**Winter 2021** Honors 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._

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 and 8 units maximum of INT 184 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)*

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

**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:** 28209

**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 84AS - “Oral Interpreting: Hands On!”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Spanish and Portuguese
- **Instructor:** Aline Alves Ferreira
- **Instructor Email:** aferreira@spanport.ucsb.edu
- **Meeting Info:** Thursday 8:00-9:50 Online
- **Enrollment Code:** 66506

**Course Description:** This course comprises topics that are important to develop skills for interpreting into and from Spanish and/or Portuguese. Historical and current issues, terminology, ethical considerations and decision-making, the interpreter's roles and responsibilities, and the skills necessary to work in this field are emphasized.

*** Please note that this seminar is for students that only speak - Spanish and/or Portuguese and English.***

**Bio:** Dr. Aline Ferreira is the director of the Bilingualism, Translation, and Cognition Laboratory (Phelps Hall 4325), where she collects and analyzes reading and translation process data and measures different aspects of cognition. Ferreira was a post-doctoral research fellow in psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Ferreira is the co-editor of the books The Handbook of Translation and Cognition (Wiley-Blackwell), The Development of Translation Competence: Theories and Methodologies from Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Science (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), and Psycholinguistic and cognitive inquiries into translation and interpreting (John Benjamins Publishing). She has also published studies in journals and books such as Translation and Interpreting Studies (John Benjamins Publishing), Innovative Research and Practices in Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism (John Benjamins Publishing), Reading and Writing (Springer), The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Linguistics (Routledge), Spanish Journal of Applied Linguistics (John Benjamins Publishing), Cadernos de Tradução, and Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics (among others – please see the complete list: https://alineafe.wixsite.com/mysite).

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

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Black Studies
- **Instructor:** Roberto Strongman
- **Instructor Email:** rstrongman@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Asynchronous Online
- **Enroll Code:** 28274

**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 in order 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 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:** Tuesday 9:00-10:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 57976

**Course Description:** We recognize nature when we see it, yet trying to describe it leads to vexing questions. What separates nature from artifacts? Is nature always ‘good’ and ‘organic’ better? What about humanity’s ingenuity in designing the ‘artificial’ (art, architecture, technology)? This seminar will read and discuss historic and contemporary Western accounts of nature, the natural, and their opposites.

**Bio:** Professor Volker M. Welter teaches modern architectural history and theory in the Department 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 84BJ - “How Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived together (Intellectual and Social History of the Iberian Peninsula)”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Spanish and Portuguese
- **Instructor:** Antonio Cortijo
- **Instructor Email:** cortijo@ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 8:00-9:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 65326

**Course Description:** This seminar explores the intellectual and social history of the Iberian Peninsula through the ages. Particular attention will be paid to the fact the the Iberian Peninsula was unique in that it allowed different religions (Islam, Judaism, Christianity) to live together for over 800 hundred years and this has shaped
the development of Spain as a modern European nation. In addition, attention will be paid to the Spanish creation of a the first modern globalized economy in the 16th-17th centuries by incorporating the American, East-Asian and European markets. From the Middle Ages to the contemporary European Union, issues of religion, "convivencia" (co-existence), nationalism, and economy will be explored.

Bio: Antonio Cortijo Ocaña 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. He is the author of over 50 books.

INT 84BO - “"Literature and Politics"”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Spanish and Portuguese
- **Instructor:** Silvia Bermúdez
- **Instructor Email:** bermudez@spanport.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Tuesday 3:00-4:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 57992

**Course Description:** This seminar examines political figures/ authors, major 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 and within four modules that invite students to explore diverse and enduring social issues and political concerns such as poverty, immigration, racism, Afro Latin American identities, and equal rights, among others.

**Bio:** Silvia Bermúdez is Professor of literature and cultural studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese where she teaches courses on contemporary Iberian Studies, popular music, and poetic discourses. Her two recent publications are the book __ Rocking the Boat: Migration and Race in Contemporary Spanish Music__ (2018) and of the co-edited volume __Cartographies of Madrid: Contesting Urban Space at the Crossroads of the Global South and Global North__ (2019).

INT 84BV – “The Microbial Ocean”

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** EEMB
- **Instructor:** Alyson Santoro
- **Instructor Email:** asantoro@ucsb.edu
- **Meeting Info:** Online TBD
- **Enrollment Code:** 66498

**Course Description:** This seminar explores the critical role that the most abundant living entities in the ocean--microbes--have on climate and ecosystems.

**Bio:** Alyson Santoro is an Associate Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology. Her research focuses on the role of microbes in marine ecosystems. She is interested in cultivating new microbes
and discovering novel ways of tracking their activity. A particular focus of her lab is the marine archaea, a largely uncultured group of microbes. In pursuit of her research, she has spent nearly a year of her life at sea including expeditions to Micronesia, Cuba, and the Equatorial Pacific.

**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:** 59675

**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 84CB - “Solar Energy and the Future Energy Challenge”**

- **Seminar Type:** Honors
- **Department:** Chemistry and Biochemistry
- **Instructor:** Thuc-Quyen Nguyen
- **Instructor Email:** quyen@chem.ucsb.edu
- **Day - Time - Room:** Monday 1:00-2:50 Online
- **Enroll Code:** 61234

**Course Description:** The development of alternative energy sources is now recognized by government, society and the global community as an urgent need. Solar energy is one of the solutions to the future energy challenge. Among various types of solar cells, solution-processed organic solar cells potentially offer low cost, large area, flexible, and light-weight alternative energy sources. In this seminar series, I will give an overview of the current progress and challenges in solar cell technologies with the emphasis on solution-processed organic solar cells and their potential applications in energy-efficient buildings and greenhouses. Then, I will discuss recent progress at UCSB on the development of materials and solar cell devices.

**Bio:** Thuc-Quyen Nguyen is the Director of the Center for Polymers and Organic Solids (CPOS) and the professor in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Professor Nguyen received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Physical Chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. She was a research associate in the Department of Chemistry and the Nanocenter at Columbia
University. She joined the faculty of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department at UCSB in July 2004. She is co-authored over 240 publications that received over 20,000 citations. Recognition for her research includes the 2005 Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award, the 2006 National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the 2007 Harold Plous Award, the 2008 Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award, the 2009 Alfred Sloan Research Fellows, the 2010 National Science Foundation American Competitiveness and Innovation Fellows, the 2015 Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Award, the 2016 Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the 2019 Hall of Fame - Advanced Materials, the 2019 Beaufort Visiting Scholar, St John’s College, Cambridge University, the 2019 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the 2015-2019 World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds; Top 1% Highly Cited Researchers in Materials Science by Thomson Reuters and Clarivate Analytics.

Her current research interests are doping in organic semiconductors, charge transport in organic semiconductors, bioelectronics, and device physics of organic solar cells, ratchets, transistors, and photodetectors.