



Spring 2021 Honors Seminars

List updated 2/12/2021

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.

These **two-unit** courses provide an opportunity for research exploration in various disciplines and consider advanced studies beyond college. Honor seminars are 1st-2nd year students. To earn honors credit, seminars must be completed with a **letter grade** of B or higher. **Eligible students may take 8 units maximum of INT 84 seminars.**

*Add codes are not required for most Honors Seminars, with a few exceptions (if you are prompted for an add code, please contact the **instructor for more information**)

****INT 84 Honors Seminars are lower-division and designed with **first and second-year students** in mind. First and second-year students in the Letters & Science Honors Program who have exceeded the "Senior" unit standing limitation for INT 84 may request an exception to bypass this restriction by emailing me at kvonderlieth@ucsb.edu – (***)Please include your PERM & Which INT 84 you would like to bypass when emailing me!). Third and fourth-year students are not eligible to bypass the Senior unit standing restriction. Students who receive access to bypass the restriction must still enroll through GOLD during an active pass time while the course has space remaining.*

***Please note if your class is not a 10-week course the add/drop deadline may be earlier.**

INT 84AH - "INT 84AH: Special Relativity for Pedestrians "

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Physics
- **Instructor:** Tengiz Bibilashvili
- **Instructor Email:** tbib@physics.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 4:00-5:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 52712

Course Description: The goal of the seminar is to teach Special Relativity (SR) using Einstein Notation (EN). The class is designed for enthusiastic students with no or little background in SR. Prerequisite Physics 20, and 21. First we will see how EN is used in non-relativistic physics. Then we will learn SR using EN. At the end we will explore how relativistic kinematics is used in High Energy Experiments (HEX) in colliders (like LHC). Good grasp of EN will prepare students to better understand General Covariance of Physics laws like Maxwell's equations in Electromagnetism.

Bio: Dr. B aka Tengiz Bibilashvili earned his Ph. D. at Tbilisi State University. His Ph. D. thesis was about Non-equilibrium Quantum Filed Diagrammatic. Later he focused on teaching physics and he prepared several Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal winners at the International Physics Olympiads based on physics problem solving.

INT 84AP - "Advocating for Scholars at Risk"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Germanic and Slavic Studies
- **Instructor:** Elisabeth Weber
- **Instructor Email:** weber@gss.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 2:00-3:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 64527

Course Description: In collaboration with Scholars at Risk (SAR), this course will work as the case-responsible entity for a writer / thinker persecuted for their ideas. We will collectively choose a case, conduct background research on the region, politics and specific issues of the case, build a dossier, then develop and implement an advocacy strategy (social media outreach, contact congress members, writing letters to the editor, etc.). At the end of the quarter, we will send a report to Scholars at Risk for them to build on our findings and advocacy.

Bio: Elisabeth Weber is Professor of German and Comparative Literature. Her most recent book publications are "Speaking about Torture" (co-edited with Julie Carlson), "Living Together: Jacques Derrida's Communities of Violence and Peace," and "Kill Boxes. Facing the Legacy of US-Sponsored Torture, Indefinite Detention and Drone Warfare."

INT 84AR - "Manifolds in Mathematics and Sciences"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** mathematics
- **Instructor:** Denis Labutin
- **Instructor Email:** labutin@math.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 4:00-5:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 63867

Course Description: The vector space is introduced early in calculus and is fundamental for applications in sciences. At the same time in modern mathematics and its applications to physics and other sciences the action happens in "curled", "twisted" spaces. Those are manifolds. The simplest manifolds are curves and surfaces such as a sphere, Moebius band, Klein's bottle, The study of manifolds is an advanced subject somewhat unusual if compared to more traditional areas of mathematics. However, the main concepts and the technique can be well understood intuitively just with some calculus-4 background. We shall study gluing, surgery, homotopy, and other operations without complicated formulas but with clear geometric meaning. We also see how manifolds appear in mechanics, liquid crystals, and even advanced areas of theoretical physics.

Bio: PhD Australian National University, 2000. Interests: partial differential equations, analysis, geometry.

