List updated 11/1/2022

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 (INT 84’s) are two-unit courses that provide an opportunity for research exploration in various disciplines and consider advanced studies beyond college. Honor seminars are for First and Second-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.

- **NO ADD CODES** will be given out for Honors Seminars. Please DO NOT email the instructor asking for one. Except for INT 84AH, this is by instructor approval with Professor Bibilashivili.

- **INT 84 Honors Seminars** are lower-division and designed with First and Second-year students in mind. If you are a First or Second-year students in the Letters & Science Honors Program but have "Senior" standing due to units, you may request an exception to bypass this “Senior” unit restriction by emailing me at kvonderlieth@ucsb.edu. "If you email me for a bypass - Please include your PERM & which “3” INT 84’s you would like to bypass the unit restriction. Once a student receives the bypass, you must still enroll through GOLD during your active pass time, space remaining. A bypass does not override the unit cap in a given pass time of 10 units during Pass1.

- If you are in your Third or Fourth-year, you are NOT eligible to bypass the Senior unit standing restriction. No exceptions. Please read our website about the other opportunities to gain honor experiences. Like honor contracts, auto courses, etc.

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

Winter 2023 Honors Seminars

**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 5:00-6:50 in PHELP 1448 *Open to Physics, Math, Statistics, Chemistry, and COE students. If you are not in one of these majors and still have interest in the class, please use this link: https://forms.gle/tXyMpMyN47ghcdxWA

• Enroll Code: 27128

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, or at least concurrent enrollment in Physics 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 84BI - “What is Nature?”

• Seminar Type: Honors
• Department: History of Art & Architecture
• Instructor: Volker M. Welter
• Instructor Email: welter@arthistory.ucsb.edu
• Day - Time - Room: Monday 12:00-1:50 HSSB 3202
• Enroll Code: 54270

Course Description: We recognize nature when we see it, yet trying to describe it leads to vexing questions. What separates nature from human-made artifacts? Is nature always ‘good’ and the ‘organic’ always better? What about humanity’s ingenuity in designing the ‘artificial’ (in medicine, art, architecture, technology, etc.)? Can there be return to a natural (lost) world? Should one even try? This seminar will read and discuss historical and contemporary Western accounts of nature, the natural, and their possible opposites.

Bio: Professor Volker M. Welter teaches modern architectural history and theory in the Dept. of the History of Art & Architecture. One of his interests is the often strenuous relationship between architecture and the natural world, and how architecture and design manipulate the latter for good or bad.

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: gmitchell@ucsb.edu
• Day - Time - Room: Tuesday 3:00-4:50 in TD-W 1530
• Enroll Code: 63982
**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:** Professor 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 Concepcion. 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 Yátx'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, 332 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 84CO – “Channel Islands Literature: The Lone Woman of San Nicolas”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Germanic and Slavic Studies
- **Instructor:** Sara Pankenier Weld
- **Instructor Email:** saraweld@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Friday 9:00-11:50 in PHELP 6320 *This seminar has a fieldtrip to Santa Cruz Island
  February 18-20, 2023 – weather permitting. Please read below for further info
- **Enroll Code:** 27201
Course Description: In this recurring Honors Seminar on “Channel Islands Literature,” students will discuss literature related to the Channel Islands, located off the coast of Santa Barbara, and, if conditions permit, visit the Channel Islands as part of a field trip for the course. In Winter 2023, the course will focus on “The Lone Woman of San Nicolas,” whose story is fictionalized in Scott O’Dell’s Island of the Blue Dolphins. The story of the Lone Woman of San Nicolas will be reexamined from a variety of perspectives, including literary, historical, archeological, anthropological, and Indigenous scholarly perspectives, and through dialogue with the recent literary response Dear Miss Karana by Eric Elliott. Students will work together on arrangements, prepare presentations on scholarly work, complete a creative project, and write a reflective or scholarly paper on a topic of their choice. As long as conditions permit, a majority of the course contact hours will take place during an intensive weekend field trip to the Channel Islands, so students should plan to be available to visit Santa Cruz Island and spend time at the UC field station there on February 18-20, 2023. If conditions do not permit, alternative field trips to local or mainland sites will be conducted in this period instead. These are the required readings for the course:


Bio: Sara Pankenier Weld is Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature and Chair of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. She studies childhood and children’s literature across disciplines and cultures, which relates to the subject of this course. Half-Swedish, she is an islander by birth and a big fan of the Channel Islands offshore of Santa Barbara. She enjoys the outdoors as well as hiking and backpacking in her spare time.

