

Fall 2024 Honors Seminars

List updated 5/23/2024

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFO ABOUT HONOR SEMINARS

Seminars are restricted to students currently enrolled in the College Honors Program through College of Letters and Science, or students in the College of Creative Studies.

Honor seminars are intended for **First and Second-year students**. To earn honors credit, seminars must be completed with a **letter grade** of B or higher. Honors students may take up to 8 units maximum of INT 84 seminars.

- **NO ADD CODES** will be given out for Honors Seminars. Please **DO NOT** email the instructor asking for one.

INT 84AA – “What Does it Mean to be Political when Writing literature/Producing art?”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Spanish and Portuguese
- **Instructor:** Silvia Bermudez
- **Instructor Email:** bermudez@spanport.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 1:00-2:50 in HSSB 1236
- **Enroll Code:** 67942

Course Description:

This seminar examines political figures/ authors, literary and musical texts from Latin America, the Iberian Peninsula (particularly those in Spanish and Galician), from the 19th Century to the present by considering them in their historical and political contexts to answer the following question: What does it mean to be political when writing literature/producing art? This Honors Seminar invites students to explore diverse and enduring social issues and political concerns such as poverty, economic migration, Afro Latin American identities, gender inequality, and violence against women, among others.

Bio: Professor Bermúdez' areas of research and teaching are the cultural productions (especially literature and music) of the Iberian Peninsula from the 19th century to the present. Her critical work focuses on women's studies, feminisms , poetic discourses, and art and politics.

INT 84AC – “Attorney Communication in the Courtroom”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Communication
- **Instructor:** Daniel Linz
- **Instructor Email:** linz@comm.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesdays 12:00-1:50 in HSSB 1223

- **Enroll Code:** 27482

Course Description: This course will require students to observe attorneys in the courtroom, at trial, in the Santa Barbara courthouse. The students may choose to focus on a number of topics relevant to effective communication. This may include making effective opening statements, visual presentation of evidence, interviewing witnesses on the stand and increasing jury persuasion. The course instructor will facilitate meetings and discussions with attorneys and the judge participating in the trial. This course may be especially useful for students considering a career in the legal system.

Bio: Professor Linz's research and teaching involves empirically testing the social psychological assumptions made by the law and legal actors in the area of communication. This research spans the topics of First Amendment and freedom of speech and censorship, forensic communication, sexual violence, media violence, pornography, sex-oriented entertainment in the community, communication and race, and transgender rights and law.

INT 84BC – “INT 84BC - “Yoga: Theory, Culture & Practice””

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Black Studies
- **Instructor:** Roberto Strongman
- **Instructor Email:** rstrongman@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday & Friday 2:00-3:50 in NH 1109 *this seminar will meet the first 5 weeks of the quarter
- **Enroll Code:** 27532

Course Description: Yoga is a Sanskrit term that can be best translated as "Integration." The course aims to develop an integral understanding of the history of yogic knowledges with roots in South Asia, creolization with XIX Century European body culture during the era of British imperialism, and a capitalist and often culturally-appropriative global spread in the late XX Century and beyond. This historical and philosophical material will be "yoked" (a cognate of "yoga") with a physical asana practice: the class will be organized in weekly two-hour sessions, with the first hour devoted to lecture, presentation, discussion and journal writing and the second hour to a physical postural and breathing practice thematically wedded to the readings. As such, the deeper, even metaphysical, goal of the course will be to bring "union" to the budding scholar, fomenting a balanced, equanimous and holistic body-mind.

Bio: Ph.D. Literature (UCSD 2003). I am a scholar of embodiment, specializing in trance states. My latest book "Queering Black Atlantic Religions" (Duke UP, 2019) speaks to my interest in fomenting an awareness of the unity within the body-mind construct, the goal of "yoga." In addition to my academic credentials, I am also certified as a massage therapist by the state of California and as a yoga instructor at the 500-hour level (the highest recognizable credential in the field).

INT 84BD – “Geology of the California Coast”

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Earth Science
- **Instructor:** Alex Simms

- **Instructor Email:** asimms@geol.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Mondays from 4:00-4:50 in GIRV 2135. **this seminar has a field trip*
- **Enroll Code:** 63578

Course Description: We will discuss the major geologic features and development of the California Coast. It will include an overnight camping field trip.