INT 84BC - "Yoga: Theory, Culture & Practice"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Black Studies
- **Instructor:** Roberto Strongman
- **Instructor Email:** rstrongman@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 2:00-3:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 27037

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 a certified yoga instructor at the 500-hour level (the highest recognizable credential in the field).

INT 84BW - "The Politics of Housing"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Political Science
- **Instructor:** Clayton Nall
- **Instructor Email:** nall@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 - 2:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 63826

Course Description: This course is focused on the politics of housing, with a special focus on the unique challenges that underlie California's housing shortage and high housing prices. I teach this course as a political scientist concerned with the political economy of housing, and as a Californian who has dealt firsthand with the high housing prices that create so many inequalities in our state. Scholars across the social sciences and humanities have considered many aspects of housing: gentrification, displacement, and racial discrimination in lending, renting, and home sales. We'll be focusing specifically on how institutions, from taxes to land use regulation, shape housing markets and create special interests related to housing.

We'll address the following questions in our weekly reading discussions:

- How does the politics of housing differ from the politics of other issues?
- Why do cities restrict housing development, usually to the benefit of homeowners who control local land-use regulation to their own benefit?
- Why have single-family homes been given so many tax benefits, nationally but especially in California?

- Why are reforms that would make housing more affordable so unpopular, while ineffective or marginally effective policies attract broad, sometimes bipartisan support?

Seminar participants will read and comment on two articles per week and will contribute to a collective research project related to Professor Nall's research.

Bio: I am an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. My research seeks to explain how policies that change geographic space change American politics, and my broader research interests encompass American political development, public policy, political geography, and political methodology. My book, *The Road to Inequality: How the Federal Highway Program Polarized America and Undermined Cities* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) uses a range of new data sources constructed from public archives and databases to examine how the largest public works project in U.S. history created Republican suburbs, increased the urban-suburban political divide, and worsened spatial inequality in the nation's metro areas. I am currently pursuing research broadly addressing the politics of housing, examining how the expression of economic self-interest in local politics interacts with Americans' nationally focused political ideologies.

INT 84CA - "Lions, Tigers, and Bears: Coexisting with Large Carnivores in the 21st Century"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Environmental Studies
- **Instructor:** Peter Alagona
- **Instructor Email:** alagona@es.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 4:00-5:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 60111

Course Description: Of all the grim trends that define the sixth mass extinction of life on Earth, few are more widespread or consequential than the loss of large carnivores. Due to their diets and behaviors, large carnivores exert outsized influence on the ecosystems they inhabit. Yet today, for these same reasons, they rank among the world's most endangered--and controversial--groups of animals. This seminar will explore the history, ecology, politics, and management of human conflict and coexistence with large carnivores around the world.

Bio: Peter Alagona is an environmental historian and associate professor in the Environmental Studies Program at UCSB. He is also the founder and facilitator of the California Grizzly Research Network.

INT 84CC - "Art From Machines: Computer Numerical Control in the Hands of Creators"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Theater and Dance
- **Instructor:** Greg Mitchell
- **Instructor Email:** gmittchell@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 11:00-12:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 56044

Course Description: Contemporary design and art such as sculpture and installation often integrate diverse kinds of 21st century technologies into their creation and execution. Some of those technologies that were once out of the reach of individual or unfunded artists are now becoming ubiquitous. We'll introduce the class to technological processes, machines, and applications that integrate computer control with creative work by using them to iterate real world objects. We'll extrapolate how these processes can be used to design studio sized fabrications and structures that are scale-able to impressive physical creations.

Bio: Greg Mitchell is an Associate Professor of Theatre Design. His work in Scenic Design, Lighting Design, Art Direction for Television, Projection, and Video Design has been seen around the world.

Professor Mitchell's recent projects have included Scenic, Lighting, and Costume designs for Arjuna's Dilemma, the first western style opera in Nepal. The Jazz-fusion cross cultural work was created as site specific production in one of the world's oldest Hindu temples, a UNESCO site at Patan Durbar Square in Kathmandu.

He collaborated with Opera Panama and the Panama Symphony Orchestra to design a site specific production of Macbeth in Panama City in the 400 year old ruin of the Convento de las Monjas Concepciones. In addition to scenery designed to accommodate the fragile archaeological site, he projection mapped the interior of the structure to create a media design that aligned with the architecture.

