

USIE Seminars – Spring 2011

Anthropology 88SA – Female Automobility: Women, Cars, and Culture

Student Facilitator: Alexandra Athens – Faculty Mentor: Jessica Cattelino

Alexandra Athens, a transfer student and fourth year Anthropology major, is currently working on an undergrad thesis focused on female participation in a Los Angeles car subculture. Explaining the origin of her interest in automobiles and automotive cultures would require more than a few short lines, but she would be more than happy to discuss it with anyone interested and enrolling in *Female Automobility*. Alex promises that while the class title might sound abstract and a bit intimidating, the course won't be.

From the way we interact with the environment to our conceptions of our selves and others, transportation shapes our lives daily. Because the United States remains an automotive-centric society, it is important to consider the relationship between individuals and automobiles. A gendered approach to studying this relationship is particularly informative, as automobiles have historically been associated with males and masculinity. In this course we will utilize anthropological, women's, transportation, and media studies in order to better understand the relationship between women and the automobile. Conceptions of the relationship between women and cars have changed and continue to change, and these transformations reflect and reveal larger socio-historical-political factors. The study of these historical and modern developments, depictions, and relationships will be approached through various topics. Selected topics include notable technological advancements, the law, the "road trip", media analyses, and niche automotive occupations/pursuits.

Anthropology 88SB – Some Like It Hot: Evolution and the Psychology of Food Preferences

Student Facilitator: Leonid Tiokhin – Faculty Mentor: Daniel Fessler

Leonid Tiokhin is a fourth-year Psychology major and Anthropology minor at UCLA, and is on-track to graduate summa cum laude in Spring 2011. Though he is officially a psychology student, his academic interests lie at the boundaries of evolutionary biology, psychology, and anthropology. Leonid has had the privilege of pursuing a research mentorship under the auspices of renowned evolutionary anthropologist Dr. Daniel M.T. Fessler for several years. During this time, Leonid has conducted investigations of diverse topic domains, from cognitive representations of formidability to facultative aspects of human mate choice. His undergraduate studies have been funded by the Academic Advancement Program, the Center for Society and Genetics, and the Interdisciplinary Relationship Science Program. Leonid is also currently the Undergraduate Administrator for the UCLA Behavior, Evolution, and Culture (BEC) Speaker Series. He will begin his graduate studies in the human evolutionary behavioral sciences in Fall of 2011.

This course will examine human food preferences through the lens of evolutionary theory. Like all other organisms on earth, humans have been shaped by evolutionary forces operating over large time scales. As such, we can gain substantial insight into human food preferences and food choice psychology by thinking about the *function* of food preferences and asking "why do we like the foods that we do?" We will discuss a wide range of issues, including people's consumption of "distasteful" foods such as spices, the evolution of disgust, learned taste aversions, changes in eating behaviors across the menstrual cycle, food moralization, and cross-cultural variation in food preferences and proscriptions. Students are encouraged to bring up topics of personal interest for discussion.

English 88SA – Tweeted on My Facebook Friend's Blog: The Dialogue and Practice of Social Media

Student Facilitator: Alyssa Bricklin – Faculty Mentor: Christopher Mott

Alyssa is a 4th year American Literature and Culture major with a Spanish minor. Her college highlights include studying abroad in Spain for a year and being part of UCLA Unicamp. She is obsessed with her iPhone and fro-yo.

This class recognizes Social Media as a behavior more significant than just following your favorite band on Twitter. In the second half of the past decade, Social Media has rapidly grown into an undeniably powerful force in the marketplace. Companies and organizations are using Social Media not only as a way to communicate information to their consumers, but also to foster relationships with them. Through class discussion we will begin to think critically about our role as consumers of this medium and explore the possibilities of someday being producers of it ourselves. The course starts with a theoretical evaluation of Social Media as a dialogue, and then we move to learning about the practical application of Social Media – identifying the various tools and examining case studies of large businesses, small businesses, and nonprofits. The class is designed so that we will be interacting with Social Media along the way.

English 88SB – Tralfamadarians, Jabberwockies, Whatchamacallits, and The Onion: When Nonsense Makes Sense

Student Facilitator: Michelle Mikolajczyk – Faculty Mentor: Reed Wilson

Michelle Mikolajczyk is a third-year English Major with a concentration in Creative Writing-Poetry. Her interest in poetry stems from an early curiosity about the history of language, the malleability of words, and how language is processed in the brain. She finds the combination of those three elements (history, science, and creativity) the most captivating elements of satire. However, she still thinks Whizzpoppers are gross.