Bio: Alex Simms grew up in Oklahoma, attending Oklahoma State University, and completed a PhD at Rice University on the Texas Coast. He has studied coastal geology for over 20 years with field areas from Scotland to Antarctica.

INT 84BK – “From nuclei, to quarks, to Higgs bosons”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Physics
- **Instructor:** Claudio Campagnari
- **Instructor Email:** campagnari@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 1:00-2:50 in HSSB 1206
- **Enroll Code:** 56853

Course Description: A survey of the basic building blocks of matter and their interactions. What is stuff made of? What are the fundamental interactions? How do we know, and what do we know? What don't we know? How can we find out? What is happening now to learn more, in the world at large and at UCSB? Open to all comers, no knowledge of physics required. No math.

Bio: <https://www.physics.ucsb.edu/people/claudio-campagnari>

INT 84BL – “Ethical Tech: Navigating the 'Should' in Innovation”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Computer Science
- **Instructor:** Maryam Majedi
- **Instructor Email:** majedi@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 4:00-5:50 in HSSB 1207
- **Enroll Code:** 61911

Course Description: In an era where technological advancements are occurring at an unprecedented rate, the course "Ethical Tech: Navigating the 'Should' in Innovation" offers a crucial perspective on the intersection of ethics and technology. This seminar invites students to embark on a thought-provoking journey, exploring not just the limitless possibilities of what they can create with technology, but more importantly, reflecting on whether they should create them.

Throughout this course, students will engage with fundamental ethical theories and principles, applying them to real-world scenarios and emerging technological trends.

The seminars will foster critical thinking and ethical reasoning, encouraging students to contemplate the broader implications of technology on society, the environment, and future generations.

Some possible topics include:

The Role of Ethics in Technology Development
Balancing Innovation with Moral Responsibility

Privacy, Security, and Ethical Dilemmas in the Digital Age
From AI and Data Privacy - Where Should We Draw the Line?

Through a combination of interactive discussions, case studies, and presentations, students will gain insights into how ethical considerations can and should influence technological innovation. They will learn to identify potential ethical issues and develop strategies to address them, ensuring that the technology they create contributes positively to society.

Bio: Dr. Maryam Majedi joined the Department of Computer Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as an Assistant Teaching Professor in 2023. She completed a teaching stream postdoc at the University of Toronto, where she worked with the Embedded Ethics Education Initiative (E3I) team and introduced the first ethics modules for CS courses in Canada. Dr. Majedi earned her Ph.D. in data privacy at the University of Calgary. Her Ph.D. work presents a novel privacy policy modeling technique. Prior to her Ph.D., she earned a Master of Science degree in High-Performance Scientific Computing from the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Majedi also completed a fellowship in Medical Innovation at Western University. Dr. Majedi's research primarily revolves around Embedded Ethics and Data Privacy. She explores the intersection of computer science and ethical considerations, aiming to develop modules that facilitate the integration of ethics and data privacy principles into computer science education.

INT 84BU – “What is Utopia?”

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** History of Art & Architecture
- **Instructor:** Volker M. Welter
- **Instructor Email:** welter@arthistory.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 9:00-10:50 in HSSB 1227
- **Enroll Code:** 57133

Course Description: For centuries visions of a perfect society have occupied the minds of humankind. But what is Utopia? Is it a non-place (*Utopia*) or a good-place (*Eutopia*)? This seminar will read classic Western accounts of Utopia and of its opposite, Dystopia, by, for example, Thomas More, Francis Bacon, Theodor Herzl, Alexander Bogdanov, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Yevgeny Zamyatin, Ayn Rand, B. F. Skinner, and Ernest Callenbach.

The course is entirely discussion-based. Thus, how interesting the weekly meetings will be depends entirely on you preparing the weekly readings and contributing to the discussion.

Bio: Professor Volker M. Welter teaches modern architectural history and theory in the Dept. of the History of Art & Architecture. His teaching focuses in particular on the aesthetics of architecture, and the often strenuous relationship between architecture and the natural world. He is also fascinated by Utopian thoughts which have inspired many architects and designers to propose visionary societies of tomorrow.

