

# FALL 2024

## First Year Discovery & Discovery+ Seminars

Updated 5/23/2024

### INT 86BJ – “Eye on the Prize: Nobel Prizes 2024”

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Chemistry and Biochemistry
- **Instructor:** Mattanjah de Vries
- **Instructor Email:** devries@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday-Friday 5:00-6:50 in CHEM 4606 **\*This seminar will meet for one week only. It will meet starting Monday October 7th. Full attendance is required for this seminar.**
- **Enroll Code:** 67751

**Course Description:** In the week of October 7 the 2024 Nobel prizes will be announced, a different one each day. We will find out how one gets nominated and follow the announcements in the different fields on the days they happen. We will learn about the people and the science in over a century of Alfred Nobel's legacy, involving both life changing discoveries and human drama

**Bio:** Professor Mattanjah de Vries teaches Environmental Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, and special topics graduate courses. His research interests include studying the molecular origin of life with novel laser-based techniques, as well as applications in analysis of meteorites, art, and archaeology.

### INT 86EI – “SciTrek: How science works”

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Psychological & Brain Sciences
- **Instructor:** Vanessa Woods
- **Instructor Email:** vewoods@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 12:00-12:50 in ILP 4205 **\*This seminar will meet the first two Monday's of the quarter in ILP 3310 at UCSB, and the last two weeks of the quarter. Please note that 6 hours of this seminar will be off campus at the K-12 schools and at various times**
- **Enroll Code:** 27607

**Course Description:** Improve your ability to think critically, probably the most important skill you will be hired for in the future, whatever your degree is in. This course is a blend of instruction from Biochemistry Professor Norbert Reich, who works on drug development for cancer and antibiotics, through reading and discussing papers on critical thinking, and your involvement in UCSB's largest outreach, “SciTrek”. The outreach brings university students into local classrooms (this class will focus largely on Junior High and High School classes) to help run inquiry into diverse topics such as math, biology, chemistry, and physics. The outreach does not require

that you be a STEM major. Prior university students have improved in their critical thinking even in this one quarter of in class and outreach engagement.

**Bio:** Vanessa Woods is an Associate Teaching Professor in Psychological and Brain Sciences at UCSB. Vanessa earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience, and has taught and conducted research on inclusive pedagogies in higher education at diverse institutions since 2009. Her research focus is on effective teaching practices and student success, with projects looking at, creating equity in college classrooms, transfer student success, and K-12 science interest & identity to understand the STEM college/career pipeline.

## **INT 86GG – “The Exploration of Identity & Art: Personal, Cultural, Familial, & Sexual”**

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Art
- **Instructor:** Kip Fulbeck
- **Instructor Email:** seaweed@arts.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesdays 10:00-11:50 in ARTS 1237 \*this seminar will meet the first 5 weeks of the quarter
- **Enroll Code:** 27623

**Course Description:** The exploration of identity continues to be a focus of contemporary artists. Examining how we create and recreate our internal and external selves allows us to better understand our interactions in personal, social and political arenas. In this interactive workshop, students will view work by various filmmakers, artists, and performers, and engage in lively discussions pertinent to their phase in life.

**Bio:** Kip Fulbeck is a Distinguished Professor of Art, with affiliate appointments in Asian American Studies and Film & Media Studies. He has exhibited worldwide and has been featured on CNN, MTV, The New York Times, The TODAY Show, Voice of America, and various NPR programs. He is the author of numerous books and the recipient of UCSB's Faculty Diversity Award and Distinguished Teaching Award.

## **INT 86HZ – “Collectors and Collecting”**

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Theater and Dance
- **Instructor:** William Davies King
- **Instructor Email:** king@theaterdance.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 5:00-5:50 in TD-W 2517
- **Enroll Code:** 67744

**Course Description:** Students will explore the phenomenon of collecting--its history, psychology, economics, and cultural significance--with particular emphasis on the creative applications of collecting, including artistic practices and existential reflections. Students will be expected to contribute to this multidisciplinary through assigned readings and individual research, culminating in a presentation and report.