In this seminar we will read selected works of Lewis Carroll, Roald Dahl, Shel Silverstein, Kurt Vonnegut, and contributors to The Onion. The course is designed to show how these authors connect to one another by how they emphasize the limits of mankind's physical abilities and understanding. We will explore how they critique aspects of Human Services such as those relating to medical and pedagogical (e.g. doctor, teachers, etc.) fields through vague statements, fabricated vocabulary, and satirical rhetoric (hyperbole, puns, and wit). By the end of the seminar, we will untangle the authors' language to reveal a string of interpretable linear thoughts, and use the idea of time (both time passing and time as construct) to explain the nonsensical (time as the healer of wounds and time as the discoverer of the unknown) that pervades the entire selection of readings.

English 88SC – “Not Gay – Just a Fairy”: The Evolution of Queer Representations in American Comic Books

Student Facilitator: Kelsey Sharpe – Faculty Mentor: Christine Chism

Kelsey Sharpe is a third-year English major originally from San Diego. Repeated viewings of The Empire Strikes Back as a preschooler left her with an interest in thwarted hopes and unsatisfying endings, which eventually developed into an appreciation for postmodern literature. She enjoys amassing and displaying items pertaining to her interests, including comic books, sci-fi and fantasy novels, DVD box sets, vinyl figures and framed glamour shots of Han Solo. In addition to teaching her USIE seminar, she also works as a prose editor for Westwind, UCLA's creative arts journal, a copy editor and staff writer for

FEM, UCLA's feminist news magazine, and an employee in the UCLA Office of Media Relations and Public Outreach.

Batman and Robin jokes aside, there is a considerable overlap in the comic book and queer communities; this course will trace the evolution of queerness in comics, largely in terms of the mainstream American comic book industry. We'll start with *The Temptation of the Innocent* and the Comics Code Authority, and move to queer coding in mainstream comics, incorporation of homosexual (or obliquely homosexual) characters into the mainstream, and eventually the development and success of explicitly LGBT titles. The class will largely move chronologically, but occasional class seminars will be set aside for special themes or topics.

Ethnomusicology 88SA – Music of Protest and Struggle in the Post-Colonial World

Student Facilitator: Andrew Harkness-Newton – Faculty Mentor: Anthony Seeger

Andrew Newton is a musician and social activist from Los Angeles, CA. In 2006, he co-founded The Amar Collective, a coalition of young people from varied socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds dedicated to producing positive social change through the arts. Since its inception, the group has organized hundreds of cultural events ranging from art shows and musical performances to poetry readings, live theater and film screenings. As a core organizer and facilitator for the collective, Andrew conceived of and coordinated a music festival in Skid Row in the summer of 2009 that turned out to be the largest collaboration between homeless and non-homeless artists in Los Angeles history. Andrew is hoping to turn the collective into a record label that distributes the work of censored and politically oppressed musicians throughout the world. Aside from his interest in music, Andrew has committed a significant portion of his life to public health and development work in India, Haiti, Senegal, The Gambia and Ghana. He's majoring in International Development Studies and minoring in Labor and Workplace Studies.

This course will serve as an introduction to a chronologically and geographically diverse array of music movements that sought to confront conditions of poverty, corruption, rampant inequality, racism, tribalism, loss of cultural identity, violations to basic human rights, economic imperialism and neoliberalism. We will analyze the content of the songs themselves as well as the lives of the musicians that created them. Many of the artists covered in this course suffered censorship, imprisonment, torture, and even assassination at the hands of the state to get their message across. Though not all of them were able to see the change they envisioned in society, they all managed to capture the imagination of the public and keep hope alive during the most grievous of times.

Ethnomusicology 88SB – Love, Drugs, Politics, and History: The Mexican Corrido

Student Facilitator: Marcos Ruedas – Faculty Mentor: Anthony Seeger

Marcos Ruedas is a 5th year ethnomusicology transfer student originally from Sacramento, California who specializes in Mexican and Mexican-American music traditions. His campus involvement includes the Student Transfer Opportunities and Mentorship Program, the Ethnomusicology Undergraduate Student Organization, and the UCLA School of Arts and Architecture Dean's Student Council. Marcos' passion for music stems from his family's roots from the Mexican states of Chihuahua and Zacatecas and his rich cultural upbringing. Marcos currently performs with UCLA's Mariachi de Uclatlán, Latin fusion group Fusionando, and funk/soul/rock group The Lighthouse Project.

This class will examine the Mexican corrido, or traditional ballad, as an oral and musical tradition from Mexico and the American Southwest. As a song form that is often written by the community, the corrido offers unique first-hand accounts of significant historical events and provides insight into the social and political conditions of the time period from which it was written. The bicentennial celebration of Mexican Independence this year marks an important time in history to reflect on the rich cultural history that is kept in this song form and assess how current music trends document our own history. This class will examine how the corrido documents Mexican and Mexican-American history from the perspective of the people. The corrido will be examined from its early beginnings just before the Mexican Revolution through its most popular contemporary form as the narcocorridos that document the current drug cartel phenomenon. Students will gain an understanding of music as a medium of preservation for social, economic, and political circumstances and sentiments in history.