INT 84BY – “Pronouns and Possibilities: Linguistic Perspectives on Transgender Language”

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Linguistics
- **Instructor:** Lal Zimman
- **Instructor Email:** zimman@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Thursday 10:00-11:50 in SH 3605

- **Enroll Code:** 61424

Course Description: In this course, we will explore the ways language is central to the current status of transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals in the United States and globally. We will take a linguistic perspective that emphasizes empirical research, critical analytic viewpoints, descriptive (rather than prescriptive) approaches to language, and the material importance of language. Topics covered include pronouns, grammatical gender, identity labels, voices, embodiment, language ideologies, anti-trans rhetoric, and language activism. Each week, we will read one article or essay about trans language and meet for two hours to discuss what we have read. The course will involve questioning popular ideas about language and identity, exploring linguistic creativity in the face of oppressive language ideologies, unpack ideas around rarely questioned categories such as “biological sex”, and consider alternative ways of thinking about gender and sexuality. This class will be a trans-centering and trans-affirming space, though we will also be engaging with and discussing transphobic ideas as part of the linguistic landscape for trans people in the contemporary world.

Bio: Lal Zimman (he/they) is a sociocultural linguist who focuses on language in and around transgender communities. He is known internationally as the founder of the field known as trans linguistics and has published extensively in this area. Zimman’s research has been published in articles and book chapters on trans people’s talk about gendered body parts, coming out narratives, the production and perception of gender in the voice, discourses surrounding self-identification, pronoun sharing practices, and inclusive language in drag media, among other topics. He is currently writing a textbook, *An Introduction to Transgender Linguistics*, with Archie Crowley and J. Calder.

INT 84CE – “Clown Business”

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Theater and Dance
- **Instructor:** Daniel Stein
- **Instructor Email:** dstein@theaterdance.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Thursday 3:00-4:50 in TD-W 1507
- **Enroll Code:** 27557

Course Description: This course explores finding the personal freedom and confidence to speak your mind from your authentic self. You will use clown, theatre, and your imagination to engage and enchant your audience, whether of one or one hundred.

Your curiosity is the only prerequisite for this course.

This is a safe nonjudgmental space where you will get to play with your imagination to build confidence and poise in interacting with others. The pleasure of stretching is not limited to your muscles, you can also stretch your mind and imagination.

Each of you has been working your entire life to become what you are today. Freedom to be who you are comes from within. This class aims to empower you to allow yourself to own your freedom by practicing seeing further than your assumptions and clearer than your fear. Everyone makes assumptions and everyone experiences fear. What we can do is train ourselves to use them as a springboard to go beyond them.

There is a reason people go to see theater and plays. PLAY (P – Practice, L – Laughing, A – At, Y – Yourself) is not only one of the roots of joy it can also be the foundation of discovery.

Bio: Daniel Stein – Senior Lecturer II
Teaches Movement for the Actor and Devising of Original Works

Curator of the Annual PARTICLE COLLIDER FESTIVAL at UCSB

After studying in the Professional Actors Training Program at Carnegie-Mellon University, Daniel went to Paris, France to study with Etienne Decroux, becoming M. Decroux's frequent translator. Subsequently making his home in Paris for 20 years, Daniel started his professional career as an actor with the French National Theatre. His solo performances have toured in more than 30 countries, as well as in theatres such as the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center in the United States. He has performed and taught master classes throughout the world at institutions such as The Juilliard School of Drama and The Shanghai Theatre Academy. Daniel has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the United States/Japan Commission, the Pew Charitable Trust, and is a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow.

Recent summers have seen him teaching in Sicily, South Korea, and at The Danish National School For The Performing Arts, Copenhagen.

Prior to finding his artistic home at The University of California, Santa Barbara he spent seven years at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island as Head of Movement and Physical Theatre for their MFA Professional Actor Training Program. Prior to that over a decade at Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in Blue Lake, CA. serving as School Director and core instructor.

