

FIRST CLASS: A HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES

What comes to mind when you think of the post office? Is it the unique beauty of a stamp, the thrill of an awaited delivery, or an iconic blue collection box? Do you equate the post office with obsolescence or do you think of recent coverage of controversial austerity measures? As the country's second-largest employer, the US Post Office has a fascinating history that showcases the best and worst of American society. In this course, we will explore what precipitated the creation of the Post Office, its role in fostering and hindering democratic communication, and numerous examples of innovation over the centuries up to the present-day USPS. We will conclude by considering what the future of the post office might look like, with a renewed appreciation for the democratic ideals for which it stands.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Caroline Nappo, PhD



Caroline Nappo, PhD is an independent scholar with interests in the history of public information institutions, information as a public good, and the political economy of information. She has taught as an adjunct lecturer for graduate students and previously taught an OLLI course on the history of the public library in the United States. She holds a master's and PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois and has published and presented on postal history.

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 14 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18

3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 14
- Tuesday, January 21
- Tuesday, January 28
- Tuesday, February 4
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.