

## USIE Seminars – Spring 2007

### **Anthropology 88SA. Forget CSI: The Reality of Forensic Anthropology**

*Student Facilitator: Melinda Munroe – Faculty Mentor: Jeffrey Brantingham*

Forensic anthropology is the application of the science of physical anthropology and the study of the human skeleton in a legal setting, most often in criminal cases where the victim's remains are more or less skeletonized. This class will study methods on determining the sex and age of a skeleton, and use those methods while examining real bones in class.

### **Anthropology 88SB. From Spain to UCLA: The Culture of Flamenco Music**

*Student Facilitator: Juben Rabbani – Faculty Mentor: Mariko Tamanoi*

In our modern world, we are faced with intolerable violence and hate. Some argue it is money, race, or even culture that divides one group from another. In spite of our differences, all humans share a homogenous trait: music. It is this trait of music that can bring divergent cultures together to a shared musical experience. Though the world is filled with genres of music that are vastly diverse and originate from distinctive cultures, these cultures are related to one another through the common production of musical structures. Sometimes the musical features of such cultures- cultures that have been divided by war and prejudice- are joined in a single genre. This seminar explores one such genre- Flamenco from Spain.

### **Anthropology 88SC. Shamans, Spirits, and Soul Stealing: The Anthropology of Spiritual Medicine**

*Student Facilitator: Kristine Van Hamersveld – Faculty Mentor: Gail Kennedy*

In the mainstream culture of the United States, most people use doctors and nurses to treat disease. They visit hospitals and rely on biological concepts to explain how and why they get sick. In 80% of the world, however, “medical care,” in the sense that it is known, is either inaccessible or undesired, yet people manage to survive. Rather than using biomedicine, some cultures look at healing and ailments as spiritually-rooted, and in many situations, the infirm are taken to shamans who go into a trance, rather than to doctors who go into surgery. This course will introduce students to different ways of looking at health and medicine around the globe, including here in the United States.

### **Anthropology 88SD. Emergence from the Secret War: The Hmong-American Experience**

*Student Facilitator: Eric Yang – Faculty Mentor: Sharon Bays*

Who are the Hmong? What is the Secret War? What is their past, their present, and their future? The answer to these questions will not be found in textbooks at elementary schools, junior high schools, or high schools across the country. Very few college-level classes teach or even touch upon the Hmong and the Hmong-American experience. This course focuses entirely on the Hmong-American experience. The Hmong have a unique history and culture. As an ethnic minority which spans across many countries, their experiences are very different from the mainstream cultures of the nation-states that they inhabit.

### **Art 88S. Art and Feminisms: Theory and Studio**

*Student Facilitator: Mahyar Nili – Faculty Mentor: Hirsch Perlman*

This class will explore the intersection of Art and Feminisms, with a focus on making art, and dialogue around intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality and religion, among others. Through the critical reading of texts, roundtable discussions, slide lectures, video screenings, exhibit viewings, artist lectures, and consciousness-raising, we will delve into a history of Art and make work that is informed by a plurality of feminisms.

### **Art History 88S. Contemporary Chinese Photography**

*Student Facilitator: Julia Wai – Faculty Mentor: Hui-Shu Lee*

Chinese contemporary art unquestionably deals with standards of beauty, modes of expression, and reflections of social, economic, and political conditions and climates. This seminar examines issues of contemporary art in China through the medium of photography. Since the Cultural Revolution, photography in China has taken a dramatic leap, reflecting and commenting on China's booming economic growth and increased global presence. By using photography, this course will identify and analyze the various tensions of contemporary art in China- its definitions, terms, and driving forces.

### **Chicano Studies 88S. 'Yo Soy El Army': Chicanas, Chicanos, and the U.S. Military**

*Student Facilitator: Elvira Rodriguez – Faculty Mentor: Alicia Gaspar de Alba*

“Yo Soy El Army”. The Spanish counterpart to the famous “Be All That You Can Be” seems to be on urban radio stations like Los Angeles’ Power 105.9FM every hour. Appropriately accompanying the recent advertising campaign are a slew of bilingual recruiters visiting barrio high schools and community events. This course will focus specifically on the relationship between the Chicano/a population, education, and the United States military, and engage students in six core areas of Chicano/a and U.S. military intersection: education, socioeconomic status, immigration, family, gender, and the media.

### **Economics 88S. Innovations Against Poverty**

*Student Facilitator: Nafis Atiqullah – Faculty Mentor: Peirre-Olivier Weill*

This seminar will explore microfinance, a growing field that seeks to provide lending, banking, and insurance services to the poor. At its best, microfinance has been celebrated for fostering entrepreneurship, offering “a new perspective on business as a force for social good,” and helping many out of poverty. At its worst, microfinance has been criticized as “the latest development fad” with “ridiculously ambitious” goals that actually divert resources away from social-benefit and traditional aid programs. This seminar will explore microfinance institutions and their varied impacts across Asia, South America, Africa, and the United States.

