

**GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP—COURSE PROPOSAL CONTENT DOCUMENT  
2024, FALL**

I **propose** to continue the GIG on Zoom, at the casual level that we did it in-person pre-pandemic. I will have weekly themes (see below), loosely correlated with the Genealogy Overview Class earlier in the day, led by Reg Herzog, for which I will again be a co-leader and for which I am giving 2 lectures. For each theme I will have a short presentation prepared, or will solicit presentations from the group as interest dictates. This will be followed by collaboration and discussion among the class members.

Carol Callaghan has agreed to be my VA, and Reg Herzog has also been helping out.

In past years, in addition to being an enjoyable collaboration in which experienced genealogists share helpful information with beginners, the GIG has been a steppingstone for some of us, to gain some experience giving short presentations, leading to the confidence to give longer lectures subsequently, and enlarging the genealogy community at OLLI. I hope to foster this trend once again, although I am having a rough go of it on Zoom. The same technology that enables greater participation by students in multiple locations also adds an extra layer of intimidation to prospective presenters. I'd appreciate any advice on this aspect.

**Below are the GIG themes we had in Fall 2023**, loosely based on the topics from the Overview lecture earlier in the day. We will repeat a **similar schedule in 2024**. We plan to limit the Overview and GIG courses to 11 weeks, subject to extension if there is interest and speaker availability.

**THEMES—OVERVIEW COURSE**

1. Intro to Ancestry & Family Search Websites
2. Methodology
3. Census & Vital Records
4. Interviewing
5. Family History Software
6. Immigration/Naturalization records
7. Newspapers
8. Military
9. Cemeteries
10. DNA

**PROPOSED GIG THEMES**

1. Family Trees & Forms. Other Websites.
2. Organizing Research. Online trees vs software
3. Census search tips. State censuses & records
4. Sharing interviewing tips & technology
5. Practical tips. Other software programs.
6. Other Court Documents: probate, land records
7. Online Books and other secondary sources
8. More on early pension & bounty land records
9. Other death records. More on FindaGrave
10. Share DNA stories. More on Y dna.

11. Writing Family History

11. Sharing our family history projects