

# UCI Freshman Seminar Program

## FALL 2015 FRESHMAN SEMINARS

This quarter we are offering 18 different Freshman Seminars. The table below lists all of them as they are listed in the schedule of classes under University Studies 3. Clicking on the abbreviated title of the seminar that interests you in the table will take you to a full description, including the full course title, instructor's department and biography. For some seminars, this table is the only place you will find the room location, so please make a note of it if you enroll.

**Please note that students may take a maximum of TWO**

**University Studies freshman seminars during their ENTIRE time at UCI so long as subjects vary.**

All sections are open to students of all majors

SOC Title	Code	Instructor	Time	Place
<a href="#">MEDITATION/DREAM</a>	87551	KUBIAK, A.	W 10:00-10:50	<a href="#">SSL 117</a>
<a href="#">ZEN MASTER?</a>	87552	MANCHAK, J.	W 4:00- 4:50p	<a href="#">HH 108</a>
<a href="#">WEIRD BELIEFS</a>	87553	SYMANSKI, R.	Tu 3:00- 3:50p	TBA
<a href="#">SPANISH WORLDWIDE</a>	87554	SCHWEGLER, A.	Tu 11:00-11:50	TBA
<a href="#">BLACK HOLES FOR FUN</a>	87555	TRIMBLE, V.	W 9:00- 9:50	<a href="#">RH 192</a>
<a href="#">FUTURITY&amp;TRAVELS</a>	87557	ROSAS, A.	W 4:00- 5:20p	TBA
<a href="#">CREATIVE LISTENING</a>	87558	OLIVIERI, V.	M 5:30- 6:20p	TBA
<a href="#">DIY ELECTRONICS</a>	87559	HARRIS, I.	Tu 9:00- 9:50	<a href="#">DBH 1425</a>
<a href="#">CLOUD ATLAS</a>	87560	JOHNSON, A.	Tu 4:00- 4:50p	<a href="#">SSL 117</a>
<a href="#">WOMN OF COLR IN FLM</a>	87561	ROBNETT, B.	W 4:00- 6:50p	<a href="#">SSL 105</a>

<a href="#">EDUCATE NOT MEDICAT</a>	87562	BIC, Z.	F 10:00-10:50	<a href="#">HH 214</a>
<a href="#">WANT TO BE A STAR?</a>	87563	HILL, D.	M 4:00- 4:50p	TBA
<a href="#">LANGUAG OF CLOTHING</a>	87564	DURBIN, H.	W 1:00- 1:50p	<a href="#">IAB 131</a>
<a href="#">ENERGY &amp; ENVIRONMNT</a>	87565	DABDUB, D.	M 1:00- 1:50p	<a href="#">SSL 105</a>
<a href="#">EXPRESS YOURSELF</a>	87566	BASSHAM, C.	W 1:00- 1:50p	TBA
<a href="#">BCI TECHNOLOGY</a>	87567	DO, A.	M 10:00-10:50	<a href="#">DBH 1420</a>
<a href="#">ROCK COMES OF AGE</a>	87570	BRODBECK, D.	W 10:00-10:50	<a href="#">TBA</a>
<a href="#">IMPROV FOR SUCCESS</a>	87569	VEENSTRA, J.	Th 5:00- 5:50p	<a href="#">STU4 209</a>

**SCHOOL OF THE ARTS *Express Yourself!: Exploring Ease, Power, Variety, & Health for your Voice***  
**Cynthia Bassham, Drama**

No matter your field of interest, it's likely that at some point you'll want to vocally communicate with others in an effective manner. Over the quarter, you'll start to free your breath and find ways to generate more interest, power and clarity in how you express yourself.

Cynthia Bassham teaches voice, speech, and acting in the Drama Department, Claire Trevor School of the Arts. She has taught and coached at several other institutions including South Coast Repertory, Stanford University, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She received her MFA from the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and BA from the University of Washington in Seattle. Cynthia is a Master Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework®.

***So, You Want to be a Star?***

**Donald Hill, Drama**

Identify what success means to you. Create strategies and action plans to achieve your goals and examine what stops you. Explore a research process for how to find a mentor. Learn the art of how to become unstoppable in going for what you really want in life. Develop greater self-esteem by getting in touch with your personal power and achieve a higher level of self-love and acceptance.

