Many of us experience changes in our involvement with our communities as we age. In fact, we may let some of them go in favor of new ones. Friends may have moved away or died. Family members often scatter and we may have lost a spouse. We are probably retired. Possibly, we are unable to participate in sports we once enjoyed. Perhaps some of our religious views have shifted. What has your experience been? Do you ever feel invisible when you enter a restaurant or a store? What new alliances have you established? What role has Osher played? We have so much to talk about. We will draw on personal experience when a class member is inclined to share. In this discussion-based class, we will read several masterpieces of twentieth-century American literature and gain exposure to many authors. These selections all deal with aging as it affects the dynamics of a community.

Course Overview:

Please be prepared to discuss these stories.

Week 1: "Sequel"

Week 2: "Appropriate Affect"

Week 3: "Spelling"

Week 4: "Emperor of the Air"

Week 5: "To Hell with Dying"

Week 6: "Toenails" and "Misery"