INT 84CW - “Classical Music and Opera: An Introduction to live performances”

- Seminar Type: Honors
- Department: MUSIC
- Instructor: Isabel Bayrakdarian
- Instructor Email: bayrakdarian@music.ucsb.edu
- Day - Time - Room: Wednesday 2:00-3:50 Music Library 2408A - *This seminar will have 3 performances to attend on Tuesday, January 24th, Monday, February 13th and Saturday, March 4th
- Enroll Code: 54395

Course Description: Discover the beauty of classical music and opera through this course which will introduce you to the intersecting worlds of Opera, Orchestra, and Chamber Music/Recital. You will attend live performances presented by various professional organizations in the Santa Barbara area. The mission of the course is to instill a new love and a deeper appreciation of the artistry that goes into the creation of each of these beautiful art forms.

Bio: Dr Isabel Bayrakdarian is Professor of Voice in the Department of Music. She serves as the Area Head of the Voice Program and is the Director of Opera Theatre and Opera Outreach Program. Isabel Bayrakdarian’s performing career was launched in 1997, the year she was a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and the same year she graduated from the University of Toronto cum laude with a Biomedical Engineering degree. In 1999, Isabel was engaged in Lyric Opera of Chicago’s world premiere production of William Bolcom’s A View from the Bridge. In 2000, she won First Prize in Plácido Domingo’s prestigious Operalia competition. In 2002, Isabel made her debut with San Francisco Opera, as Valencienne in The Merry Widow, and also made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in the New York premiere of Bolcom’s opera. A season later, she won plaudits as Teresa in the Met premiere of Berlioz’s Benvenuto Cellini. She was in demand for Mozart productions; Zerlina in Don Giovanni (New York, Houston, Salzburg), Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro (Los Angeles, London), and Pamina in The Magic Flute (New York, Toronto). Her roles at Toronto’s Canadian Opera Company range from Gluck’s Euridice to Debussy’s Mélisande to Poulenc’s Blanche in Dialogues des Carmélites. Internationally, she sang in Monteverdi’s Poppea in Barcelona, Handel’s Serse in Dresden, and Janáček’s Vixen in New York and Florence, and at the Saito Kinen Festival in Matsumoto, Japan.
As a concertizer, she has appeared with the premier orchestras of New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Minnesota, Paris, London, Vienna, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal under the baton of such eminent conductors as Seiji Ozawa, James Conlon, David Zinman, Michael Tilson Thomas, Alan Gilbert, Nicholas McGegan, Christoph von Dohnányi, Christoph Eschenbach, Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Mariss Jansons, Leonard Slatkin, James Levine, Anne Manson, Bramwell Tovey, Peter Oundjian and Richard Bradshaw. Her versatility is also reflected in being the featured vocalist on the Grammy-award winning soundtrack of the blockbuster film The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers, and on the soundtrack of Atom Egoyan’s Ararat. She collaborated with the electronica band “Delerium,” which garnered a Grammy nomination. She appeared in the BBC-produced short film HOLOCAUST – A Music Memorial Film from Auschwitz, which generated close to a million views on YouTube, and in her Gemini nominated film Long Journey Home, documenting her first visit to her homeland Armenia. Additional forays include many recordings of Armenian medieval sacred music as well as children’s songs, collaboration with the Canadian rock band Glass Tiger for their Christmas Album, as well as various operatic, recital, and chamber music recordings.

Ms. Bayrakdarian is the winner of four consecutive Juno Awards (Canada’s Grammy equivalent) for Best Classical Album (Vocal). She is the recipient of many other awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee and the Diamond Jubilee Medals, the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto, the George London Foundation Award, the Canada Council’s Virginia Parker Prize, and the Republic of Armenia’s highest cultural award. Recordings with orchestra include Henryk Górecki’s Symphony No. 3 with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, released on the Sony Classical label, and Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 with the San Francisco Symphony.

www.bayrakdarian.com
www.facebook.com/IsabelBayrakdarian

**INT 84CX - “Plant, Drug, Weed: Cannabis and World History”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** History
- **Instructor:** Utathya Chattopadhyaya
- **Instructor Email:** utathya@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 1:00-2:50 in HSSB 4202
- **Enroll Code:** 54361

**Course Description:** This seminar will introduce students to scholarly debates around the cannabis plant in world history. Taking products of the plant, like marijuana, ganja, hashish, and commercial CBD as case studies, this course will cover how the colonial history of modern agriculture, medicine, race, policing, and gender structure the ways in which we know contemporary cannabis as a drug, an ordinary therapeutic, and a profitable commodity.