Don Hill has worked in the professional theater as an actor, stage manager, production manager, director, producer and union negotiator in a thirty-two year career spanning both coasts. As the Vice

Chair of the Drama Department, Professor Hill teaches stage management and acting. For the past three years he was voted "Outstanding Professor of the Year" for the Claire Trevor School of the Arts by the graduating senior class.

***Meditation and Dream: Meditation and Dream Practice***

**Anthony Kubiak, Drama**

This quarter we will be investigating the mind through the medium of meditation, discussion and dream. Although we will look at the issues from an academic viewpoint, and I will discuss with you my own research and work within these areas, the focus of this particular seminar will be on learning simple meditation techniques in order to develop mental equilibrium and clarity, and to use these growing powers of clarity and calm to investigate our various mental states throughout the day and night—including dreams, flights of imagination, memories, and other activities of mind. Overall, I hope the class causes you to look at your mind with a bit more insight in order to see those things that make you unhappy, anxious or fearful, and what you might do to alleviate these negative emotions.

Anthony Kubiak is a Professor in the Drama department. His current work is in the area of meditation practice, performance and shamanism. He has worked with Tibetan meditation teachers, and Amazonian and Himalayan shamans.

***Creative Listening: Using your ears to think***

**Vincent Olivieri, Drama**

What do you hear when you listen? Do you hear sounds, instruments, and voices, or is there something deeper with which you connect? Together, we'll explore how we listen and how what we hear tells us a story. NO MUSIC TRAINING REQUIRED – just a desire to better use your ears!

Vincent Olivieri is an award-winning sound designer and composer for the theatre. His work has been heard on and off-Broadway, at theaters around the country, and internationally. He has a particular interest in new plays and working in highly-collaborative environments.

***The Language of Clothing***

**Holly Poe Durbin, Drama**

For thousands of years humans communicated with each other first through the unwritten language of clothing, broadcasting and receiving information that announces social placement or personal aspirations before we open our mouths. This seminar will explore appearance and clothing as a language of signs and symbols using readings from fashion theorists, psychologists, historians and sociologists as a basis for exploring the use of clothing in contemporary culture.

Professor Holly Poe Durbin is a professional costume designer working in theater in Los Angeles and around the country. She is also a costume historian who speaks and writes frequently on costume and

clothing topics.

### ***Improv for Success***

**Joel Veenstra, Drama**

What does The Second City, the legendary comedy theater where talents like Tina Fey and Keegan-Michael Key started, and Fortune 500 companies have in common? Both use improvisational training and techniques as a tool to build keys for success. This course will use improv to help the participants build skills and achieve their goals.

Joel Veenstra is a professional stage manager, a production manager, a producer, a filmmaker, and an improviser. He has taught improvisation for over 15 years and has performed improvisation professionally throughout the United States.

### ***Rock Comes of Age***

**David Brodbeck, Music**

In April 1967, CBS Television broadcast an hour-long program hosted by the noted composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein entitled "Inside Pop: The Rock Revolution." Here, in effect, Bernstein – an establishment figure but one with an open mind – takes rock music seriously as a "legitimate" art form and aims to explain to what was presumably an older "mainstream" audience what it was coming to mean to America's middle-class, suburban youth. Using this documentary as a springboard, this course explores several key texts and watershed recordings of the time, including albums by the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Byrds, Bob Dylan, and the Mothers of Invention in terms of the turbulent social and historical context in which they were produced.

Assignments will include guided listening to several selected recordings, as well as reading selected from recent historiographical work on the 60s and cultural studies research on rock music.

David Brodbeck's research focuses on Central European music and musical culture in the long nineteenth century and Anglo-American popular music of the past fifty years. He regularly teaches the GE course "The Beatles and the Sixties" and has also taught similar courses at UC Irvine in the history of rock music. His most recent scholarly book is *Defining Deutschtum: Liberal Ideology, German Identity, and Music-Critical Discourse in Liberal Vienna* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

## **SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

### ***Why People Believe Weird Things***

**Richard Symanski, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**

This seminar asks the question why people believe in such things as UFOs, ghosts, and other things that some people consider weird, strange or inexplicable. Each week we have discussions based on assigned readings. There is one written assignment which addresses a major issue discussed in class.