Geography 88S – Hippies and Tree Huggers: The U.S. Environmental Movement in the 1960s and 70s

Student Facilitator: Hayley Moller – Faculty Mentor: David Rigby

Hayley Moller is a 4th year Environmental Science major and French minor. Her parents got married in a cow pasture, she was born in her parents' bedroom, and once went on an overnight camping trip in the Sahara Desert. Though she doesn't consider herself a hippie, she's fascinated by hippie culture, and is looking forward to exploring it in her seminar.

Together, we will delve into this alluring world to explore the U.S. environmental movement of the 1960s and 70s in the context of the sustainability movement today. By analyzing the development and important historical moments of the movement, this course will address the linkages to and departures from “hippie” methodology in environmental approaches today. The course will emphasize the methodologies of both personal action and policy development, and in doing so will provide students with effective tools with which to approach environmental issues throughout their lifetimes. In sum, we hope to determine if, in fact, the hippies had it “all right.”

Health Services 88S – Game of Life: The Social Determinants of Health

Student Facilitator: Roman Roque – Faculty Mentor: Alice Kuo

Roman Christopher Roque aspires to be a pediatric psychiatrist and will graduate from UCLA with a double major in Psychobiology and Biology, and a minor in Public Health. Working directly with the LA community opened his eyes to the multiple ways our built environment affects our health. He currently volunteers for Child Life at Ronald Reagan Medical Center and works as a research assistant for UCLA Children's Behavior Program for Autism.

This seminar explores the social underpinnings of health, with particular emphasis on race as a negative factor for discrimination and a positive factor for resiliency. We will examine historical and contemporary measures of health, and the importance of the healthcare workforce, reform, and public policy in promoting optimum health for all.

Human Complex Systems 88S – Complexity: What If?

Student Facilitator: Jovo Vijanderan – Faculty Mentor: Dario Nardi

Jovo Vijanderan is a senior Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics Major, (for those of you in North Campus, yes they are that nerdy.....for those of you in south campus, yes they are that cool) and Human Complex Systems Minor. While he's not busy doing research on atherosclerosis,

working for UCLA's New Student and Transition Programs, or being a Resident Assistant in Sproul Hall, he enjoys long walks across the Sculpture Garden with a big, juicy, In-N-Out burger in his hand. His inspiration for facilitating a seminar stems from his desire to someday be a Professor. Jovo is fascinated by the interdisciplinary perspective that Human Complex Systems provides and is excited to share that with students interested in learning about complexity.

Complexity Science is a fast emerging field combining multiple academic disciplines. In an age where change is inevitable and ubiquitous, this course seeks to answer the question "How can we model change and use it to our benefit?" This course will utilize tools found throughout modeling in the complex systems and apply them to scenarios found in multiple facets of our everyday lives. Students will also explore the field of complex systems through many different real-world applications such as Biology, Artificial Intelligence, and policy making. The practical aim of this seminar is to encourage Students to stop and explore the thought "What If?" while gaining a better insight into the subtleties of our complex world.

International Development Studies 88S - Nio Far: Working Together Towards a Sustainable Future

Student Facilitators: Antoinette Brou & Anne Flaherty – Faculty Mentor: Michael Lofchie

Antoinette Brou is currently a third year at UCLA double majoring in International Development Studies and Anthropology. She has always been interested in development issues specifically in Africa. Antoinette interns for a local non profit, Earth Rights Institute, and recently traveled to Senegal, West Arica through UCLA Travel Study, This hands on experience in development was what truly encouraged her to create this seminar and inspire fellow students to become involved in both local and global issues. Antoinette is also involved in the Student Alumni Association (SAA), UCLA Club Women's Lacrosse, and is the President of Kappa Delta Sorority.

Anne Flaherty is a third year International Development Studies student, concentrating on Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia, with a minor in Geography. Anne felt pulled toward the development field early in life and a summer spent in Senegal confirmed her choice in career. Her seminar, co-facilitated with Antoinette Brou, will delve deep into development issues and hopefully educate some students as to how they, too, can become involved.

Development is not just black and white, with a simple right or wrong answer; rather, development is a field known for its shades of grey. In this course, we will explore various perspectives and attitudes towards international development, specifically the field's past failures and successes and their current path towards progress. From the personal accounts of the mayor of an African Commune to the analytical viewpoint of a UCLA professor, this seminar will present a holistic view of development and teach students to think critically about current development trends.