**Bio:** I am an Assistant Professor of History and I specialize in the history of South Asia and British Imperialism in the modern period. My current research focuses on the history of British imperialism and the cannabis plant in multiple social, political, and economic contexts.

**INT 84CY - “Food, Science, and Cooking”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Chemistry and Biochemistry
- **Instructor:** Morgan Gainer
- **Instructor Email:** mjgainer@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Friday 2:00-3:50 in GIRV 2135
- **Enroll Code:** 54379

**Course Description:** This seminar will look at the many connections between food, science, and cooking. We will learn about the chemistry of cooking, students will prepare presentations (and share recipes), and we will have the opportunity to visit some local food production companies.

**Bio:** I am an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.
INT 84CZ - “Introduction to Data Science and Machine Learning: Foundations and Applications”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Mathematics
- **Instructor:** Paul Atzberger
- **Instructor Email:** atzberg@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 12:00-1:50 HSSB 4201
- **Enroll Code:** 54387

**Course Description:** This seminar aims to give an accessible introduction to data science and machine learning topics. An emphasis is placed on covering both rigorous foundations and the practical use of methods. Applications will also be discussed motivated by recent data-driven fields in image processing and natural language processes, and from the natural sciences and engineering. The seminar will also cover some select advanced topics on deep learning and dimension reduction.

**Bio:** Paul J. Atzberger studied mathematics at the Courant Institute at New York University where he received his PhD. Subsequently, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has been faculty at the University of California Santa Barbara since 2006. His research is on methods in scientific computation and machine learning motivated by problems arising in fluid mechanics, soft materials, and biophysics.

INT 84DA - “Freedom”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Political Science
- **Instructor:** Andrew Norris
- **Instructor Email:** anorris@polsci.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 9:00-10:50 in HSSB 4202
- **Enroll Code:** 62356

**Course Description:** Freedom is one of the most important concepts in modern political philosophy and modern political life. It is also a central concept in other spheres of life, such as religion, ethics, economics, and art; and its use and meaning in politics is never completely distinct from its use and meaning in these areas of life. Accordingly, we will read a range of texts in this course, including selections from the Bible, theological writings, historical narrative, philosophical essays and lectures, and a long work of political theory. Among the questions we shall discuss are the following. What does it mean to be free? What are its metaphysical and practical preconditions? Is freedom something that individuals can enjoy in private, or something that requires a vibrant public life? Has the idea of freedom evolved with our cultural, economic, and industrial life? Is freedom simply the absence of external constraint, or are there criteria internal to the idea of freedom? Does freedom require self-knowledge? Is it always a good thing to be as free as possible? What is the relationship between freedom and democratic self-governance?

**Bio:** Professor Norris is the author of Becoming Who We Are: Politics and Practical Philosophy in the Work of Stanley Cavell (Oxford University Press, 2017) and more than forty articles. His work has been translated into French and German, and he has presented it in numerous invited public lectures at universities in Australia, Canada, Germany, Northern Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States. He is the editor of
three books: Truth and Democracy (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), The Claim to Community: Essays on Stanley Cavell and Political Philosophy (Stanford University Press, 2006), and Politics, Metaphysics, and Death: Essays on Giorgio Agamben’s Homo Sacer (Duke University Press, 2005). He has been awarded numerous fellowships from, among others, the Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte; Dartmouth College; the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst; and, the Exzellenzcluster “Normative Orders” and Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften of Goethe Universität.

**INT 84ZB - “Causes and Consequences of Sea-Level Rise: A Geologic Perspective”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Earth Science
- **Instructor:** Alex Simms
- **Instructor Email:** asimms@geol.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 4:00-4:50 in GIRV 2110 *This seminar has a field trip
- **Enroll Code:** 27227

**Course Description:** During this seminar we will discuss the causes of sea-level rise at several different time scales and its influence on the natural and geologic system. Most of the course will be based on an overnight camping fieldtrip to the Transverse Ranges.

**Bio:** Prof. Simms grew up in Oklahoma but attended graduate school along the Texas Coast. His research interests largely revolve around the history of coastlines (at geologic time scales) and in particular sea-level changes. He has worked along coasts in the Gulf of Mexico, California, Scotland, and Antarctica.