Dr. Symanski teaches Evolution and Ecology for non-majors, and has done so for more than 15 years on this campus. Although he is tenured in a biology department, he has a background in the social sciences and has written more than a dozen books.

### **SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING** *The Link Between Energy and the Environment*

#### **Donald Dabdub, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering**

Finding new and clean sources of energy is one of the biggest scientific and engineering problems today. This course will present recent advances in energy generation and distribution such as fuel cells and hydrogen technology. In addition, it will discuss in depth the potential impacts to air quality.

Donald Dabdub is a Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Professor, Advanced Power and Energy Program at the University of California, Irvine. He completed his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology in 1995. He presented the Schiesser distinguished lecture at Lehigh University. Furthermore, he was awarded the Prometheus Teaching award for excellence at the University of California, Irvine. Outside of academia, Dr. Dabdub has served as advisor to various state and federal agencies including: The Air Resources Board of California, the California Energy Commission, John Wayne Airport, Lake Tahoe Science Consortium and the U.S. Department of Defense. In 2014 Dabdub was awarded Innovation in Teaching Award by the HSSoE. In 2015 Dabdub was awarded best MAE professor by the Engineering Student Council.

### **SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES**

#### ***Learning to Read: Cloud Atlas***

#### **Adriana Johnson, Comparative Literature**

In the seminar we will slowly read David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* (2004) and use the novel to introduce and practice different approaches to reading that you may find in literature classes at the university. At the end we will also watch the movie *Cloud Atlas* (2012) and reflect on how the film produces a reading of the novel.

While Dr. Johnson's research specialization is in Latin American literature and culture she teaches a wide range of classes for the Comparative Literature major. In the past few years these have included: *Globalization from Below*, *Latin American Film*, *Humanities Honors Seminar (State & Civil Society)*, *Latin American Film*, *Popular Culture*, *Genre & Medium (Technologies of the Self)*, and *Piracy*.

#### ***The Spanish Language Worldwide***

#### **Armin Schwegler, Spanish**

This "fun course" studies the history and contemporary usage of Spanish worldwide. Special emphasis is placed on Latin American dialect varieties (including Mexican, Cuban, Argentinean, Colombian, and USA Spanish). By taking this course students will gain a better appreciation for (1) how and why a once very marginal tongue has become one of the world's major languages, (2) the extent to which Spanish

dialects differ today, and (3) how Spanish evolved from Roman times into what it is today. No prior knowledge of spoken or written Spanish required.

For info about Professor Schwegler, visit: [http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty\\_id=2476](http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty_id=2476)

## **SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMPUTER SCIENCES**

### ***DIY Electronics***

**Ian Harris, Computer Science**

Do you want to understand and build electronic devices? This seminar will introduce all the basics that you will need to start making projects on your own. This will be a hands on class so you will be required to spend about \$80 total on parts that you will build with. We will cover very practical issues, like how to buy electrical parts, how to wire components together, and how to read a component data sheet. You do not need to know about electronics to take this seminar.

Ian G. Harris is currently Vice Chair of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Computer Science at UCI. He received his BS degree in Computer Science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1990. He received his MS and PhD degrees in Computer Science from the University of California San Diego in 1992 and 1997 respectively. His research interests involve the security and testing of hardware and software systems.

## **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE *Brain-Computer Interfaces: A New Technology to Cure Paralysis?***

### **An Do, Neurology**

Brain-computer interfaces (BCI) are systems which convert brain wave activity into the control of external devices. This essentially allows a person to directly mind control computers, robots, and other devices without the need to generate any movements. Such technology can potentially help people with severe paralysis to control assistive or prosthetic devices to interact with their environment again. This seminar will introduce the fundamental biology, neuroscience, and engineering of BCI technology. There will also be live demonstrations and hands-on interaction with BCI technology as part of the class. Finally, it will explore how BCI technology can become a tool to restoring movement to people affected by paralysis.

As an assistant professor in the Department of Neurology, Dr. Do undertakes research in brain-computer interfaces and develops the technology to become a clinical tool to treat paralysis. He serves as the PI/co-PI on several federal, state, and foundation grants to undertake this research. As a result of this research, his lab has made breakthroughs in the field. One notable breakthrough is the development of a BCI, which for the first time in human history, has enabled a person with paraplegia due to spinal cord injury to regain brain-controlled walking. Dr. Do also undertakes clinical duties at the UCI Medical Center, where he practice general neurology and neuro-rehabilitation.