### **English 88S. From Anansi to Captain Jack Sparrow: Tales of the Trickster**

*Student Facilitator: Peter Aoun – Faculty Mentor: Joseph Nagy*

What do Captain Jack Sparrow, Anansi the Spider, and a mischievous monkey have in common? They are all tricksters. The trickster is an archetypal character found in stories from numerous cultures and time periods. Although the trickster may be mischievous, rude, and malevolent, the trickster may also be witty, entertaining, and benevolent. This seminar will look at the trickster as presented in stories from diverse cultures. We will examine how each version of the trickster reflects its culture of origin and study the differing views of the trickster through stories and critical readings to find commonalities and develop an idea of the archetypal trickster.

### **History 88S. Cultural History of Oakland**

*Student Facilitator: Joseph De Wolk – Faculty Mentor: Mary Corey*

Oakland’s early history of Gold Rush and squatter culture, to the shipbuilding yards of World War II that brought an influx of Black migrants, to the city and its contemporary cultural phenomenon and iconography, from Angela Davis’ afro to the whistle tip. This course uses Oakland as a case study of broader national and statewide cultural histories, urban development and urban issues, race relations, minority and countercultures, popular sports, and music history. The course will also address modern issues plaguing a host of our nation’s great cities today, including urban crime and community-police relations, racial tension, public education, and gentrification.

### **Neurobiology 88S. Brain Fever: Bridging the Gap Between Neuroscience and Psychology**

*Student Facilitator: Anthony Eskander – Faculty Mentor: Arnold Scheibel*

Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of the human brain, from embryology to the various disorders that might be inflicted upon this wonderful and complex structure. This course will “bridge the gap” between the two major schools of thought of how to approach the study of the brain. Rather than trying to cover many aspects of the brain, we will focus on a few structures and concepts. This course will be particularly valuable to those who are deciding whether they want to be a Neuroscience, Psychobiology, or Psychology major.

### **Political Science 88SA. Never Again, Again: Looking at the Rwanda and Darfur Genocide**

*Student Facilitator: Karina Garcia – Faculty Mentor: Edmond Keller*

After the Holocaust, the international community clamored that “Never Again” would we let such a horrifying event occur without taking action. Then came Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and now we are in the midst of another failed “Never Again” in Sudan. This seminar focuses specifically on the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and its current effects, and the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. We will learn and discuss the politics of genocide, the international community’s role, aftermath and reconciliation, and current state of both situations.

**Political Science 88SB. Aid to Africa: Effects from the Outside**

*Student Facilitator: Dana Huber – Faculty Mentor: Michael Lofchie*

Are George Clooney and Bono saving the world? Do the sale of flip phones and t-shirts actually help people? Is monetary aid to Africa effective? Are any changes being made? This course will examine the economic situation in Africa, specifically from the perspective of those contributing to the development on the continent. We will trace Africa's economic journey to understand how its present situation came to be. Students will apply this background to examine the effects of economic and humanitarian aid from outside influences, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, China, the United States, and NGOs. Through case studies, academic readings, and film, students will be able to understand the allocation of aid to Africa, and make the determination of what has brought about change.

**Psychology 88S. Psychology of Body Image**

*Student Facilitator: Lisa Connolly – Faculty Mentor: Traci Mann*

It is nearly impossible for any undergraduate student attending UCLA, a campus located only a few miles west of Hollywood, in a city obsessed with image and built on celebrity worship, to not be aware of the importance, or seeming importance, of the 'perfect body'. Drawing from psychological studies, experimental findings, and written narratives, this course will explore the creation of norms in American society that place a high emphasis on appearance and body image, with attention paid to how these standards have evolved. We will examine how these norms are internalized in the individual. The degree to which body image contributes to personal construction of identity and self concept, and how this varies dramatically between the sexes, and among different ethnicities and age groups.

**Social Welfare 88S. Student Voice, Student Action: UCLA Takes a Stand**

*Student Facilitator: Michael Soh – Faculty Mentor: Duncan Lindsey*

What makes college so memorable for undergraduate students? Is it really the academics? Much of the development of the typical undergraduate comes from experiences outside of the classroom. From the shooting at Campbell Hall involving Black Panthers and US and the Chicano-Studies movement, to Unicamp and Dance Marathon @ UCLA, students at this university have ensured that their voices be heard. This course looks at the opportunities, risks, chances, victories, and defeats of students who took what they learned in the classroom and applied it to the global community. These students fought for change- a change for the betterment of not only students across the nation, but also for human beings around the world.

**Sociology 88S. Social Feast: An Introduction to Food and Society**

*Student Facilitator: Crystal Cheung – Faculty Mentor: Terri Anderson*

This seminar uses food as a point of departure to explore the field of sociology. Food is often seen as a matter of personal preference, when, in fact, the choice of food is largely affected by family, school, media, and other agents of socialization. In this course, we will explore "food" as it relates to our personal identities and to society at large. The main questions are: What is food? How does it relate to you personally? How does it relate to the world around you?