Medicine 88S – AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Modern Plague

Student Facilitator: Garret Ma – Faculty Mentor: Thomas Coates

Garret Ma is a 3rd year Bioengineering Major and Global Studies minor. He became interested with HIV/AIDS after concurrently learning about the biochemistry of the disease through his Life Science courses and its implications via Global Studies. His seminar focuses on the macro-social issues surrounding HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. He was second author of "Controlled Release of VEGF Enhances Intestinal Adaption" published in the Journal of Surgical Research which was presented at the 2011 Academic Surgical Congress.

During this seminar, we will explore AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa and by the end of the seminar series you will have a greater understanding of the implications of AIDS on its society; not only on its people but its economy, politics and international level. We will examine how “globalization” has led to greater activism for AIDS humanitarian work from Western countries. More importantly, we will discover how and how will Sub-Saharan Africa overcome such a disease burden. This seminar will focus on the development of AIDS/HIV in the 1990s, the biochemistry around the virus and its current threat to the political and economic stability of this impoverished area of the world. More closely we will look beyond the individual concerns that AIDS brings but at the aggregate and how it afflicts the country as a whole. At the end of the class we will address the most fundamental question: “Why should we care?”

Public Policy 88S – What is Cyberwar?

Student Facilitator: Millie Tran – Faculty Mentor: Alexandra Lieben

Millie is a fourth-year global studies student with a minor in geography. She works at the Burkle Center for International Relations as the Multimedia Editor and contributes columns to the Daily Bruin focusing on technology, politics and everything in between. Growing up in Silicon Valley, her interest in technology naturally evolved. But, it was a rather abrupt interest in intelligence alongside technology that has been a continual thread in her activities. She has been online for at least a decade and has been wired ever since — trying to make sense of the role that new technologies, the web, and social media are playing in connecting, and concurrently disconnecting people, ideas and norms. She is currently writing her senior thesis on cyberwar and its effects on the internet. She believes that life, inclusive of technology and everything else, is a beta — it only gets better.

This seminar’s objectives are twofold: to define cyberwar and to discuss the future of the internet given this nebulous concept. This course is designed to provide you with a brief introduction to cyberwar as a still evolving and contentious topic, the nature of cyber threats and what all of this means for the internet. To understand and critically engage in this debate on whether the perceived threat is real, we must first define the concept — “What *is* cyberwar?” We will utilize an interdisciplinary approach, looking at the issue through various lenses and stakeholders.

Scandinavian 88S – Comics: Not Art, Not Literature

Student Facilitator: Matt Seneca – Faculty Mentor: Patrick Wen

Matt Seneca is writer, artist, and musician. He is one of North America’s leading comic book critics, and has written about the medium for a variety of publications, both in print and online. His own highly acclaimed comics work has been praised by critics for GQ and The New York Times. He has also written two novels, a play, and various short stories. Seneca views his course “less as a chance to bring comics into academia and more as a chance subsume academia into comics”.

This course will provide an in-depth survey of a unique, vastly underappreciated art form: the comic book. It will chronicle one of modern art history's most fascinating narratives while broadening students' background in and understanding of both literature and visual art. Of special interest will be comics' awakening to literary themes and complexity, and its artists' shaping the medium into a distinct visual/cognitive language. The course will focus on formal innovation, and how it has elevated the medium to the level of craft and expression it is capable of today.

Women’s Studies 88S – Rethinking Citizenship: Immigrant Youth, Gender, and Civic Identity

Student Facilitator: Amalia Castaneda – Faculty Mentor: Sharon Bays

Amalia Castaneda is a senior Political Science: Theory Concentration and Women's Studies double major, pursuing College Honors and Departmental Honors through the Women's Studies Department and the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship. Inspiration for this course and her Honors Thesis came from the C.A.M.B.I.O. program, a grassroots, mentoring program developed by two of her UCLA peers in 2008. She is currently part of the C.A.M.B.I.O. mentoring staff, run by the chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, an academic sorority founded at UCLA in 2008. She strives to pursue a PhD in Education with a concentration in Political Science and/or Women's Studies, wherein she hopes to continue focusing her research on issues related to Latina/o immigrant communities. Amalia is a south L.A. girl herself, loves mariachi music, Mexican and Thai food and besides graduate school her next goal in life is to stop blaming academics and run the L.A. marathon.

This seminar seeks to challenge traditional ways of viewing the concepts of citizenship, civic identity and immigration by exploring them through the experiences of Latina immigrant Female Adolescents in South Los Angeles. As South Los Angeles urban communities experience an influx of immigration and consequent demographic transformation, the conventional definitions of citizenship and civic identity become more blurred as they encounter different sets of national, bi-national and sub cultural identities. The predominant definition of citizenship centers on ascribed rights and privileges granted to an individual upon birth or naturalization. Civic identity is a concept used to identify being part of or attached to a given community and/or nationality.