**INT 84ZD - “The Case for Reading and Writing Poetry: From Spanish, Latin American, and Chicanx poems to your own work in response to the artists’ productions”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Spanish and Portuguese
- **Instructor:** Silvia Bermúdez
- **Instructor Email:** bermudez@spanport.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 4:00-5:50 in GIRV 1108
- **Enroll Code:** 59402

**Course Description:**

Does poetry matter? A question that has been asked in many forms throughout the centuries. The purpose of this seminar is precisely to find answers to such a query by exploring the process of reading and writing poetry. Students will first be acquainted with the English translations of some of the most engaging and visionary poems produced in Spanish and Spanglish by great writers from Spain, Latin America, and US Latinxs from the 19th century to the present.

In the first five weeks of the seminar students will analyze a selection of Spanish-language poets in translation, addressing early environmental stewardship, proto-feminist and feminist stances, the exploration of identity in all its forms.
In week 6, we’ll host acclaimed Spanish musician and ethnomusicologist Francisco Esteban to explain the process of setting poems to music. The remaining weeks, while bem hosting another visitor, Professor Anthony Geist (University of Washington, Seattle), well recognized translator so students can dedicate themselves to the creative writing process by responding to love poems by renowned LGBTQI poets (Walt Whitman, García Lorca, Luis Hernández and Professor Cherríe Moraga, playwright, artist, activist, and director of Las Maestras Center at UCSB). We’ll also be studying and responding to poems by current US Poet Laureate Ada Limón.

**Bio:** Silvia Bermúdez is Professor of literature and Iberian Studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her current scholarship centers on Iberian feminisms, the social function of poetry, and antiracist activist in 21st Century Spain. She teaches courses on modern and contemporary Spanish literary and cultural history, popular music studies, feminist studies, and poetic discourses. She was conferred a 2019 Academic Senate Graduate Mentor Award.

**INT 84ZW - “Climate Changes: insights from the past”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Earth Science Department
- **Instructor:** Syee Weldeab
- **Instructor Email:** sweldeab@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Friday 2:00-3:50 in GIRV 1108
- **Enroll Code:** 54346

**Course Description:** The focus of this seminar is to unravel and discusses the manifestation of ongoing climate changes in various parts of Eco-system. The seminar highlights the magnitude and difference of air and ocean warming of air in different parts of the globe, sea level rise and ocean acidification, and the impacts of these change on habitats. Seminar informs how our understanding of past climate changes improve and refine the impact and feedback mechanism of current and future climate changes.

**Bio:** https://weldeab.geol.ucsb.edu/

**INT 84ZX - “The Sierra Nevada”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
- **Instructor:** Peter Alagona
- **Instructor Email:** alagona@es.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 1:00-2:50 in HSSB 2202 1:00-2:50? *This course includes a mandatory field trip to UCSB's Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve in Mammoth Lakes Presidents'Day Weekend Feb 17th-21st.
- **Enroll Code:** 63032

**Course Description:** The goal of this seminar is to conduct an in-depth exploration of a California bioregion that can serve as a laboratory for applying key environmental studies concepts and critical thinking skills. The Sierra Nevada is the longest and highest mountain range in the United States outside Alaska. It is California’s dominant topographic feature, and it is the source of many of our state’s most important natural resources. It was the site of California’s earliest industrial developments and several of its first urban centers, but today it is
better known for its forests, waterfalls, rivers, alpine lakes, granite peaks, national parks, ski slopes, and wilderness areas. It is home to some of the oldest and largest living things on earth, but since the mid-nineteenth century it has also experienced significant environmental damage--damage that continues today in the form of development, pollution, and increasingly destructive fires. It was once the world’s most productive mining region, but today its most important natural resource for people, by far, is water.

Getting to know the Sierra Nevada could take a lifetime. In this course, students will get a taste of this wonderful place, and perhaps even become mini-experts. They will learn about the region’s geography, geology, weather, climate, biogeography, ecology, and human history. They will also learn about the crucial role this thinly populated region plays in our state’s culture and economy, and you will come to see why so many people consider the Sierra Nevada such a special place.

This course includes a mandatory 5-day field trip to UCSB’s Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve in Mammoth Lakes.

Bio: Peter Alagona is a professor of environmental history and conservation science in the Environmental Studies Program. His work explores what happens when humans share space and resources (their habitats) with other species: how we interact with non-human creatures, how we make sense of these interactions, why we fight so much about them, what we can learn from them, and how we might use these lessons to foster a more just, peaceful, humane, and sustainable society.