For more information visit PoeticDynamics.com

INT 84ZL – “Social Innovation: Tools for Changemakers”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Writing Program
- **Instructor:** Paul Rogers
- **Instructor Email:** paulrogers@writing.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 10:00-11:50 place in HSSB 1206
- **Enroll Code:** 27599

Course Description: Social entrepreneurship has its origins in the work of a group of actors, social entrepreneurs, who introduce solutions to pressing social and environmental problems (e.g., poverty, human trafficking, climate change). The object of social entrepreneurs, broadly stated, is to improve the quality of life for people in practical ways. To make these improvements, social entrepreneurs use the tools of enterprise and business in combination with community engagement and the power of ordinary citizens to create novel solutions to what are typically localized problems. Examples of these innovative solutions include the development of micro-finance, community-sourced emergency preparedness social media platforms, greenscaping programs for heavily polluted urban areas, integrated systems to combat human trafficking, and much more. While individuals fitting the description of social entrepreneur have lived throughout history, it is only in the past 40 years that social entrepreneurship has been galvanized into a recognized field of activity. In this sense, social entrepreneurship represents a deliberate reframing and destabilization of the narrative related to what we commonly refer to as the nonprofit sector; in principle, social entrepreneurs are individuals who play by a different and somewhat hybrid set of rules than that of either business or traditional non-profits as they apply “the mindset, processes, tools, and techniques of business entrepreneurship to the pursuit of a social and/or environmental mission” (Kickul and Lyons, 2016, p.1). Through discussion, projects, reflection, and guest lecturers, students will gain an appreciation for the work of social entrepreneurship and explore their own changemaker journey.

The course aims to cover four primary learning outcomes:

1. Develop Knowledge of Changemaking and Changemakers (Including social entrepreneurs)
2. Habits of Mind
3. Communicative Competence
4. Ways of Being

UNDERSTAND THE FIELD OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP - How it differs from traditional non-profit activity, social enterprise, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy, and service projects. Identify historical & contemporary examples of social entrepreneurs: the traits and qualities of social entrepreneurs and their organizations; the strategies and ideas they use to address local, national and global challenges; the nature of the organizations social entrepreneurs lead; the ways social entrepreneurs measure impact. Develop deep understanding of the competencies associated with social innovation and social entrepreneurship, especially empathy, teamwork and leadership, which have been identified as the foundational attributes for making change.

HABITS OF MIND Use systems thinking: Possess the ability to analyze problems in context of systems, identify root causes of systemic failure, search for critical leverage points in leading systemic change.

COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE Gain experience in creating and communicating new, complex, and audience appropriate messages in a wide variety of genres and media aimed at furthering entrepreneurial solutions to global challenges.

WAYS OF BEING Understand oneself: Gain awareness of personal passions, motivations, aspirations, abilities, limitations, and a commitment to work on cultivating strengths and well-being over the course of one's professional and personal life. Deepened sense of purpose: Develop greater awareness of the change one wants to see in the world and the self-permission to take risks to pursue it.

Bio: Paul Rogers is an associate professor of Writing Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he also earned his PhD in education (2008). He is a cofounder and former chair of the International Society for the Advancement of Writing Research. Paul's primary focus is on educational research and advancing transformation in policy and practice related to writing and literacy through data-informed decision making at all levels. Paul has served as a strategic advisor to Ashoka- the world's 5th ranked NGO and a leading sponsor of social entrepreneurs around the world. He has worked in a variety of capacities to advance the vision of 'Everyone a Changemaker' in K-12 schooling and higher education. Paul is a recipient of AAC&U's K. Patricia Cross Award for leadership in higher education, and NCTE's Janet Emig Award for research in English education. He is the editor of eight coedited volumes, including the 2022 book *International Models of Changemaker Education* and numerous other publications. His favorite activities are spending time with his family (the Seven Hearts Tribe), surfing, hiking, playing basketball, and reading.

INT 84ZW – “Climate Changes: Insights From the Past”

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Earth Science
- **Instructor:** Syee Weldeab
- **Instructor Email:** sweldeab@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Friday 2:00-3:50 in HSSB 1206
- **Enroll Code:** 56861

Course Description: The focus of this seminar is to unravel and discuss the manifestation of ongoing climate changes in various parts of the eco-system. The seminar informs how our understanding of past climate changes improve and refine the impact and feedback mechanism of current and future climate changes.

Bio: I am Professor at Depart of Earth Science and I study past climate changes that inform us about the sensitivity of the climate system to changes in climate forcings (for instance greenhouse gases) and climatic amplifying feedback mechanisms. For more, visit my website: <https://weldeab.geol.ucsb.edu/>

Best,

Kate