**Bio:** In addition to being a noted theater historian, Professor King is a prodigious collector and an expert on collecting. His book *Collections of Nothing* is part memoir/part essay on the

phenomenon of collecting, and it was called one of the 100 best books of 2008 by amazon.com. He is working on another book, with the working title: Thinking Through Collecting. He has continued his study of collecting with Tree of Life (TM), a performance piece with cereal boxes, and more recently two ventures in the direction of a Museum of

## **INT 86UL – “The American Research University”**

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Asian American Studies
- **Instructor:** John Park
- **Instructor Email:** jswpark@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 4:00-4:50 in GIRV 1108
- **Enroll Code:** 61432

**Course Description:** This seminar is designed specifically for incoming freshmen to UC Santa Barbara in the College of Letters and Science. The purpose of this class is to provide new students with an overview of academic life in general, as well as an introduction to this University in particular. We begin with a brief overview of academic institutions and academic life, and then we explore how professors at UCSB conduct their work, paying special attention to the research of leading professors in the social sciences. Finally, we conclude with detailed strategies for how students can take full advantage of the many opportunities available here in the College.

**Bio:** I've been a professor of Asian American Studies at UCSB since 2002. I did my graduate work in law, public policy, comparative ethnic studies, legal theory, and legal and political philosophy, and I've published in all of these fields.

## **INT 86VN – “Explorations into Santa Barbara Local History: Chumash Culture and Tradition”**

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Writing Program
- **Instructor:** Kali Yamboliev
- **Instructor Email:** kyamboliev@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 2:00-2:50 in HSSB 1232
- **Enroll Code:** 67777

**Course Description:** This seminar introduces students to the history, culture, and traditions of the coastal Chumash, the traditional custodians of the land on which Santa Barbara, Goleta, and the UCSB campus reside. It considers how historians and anthropologists think about the largely oral cultures and civilizations of the past, which we have often remembered through the narratives of colonial writers. The seminar also extends to the present day, inviting us to look at how the Chumash continue to shape the Santa Barbara region and to consider ways in which we can better honor indigenous peoples and their traditions.

**Bio:** Prof. Kali Yamboliev is a Lecturer in the UCSB Writing Program, where she teaches introductory courses in academic writing and upper division classes in magazine journalism, science writing, and business writing. She earned her Ph.D. in medieval history from UCSB, with a focus on southern Italian cultural and ethnic history and identity studies. Her work has also extended to modern-day issues of irregular migration in the Mediterranean

region. More broadly, she appreciates any opportunity to explore how the past is remembered and continues to speak through into the present.

## **INT 86VW – “Exploration of the Physics major: from curious freshmen to young professionals”**

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Physics
- **Instructor:** Tengiz Bibilashvili
- **Instructor Email:** [tbib@physics.ucsb.edu](mailto:tbib@physics.ucsb.edu)
- **Day - Time - Room:** Wednesday 4:00-4:50 in ILP 3103
- **Enroll Code:** 27672

**Course Description:** The class is designed for students who are majoring in physics. The goal of the seminar is to explain how physics majors get educated and who they become after receiving a BS in physics. Students in the class will build their virtual plan for classes from freshman fall to senior spring. They will also make a plan for doing research at UCSB and beyond. Moreover, students will explore post-BS options. The seminar is mostly discussion-based, but there will be some intro presentations by the instructor and invited guests (current students and faculty members).

**Bio:** Dr. B aka Tengiz Bibilashvili earned his Ph. D. at Tbilisi State University. His thesis was about Nonequilibrium Quantum Field Diagrammatic. Later he focused on teaching physics and he prepared several Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal winners at the International Physics Olympiads. Currently Dr. B is The US Physics Team Academic Director and he teaches classes and provides academic advice. Most of his students continue their education in top universities or start their career right after graduation with a BA in physics.