In Dublin, Ireland Professor Mitchell created an installation performing space in the Boys School at Smock Alley, the oldest extant theatre in Ireland, for the Creative Artists Collaborative involving a three story tall sculptural work and a projection mapping of the medieval architecture.

Recently he worked with Ping Chong and Company as a lighting and video projection designer on the new documentary-theatre production of Aan Yát'x'u Sáani: Noble People of the Land.

Theatre work includes Off-Broadway productions in New York City including Classical Theatre of Harlem's Tartuffe Supreme, Classic Stage Company's Tempest Tossed, Baruch Performing Arts The Actors Rap, 321 Arts A Night in the Mind of Jim Jones. Other notable New York productions encompass years of collaboration with the site specific Brave New World Rep which yielded a large scale immersive production of Shakespeare's The Tempest on the Coney Island Boardwalk, The Merry Wives of Windsor (Terrace), Lynn Nottage's Fabulation, and Fahrenheit 451 presented at the Prospect Park Amphitheatre as part of Celebrate Brooklyn's 2010 Season. He has designed numerous other productions in the city for organizations including Three Graces Theatre, New York Theatre Experiment, The New York International Fringe Festival, and the New York Musical Festival.

Professor Mitchell's regional theatre work spans hundreds of productions around the country including a multiple productions in Anchorage and Juneau Alaska for Perseverance Theatre Company, in Maine at the Pensobscot Theatre Company, and Theatre at Monmouth, and seasons as the resident designer at Washington DC's Source Theatre Company and Washington Stage Guild. Elsewhere his theatre designs have been seen at Mac-Haydn (NY), Curtain Call (NY), Alpine Theatre Project (MT), The Kennedy Center (DC), The Studio Theatre, (DC), African Continuum Theatre Company (DC), Tsunami Theatre (DC), Washington Shakespeare Company (DC), Imagination Stage (MD), Rep Stage (MD), Sierra Rep (CA), Summer Rep (CA), Hackmatack Playhouse (ME), American Stage Festival (NH), Playhouse on the Square (TN), Texas Shakespeare Festival (TX), Bristol Riverside Theatre (PA), Capital Playhouse (WA), and The Historic Iao Theatre (HI).

Design for opera includes international productions in Nepal, Panama, and the costumes for Tannhauser in Tirana Albania for their national theatre Teatri Kombetar i Operas dhe i Baletit. He has worked on the development of new operas including a commission for the Princess Sophia about the sinking of a passenger ship off the Alaskan coast in 1918, and Llantos about the intersection of Gypsies and Jews during the inquisition. He has designed multiple productions for the Capital City Opera (DC), Juilliard Opera (NY), New Opera NYC (NY), and Opera Modesto (CA), and Chicago Opera Theatre (upcoming).

As an art director and assistant art director, Professor Mitchell has worked on projects for ESPN, CNBC, MTV, and VH1.

In educational theatre, Professor Mitchell has served as guest artist, lecturer, or faculty member at the University of Maine at Orono, Whitman College, Fort Lewis College, Catholic University, CUNY Laguardia, and Kathmandu University School of the Arts.

His work outside of the theatre includes planning and designing events, architectural spaces, and interactive installations for clients such as Heineken, Pink, The Food Network, Vornado Realty NYC, among many others. The range of this work spans turning a half acre of New York's meat packing district into a Pumpkin Patch for Old Navy to multi-story interactive incendiary art for Nevada's Burning Man.

Professor Mitchell is a proud member of USA Local 829, the union of stage designers. His work has been nominated for several awards including the Helen Hayes Award, Broadwayworld Awards, and Indy Awards.

INT 84CE - “Clown Business”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Theater Dance
- **Instructor:** Daniel Stein
- **Instructor Email:** dstein@theaterdance.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Friday 3:00 - 4:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 63743

Course Description: Finding the personal freedom and confidence to speak your mind from your authentic core. Using Clown, Theatre and your Imagination to engage and enchant your audience (of one or hundreds).

