

The History and Experience of Route 66

Route 66 is as much an idea as it is a place.

Since its creation in 1926, America's most famous highway has evolved from a 2,400-mile transportation corridor into a powerful symbol of nostalgia, travel, and the American road.

Today, it functions as a kind of pilgrimage route, marked by neon signs, roadside

attractions, and preserved motels, cafés, and gas stations. In this course, we will explore the history, cultural meaning, and enduring appeal of Route 66.

Together, we will examine its origins, rise and decline, late-20th century revival, the role of nostalgia and car culture, preservation efforts, and the possible futures of this iconic highway.



[Route 66 promo video](#)

Your Instructor: Peter Dedek, PhD



Peter B. Dedek, PhD, is a professor of American history at Texas State University whose work explores the cultural history of the built environment and the stories embedded in historic places. Dedek brings together cultural, design, and social history to illuminate how people shape, and are shaped by the spaces they

inhabit. He is the author of *Hip to the Trip: Route 66 Centennial Edition* and *The Cemeteries of New Orleans: A Cultural History*, and wrote *Historic Preservation for Designers*, a guide integrating preservation with design.

Mondays, October 5 through November 9

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, October 5
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2
- Monday, November 9

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.