**Spring 2017 - Trust**

How do you know when the people you meet or data you read is trustworthy?  Trust is an important part of all human activity. It represents an interpersonal bond based in a willingness to be vulnerable, an expectation of honesty and credibility, and a knowledge of how others will behave.  Trust, both in our interpersonal relationships and in our societal institutions, allows us to solve conflicts equitably, work collaboratively to solve problems, and be willing to take risks.  This course will examine trust from both an interpersonal and an institutional point of view.

Taught by professors [Norah Dunbar](http://www.comm.ucsb.edu/people/norah-dunbar) (Communications), [James Frew](http://www.esm.ucsb.edu/people/Faculty/james_frew.htm) (Bren School), and [Kevin Moore](http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/people/kevin-c-moore) (Writing).

**Spring 2017 - Looking Under the Hood: Studying the University**

What is a university? More than just the classrooms and administrative spaces that we see most often, the university is filled with specialized spaces for producing knowledge: laboratories, artists’ studios, museums and workshops. Depending on what they study, the scientists, social scientists, humanists and artists who work in those spaces have different ways of seeing the world, of thinking, and of teaching. This course will give you a chance to meet these people and learn about what they do and to visit places in the university that most people don’t see. You’ll get to lift the hood and see what makes the university run.

In this seminar, the goal is to learn about research in a university by doing research on the university; our object of study is UCSB itself. We’ll look at questions like:

What makes UCSB a university? What makes one discipline different from another? What are the connections between disciplinary identities and what is considered “good knowledge” within disciplines?

Being able to study these questions can help all of us (students and faculty alike) become more astute learners who are better able to understand the expectations of different classes and better define what we understand to be the purposes of a UCSB education. The class will include extensive discussion about education, field trips to different UCSB sites, and discussions with a variety of faculty from across the university.

Taught by professors [Linda Adler-Kassner](http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/people/linda-adler-kassner) (Writing) and [Mark Meadow](http://www.arthistory.ucsb.edu/people/mark-meadow) (History of Art and Architecture).

**Winter 2017 - Brave New World: Perspectives on Gene Manipulation**

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), genome editing, and gene therapy have proven to be exceptionally controversial recently. This course will explore the benefits and pitfalls of these new technologies, especially the new method of genome editing called CRSPR-CAS, as well as their moral implications.

Professors Kathy Foltz (Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology [MCDB]), Ken Hiltner (English), and James Donelan (Writing)

**Winter 2017 - Sexuality, Ethnicity, and Contemporary Theater**

How do writers and artists grapple with and represent questions of secrecy, visibility, violence, ethnicity and identity?  This seminar will explore these issues through an in-depth, “behind the scenes” investigation of Theatre UCSB’s production of *Lydia*, by Octavio Solis, and directed by Irwin Appel, co-professor of this seminar.  Students will study the play and observe all of the aspects of the production itself, including acting, casting, design, and direction.  The seminar will culminate with the viewing of a performance in the Performing Arts Theater, along with a post-play discussion with actors and crew.  The goal will be to follow the progress of the production from play selection through actual performance, while simultaneously engaging in some of the most highly charged issues of our time such as immigration, gender, disabilities and trauma.

NOTE: Some course meetings will occur at different times (and include some evenings) to intersect with preparation for a performance. Please review the full schedule to make sure that you can attend all class meetings.

Professors Irwin Appel (Theater), Paul Amar (Global Studies), and Christopher Dean (Writing)

**Winter 2017 - Justice**

This seminar considers how *justice* is envisioned, represented, and studied in the fields of sociology, literature, and the arts.  We focus especially on instances in which justice in the wake of extreme violence is pursued or denied, delayed or compromised.  The seminar is organized around three case studies: US slavery, the “dirty wars” in Latin America during the Cold War, and the US “war on terror.” The materials for each case study will include scholarly texts to provide students with historical and socio-political context as well as examples of the ways in which justice is studied, and literature-based or documentary-style films that dramatize or narrate the tension between violence and justice.

Professors Julie Carlson (English), Lisa Hajjar (Sociology), and Patricia Fancher (Writing)