Bio:

Daniel Stein – Senior Lecturer - SOE-AY

Curator of the ANNUAL PARTICLE COLLIDER FESTIVAL

Mentor for New Works Lab - Directors & Actors

After studying in the Professional Actors Training Program at Carnegie-Mellon University, notably with Jewel Walker, 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 here in the United States. He has taught master classes throughout the world at institutions such as 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. WebSite PoeticDynamics.com

INT 84CF - “Agency | Urgency: Global perspectives from artists on the future”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Art
- **Instructor:** Kim Yasuda
- **Instructor Email:** yasuda@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Friday 2:00-3:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 63750

Course Description: AGENCY IN URGENCY: Learning from the Global South is a multi-‘insertion point’ program, with interventions created in response to the current and urgent demand of having agency that can facilitate and produce different types of knowledge, models of initiatives, and possibilities for sustaining resiliency. While many U.S. museums and academic institutions have been confronted with bitter facts on racial inequality, social discrepancy and systemic racism rooted deeply in existing structures and modi operandi, there is still a wide gap between acknowledgement and action taking, as resistance to changes is inevitably expected. And hypothetically speaking, when being given certain roles in transforming our institutions, we would be tasked with an enormous responsibility of filling such ‘power vacuum’ without prior training and preparation. Facing these challenges, AGENCY IN URGENCY aims to take lessons from the global south and beyond, designing a cohort study of various de-colonizing and self-sustaining efforts through artistic practices, community building, and knowledge production.

Bio: Kim Yasuda is an artist, professor of Public Practice and current Chair in the Department of Art at University of California Santa Barbara. Her work investigates the role of art, artists and educational institutions in community development and civic life. Yasuda's past exhibition work has been presented at museums and alternative spaces in the U.S., Canada and U.K., including: the New Museum of Contemporary Art and Art in General, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art@ Champion, CT; MIT List Visual Arts Center, Boston; Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada; Camerawork Gallery, East London. She has been the recipient of individual artist grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, US/Japan Foundation, Howard Foundation, Art Matters, Joan Mitchell Foundation and Anonymous Was a Woman Foundation. Yasuda's previous commissioned public projects include station designs for the Broad Street Corridor transit system in Providence, Rhode Island, the Green Line Vermont Metrorail and Union Station Gateway Center for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Los Angeles. Her permanent commemorative works are part of the public art collections for the cities of St. Louis, San Jose and Hollywood, designed to preserve the cultural legacies and local histories of these community. Yasuda's current research intersects her university teaching with her public art practice, shaping pedagogical experiments that explore the intersection between institutional knowledge production and a creative practice. Yasuda and her students have undertaken numerous projects together, working on temporary public interventions and permanent urban renewal projects in the student community of Isla Vista, an unincorporated area of 21,000 inhabitants adjacent to the UCSB campus. In 2005, Yasuda established the Friday Academy and in 2014, IV OpenLab, as temporary instructional environments that operate at the intersection of university and community. These open-access, collaborative learning environments maintain a separate academic calendar and curricula to conduct year-round, off-site and multi-disciplinary projects.

INT 84CG - "Devising Movement Theater" – CANCELLED 2/9/2021

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Theater and Dance
- **Instructor:** Christina McCarthy
- **Instructor Email:** cmccarthy@theaterdance.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday & Wednesday 10:00-10:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 63784

Course Description: Using your own personal stories to write and then craft an embodied performance that is autobiographical in nature, you will explore various methodologies in creating a solo theater piece based in spoken word, movement palette and other theatrical devices. The final project for the course will be a short filmed performance based on the explorations and exercises you do in class and for homework.

Bio: Christina McCarthy is a multimedia artist whose creative work includes a collision of dance, theater, film, puppeteering, circus arts and visual art. Her focus in theater and dance is in the way the body can reflect story through subtle and specific movements. Her interests in teaching center on creative generation of story ideas and a non-linear approach to storytelling born from her years as a choreographer working in musical theater, drama and concert dance. In addition to teaching dance technique and choreography, she also teaches puppet fabrication and digital editing for film.