## **SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

### ***Black Holes for Fun and Profit***

## **Virginia Trimble, Physics and Astronomy**

One way or another, gravity always wins. Thus Einstein's general relativity and even Newton's earlier equations say that massive objects will eventually collapse to a point where not even light can get out, hence the name "black holes." Such black holes exist in the real universe and reveal themselves through interactions with stars, planets, gas, galaxies, and so forth that we can see. The seminar will explore both the evidence for real black holes and some of the odd properties expected of them on theoretical grounds.

Virginia Trimble is a native Californian and a graduate of Hollywood High School, UCLA, and the California Institute of Technology. Her current scientific interests encompass structure and evolution of stars, galaxies, and the universe and of the communities of scientists who study them. She serves on committees, boards, and panels of more than a dozen professional organizations and foundations and has a publication list with about 500 items on it, ranging from "Motions and Structure of the Filamentary Envelope of the Crab Nebula" (her PhD dissertation) to productivity and impact of optical telescopes (a study recently completed with a high school student summer intern).

## **PROGRAM IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

### ***Educating Instead of Medicating in Public Health***

#### **Zuzana Bic, Public Health**

The goal of the seminar is to learn how to think healthy and increase the level of health literacy. Students will enjoy reading and discussing health topics that address many issues in which they are interested in or are involved with. This seminar will transition students from passive, memorization- type learning, to an active, analytical and critical learning style with practical application for personal and public health.

Dr. Zuzana Bic has doctorate degrees in both Public Health and Medicine. She is the co-author of the book *No More Headaches, No More Migraines*. Dr. Bic studies the impact and application of "lifestyle medicine" (nutrition, physical activity, stress management) on slowing the process of aging and developing of other chronic diseases (headaches, diabetes II, cardiovascular diseases, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia /chronic fatigue syndrome, arthritis, cancer, depression, drug abuse, and others.). She is also working to develop health literacy programs for the K&#8208;12 curriculum and for the general public. She is a director of student experience in public health practice and is an advisor for the Students' Public Health Association at UCI. <http://faculty.sites.uci.edu/zbic/>

## **SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### ***The Futurity and Travels of Chicana Popular Culture***

#### **Ana Elizabeth Rosas, Chicano-Latino Studies**

This freshman seminar will introduce undergraduate students to the interdisciplinary world of Chicana Studies. Using a transnational approach to the collective interrogation of the circulation and resonance of Chicana popular culture, this seminar will provide students with an opportunity to examine decisive

film and musical productions and novels framing the future and travels of these underestimated representations of the Chicana experience within and beyond the United States.

Dr. Ana Elizabeth Rosas earned her doctorate in history from the University of Southern California, and recently published her book, *Abrazando El Espiritu; Bracero Families Confront the US-Mexico Border* (University of California Press, 2014). She is the recipient of numerous awards for her interdisciplinary research and teaching and mentorship of students into top ranked graduate programs. Most recently, she was awarded the University of California Irvine's Inaugural School of Social Sciences Dean's Award for Outstanding Mentorship.

### ***So You Want to Be a Zen Master?***

#### **John Manchak, Logic and Philosophy of Science**

This seminar will introduce Zen Buddhism and investigate the science, practice, and philosophy of mindfulness meditation.

Dr. Manchak received his PhD in Philosophy from UC Irvine in 2009. From 2009-2014, he was an Assistant and then an Associate professor at the University of Washington, Seattle where he received the 2013 UW Distinguished Teaching Award. (This university wide award is given to five professors each year.)

### ***Women of Color in Film***

#### **Belinda Robnett-Olson, Sociology**

Mainstream Hollywood movies provide viewers with powerful messages about women. In this course we will analyze the ways in which women of color are portrayed. What roles do Asian-American, African-American, and Latinas play in film? Do the media produce stereotypes? How are the roles of women in these groups changing? We will pay particular attention to issues of class and sexuality.

Belinda Robnett-Olson is a Professor of Sociology. Her research interests include racial and ethnic inequality, gender relations, political participation and social movements. She seeks to understand how racial-ethnic and gender hierarchies are formed by and maintained within formal and informal societal institutions including social movement/political organizations and the dating market.

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