## **INT 86WM – “Open Source: Software, Hardware, and Beyond”**

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery*
- **Department:** Computer Science
- **Instructor:** Jonathan Balkind
- **Instructor Email:** [jbalkind@ucsb.edu](mailto:jbalkind@ucsb.edu)
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 3:00-3:50 in HSSB 1206
- **Enroll Code:** 27680

**Course Description:** We hear more and more today about open source. Much of the software we use is often open source, but what exactly does it mean? And how can it extend beyond software? The District of Columbia's law is now open and available for modification online. Entire open-source processors are being developed today, too. This seminar will dive into the use and implications of this new open paradigm, both in computer science and far beyond.

**Bio:** Jonathan Balkind is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests lie at the intersection of Computer Architecture, Programming Languages, and Operating Systems. Jonathan completed his PhD and MA degrees at Princeton University and his MSci degree at the University of Glasgow. He is the Lead Architect of OpenPiton and its heterogeneous-ISA descendent, BYOC, which are productive, open-source hardware research platforms with thousands of

downloads from over 70 countries worldwide. Jonathan was an Open Hardware Trailblazer Fellow and recipient of the NSF CAREER Award. Since 2021, he has served as a Director of the FOSSi Foundation.

# Discovery+ Seminars – 2 instructors

## INT 87AC – “Love and Desire”

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery+*
- **Department:** Spanish and Portuguese
- **Instructor:** Antonio Cortijo & Silvia Bermúdez
- **Instructor Email:** cortijo@ucsb.edu, bermudez@spanport.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 2:00-3:50 in PHELP 1445
- **Enroll Code:** 56838

**Course Description:** This seminar offers an overview of the way our conceptualization of Love and Desire has shaped Western thought from its inception to the present. Love lies at the intersection of sexual passion, religious mysticism, and social utopia. Conceptualized as a human need for creating a relationship with the other we will begin by examining how the Greeks believed "love" encompassed the notions of eros, philia, agape and Charistia/Love/Charity. From the most natural and simple sexual desire (eros), love moved to embrace the need to establish a connection with others through friendship (philia) or with the societal group at large (agape). A human mystical longing to transcend the sphere of the merely human was also recognized through the concept of Charistia/Love/Charity. To explore how Love and Desire have been conceptualized and explored throughout the centuries in the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America, we will pay attention to literature, painting, and music.

**Bio:** **Dr. Antonio Cortijo** analyzes in his research the ideological structures and tensions that have forged the Modern Period across the Atlantic and across the languages and cultures of the Iberian Peninsula. He deals with issues such as nation building, power and ideology, religion and economy in the late medieval through 18th centuries, as well as with the larger topic of the relevance of Humanism in the creation of the modern nations.

**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 87AL – “Rock Around the Curriculum: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Popular Music”

- **Seminar Type:** *First Year Discovery+*
- **Department:** Writing Program & Writing Program
- **Instructor:** James Donelan and Christopher Dean
- **Instructor Email:** donelan@ucsb.edu, cdean@writing.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 1:00-2:50 in GIRV 1119
- **Enroll Code:** 57125

**Course Description:** An examination of the revolution of rock n' roll and other popular musical idioms from an interdisciplinary perspective, with topics including the following:

- Today in Rock History: The Origins of Rock Music in the Multicultural American Folk and Blues Tradition
- Media Studies: Radio and Popular Music
- Gender and Rock n' Roll
- The Science of Rock
- The Economic History of Rock
- The Sociology of Rock: Heavy Metal, Punk, and Alternative Music
- Hip Hop Culture and Rap Music
- The Philosophy of Rock: New Wave to DIY Music

Materials include videos, playlists, and live performances, along with readings.

**Bio:** **James H. Donelan** is a continuing lecturer in the UCSB Writing Program. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Yale University and writes frequently about music. He plays both electric and string bass and likes to rock out.

**Chris Dean** is a continuing lecturer in the Writing Program. He plays guitar, sings, and generally rocks out. His research interests range from contingent faculty issues to how to help writing students engage in critical thinking through research into urban legends, conspiracy theories, hoaxes, and popular music.