INT 84CH - "Understanding Men's Support for Gender Equality"

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Anthropology
- **Instructor:** David Lawson
- **Instructor Email:** dlawson@anth.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 3:00 -4:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 63792

Course Description: Achieving gender equality fundamentally requires a transfer of power from men to women. Yet despite a number of global campaigns encouraging male support of women's empowerment, such as the United Nations 'HeforShe' global solidarity movement, we still know surprisingly little about which men are most likely to support gender equality and what interventions might be most effective at shifting men's attitudes and behaviors. In this course, we will explore these issues by (a) reviewing relevant literature in anthropology, psychology, economics and global health; (b) collecting and analyzing our own data on male support for gender equality here at UCSB; and (c) proposing our own policy solutions to engage men.

Bio: David Lawson an evolutionary anthropologist and population health scientist with broad interests in the family, gender equality and human wellbeing. His research group the 'Applied Evolutionary Anthropology Lab' conducts field research in northern Tanzania and has worked on topics such as polygynous and child marriage, parental care and child health, and the demographic transition. Originally from Northern Ireland, David joined UCSB in 2016. He was previously based at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and at University College London, where he completed his PhD in Anthropology in 2009.

INT 84CI - "An Ecotopian Lexicon"

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** English
- **Instructor:** Melody Jue
- **Instructor Email:** mjue@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 9:30-11:30 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 64709

Course Description: What kind of concepts do we need to imagine better ecological futures? In this seminar, we will read entries from the book "An Ecotopian Lexicon" (2019) that borrow from different languages and fictions to provide new perspectives on the climate crisis. We will talk about what made it into the lexicon, and what may have been left out. As a final project, students will write their own short additions to the Ecotopian Lexicon, and show how these terms offer something new and original.

Bio: Melody Jue is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and teaches classes in the ocean humanities, science fiction, and media theory. Drawing on the experience of becoming a scuba diver, her book *Wild Blue Media: Thinking Through Seawater* (Duke University Press, 2020) develops a theory of mediation specific to the ocean environment. She is the co-editor with Rafico Ruiz of *Saturation* (Duke Press, 2021) and co-editor with Zach Blas and Jennifer Rhee of *Informatics of Domination* (Duke Press, under contract), and published articles in journals including *Grey Room*, *Configurations*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Resilience*, and *Animations: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Her new work explores the mediations of seaweeds in relation to photography, experimentation, and ecological infrastructure.

INT 84CJ - "Writing science fiction like Ted Chiang"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** English
- **Instructor:** Melody Jue
- **Instructor Email:** mjue@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 12:30-2:30 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 64717

Course Description: One of the best ways to learn how to write is to study a single author. Each week of this seminar, we will read a different short story by Ted Chiang, one of the best contemporary writers of science fiction. We will closely analyze what makes the story "tick" (its literary conventions and themes), and then for the second half of class, spend some time writing in response to a creative prompt related to the story. Students will choose one idea to develop for their final short story at the end of the quarter, and share their stories during the last week of class.

Bio: Melody Jue is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and teaches classes in the ocean humanities, science fiction, and media theory. Drawing on the experience of becoming a scuba diver, her book *Wild Blue Media: Thinking Through Seawater* (Duke University Press, 2020) develops a theory of mediation specific to the ocean environment. She is the co-editor with Rafico Ruiz of *Saturation* (Duke Press, 2021) and co-editor with Zach Blas and Jennifer Rhee of *Informatics of Domination* (Duke Press, under contract), and published articles in journals including *Grey Room*, *Configurations*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Resilience*, and *Animations: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Her new work explores the mediations of seaweeds in relation to photography, experimentation, and ecological infrastructure.

INT 84ZB - "Causes and Consequences of Sea-Level Rise: A Geologic Perspective"

- **Seminar Type:** *Honors*
- **Department:** Department of Earth Science
- **Instructor:** Alex Simms
- **Instructor Email:** asimms@geol.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-4:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 63800

Course Description: We will discuss the causes of sea-level rise at several different time scales and its influence on the natural and geologic system

Bio: Dr. Simms grew up in Oklahoma but became interested in the sea during Graduate School at Rice University. After a short stint at Oklahoma State University, Dr. Simms came to UCSB in 2010. His research interests are on coastlines and how they responded to past disturbances including sea-level changes. He has studying the coastlines of Texas, California, Scotland, and Antarctica during his career.