

LIFE (Fall, 2026) Curriculum Schedule (8/19/26)

*CF: Cape Florida Ballroom, SU 3rd Floor

Date	Time	Room	Lecture Title	Speaker
9/8/2026	9:00 AM	CF	250th Declaration of Independence	David Head, Ph.D. Department of History Lecturer, UCF
	10:30 AM		Solo Violin: History and Today	Ilana Zaks-Nederlander Distinguished Concert Violinist; Faculty Boston University Tanglewood Institute
9/15/2026	9:00 AM	CF	NASA and the Search for Earth 2.0	Stephen Eikenberry Professor, Ph.D. Optics & Photonics Physics, UCF
	10:30 AM		In Vino Veritas: Wine in Antiquity	Jennifer Hostetter Foodservice and Lodging Management Rosen College of Hospitality Management, UCF
9/22/2026	9:00 AM	CF	GPIL's Conflict Transformation Program	David Dumke Executive Director, UCF Global Perspectives and International Initiatives
	10:30 AM		Rooted in the South: The unique cultural and heritage identity of Florida's Muscadine wines	Dr. Robin M. Back Assistant Vice Provost, Undergraduate Studies, UCF
9/29/2026	9:00 AM	CF	Bow. Stay. Go. Surrender, presence, and movement: A journey through life	Brandon Watson Certified Recovery Peer Support
	10:30 AM		Bringing Democracy to Life: How You Can Help	Karen Castor Dentel Orange County Supervisor of Elections
10/6/2026	9:00 AM	CF	From Gift to Legacy: The Power of Organ and Tissue Donation	Dee Woolford Public Relations Specialist
	10:30 AM		Blockchains	Cuneyt Akcora Associate Professor Department of Finance, UCF
10/13/2026	9:00 AM	CF	UCF Student Research Week	Tyler Campbell Director Academic Program, Graduate Studies, UCF
	10:30 AM		Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean	Dr. Ken Hanson Coordinator & Abe and Tess Wise Endowed Professor of Judaic Studies
10/20/2026	9:00 AM	CF	UCF Athletics	Brodrick Johnson Assistant Athletics Director, Knights Leadership Academy

	10:30 AM		Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Symptoms, Treatments, and Hope	Jennifer Seminerio Director of Inflammatory Bowel Disease Associate Professor of Medicine AdventHealth Orlando
10/27/2026	9:00 AM	CF	UCF Institute for Simulation and Training	Carolina Cruz-Neira Executive Director, Pegasus Research Institute Interim Director, Institute for Simulation & Training
	10:30 AM		LIFE at UCF Gerontology Research Grant Recipients	<u>Samantha Gmitro</u> Graduate Researcher and Data Science Specialist <u>Rui Xie</u> Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Computational and Applied Sciences <u>Xueqiang Wang</u> Associate Professor of Engineering and Applied Research
11/3/2026	9:00 AM	CF	Gems of Historical Architecture: The Carpenter Gothic Episcopal Churches of Florida	Jonathan Rich, Author
	10:30 AM		Russian Informational Warfare in The MENA Region: Implications and Effectiveness	Dr. Autumn Perkey Assistant Professor in the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs UCF
11/10/2026	9:00 AM	CF	Dietary Supplements: Myths, Mechanisms, and Red Flags in an Age of Misinformation.	Kworweinski Lafontant Kinesiology PhD, UCF
	10:30 AM		Communication, Media, and the Mind: Understanding What We See and Hear Online	Gabrielle Jarmoszko Nicholson School of Communication and Media
11/17/2026	9:00 AM	CF	Rubens and Rembrandt	Jan Clanton Historian
	10:30 AM		The Most Famous Man You've Never Heard of: Jakob Fugger	Dr. Silvia Hodges Silverstein Strategic Historian, Storyteller, HBS Case Author
11/24/2026	No Lecture		No Lecture	University is closed for Thanksgiving break
12/1/2026	9:00 AM	CF	Political Psychology and the Dynamics of Democratic Citizenship	Steven Smallpage Associate Professor School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

	10:30 AM		Supporting K-16 educators in the field of civics and government teaching	Stephen S. Masyada, Ph.D. COS Faculty Fellow for Assessment Director Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, Director- The Lou Frey Institute
* Due to renovations in the Pegasus Ballroom, LIFE at UCF will be in Cape Florida for Fall, 2026				