

Anthropology 88SA: Brain, Mind, and Human Experience

Student Facilitator: Raymond Beyda – Faculty Mentor: Dario Nardi

In this seminar we will explore the history of our understanding of the brain and mind, its basic structure and physiology, and the way these structures have evolved over time. Along the way we will discover how our understanding of this organ has changed as new technologies have allowed us to see deeper into our thoughts and actions. In addition to learning what the brain is made of, we will explore the concepts of mind and behavior. What makes us human? Where do self awareness and consciousness reside? The majority of our discussions will be largely devoted to case studies which will illustrate how mysterious and how amazing the human brain and mind are. From alien hands to romantic love, we will explore how human experience is, at least in part, sculpted by the circuitry of our brains.

Raymond Beyda is a 4th year anthropology major (B.S.) and human complex systems minor. Raymond has always been interested in the link between physics, chemistry, biology, and social systems, however, his fascination with the brain and mind, specifically, began while taking a variety of psychology and neuroscience classes at UCLA.

Communication Studies 88SA: The Spin Zone: Cable News in Contemporary America

Student Facilitator: Gon Carpel – Faculty Mentor: Tim Groeling

In a few short years, cable news has gone from nonexistence to what is arguably the most influential medium on our national conversation on politics and society as a whole. To better understand these influences, we will begin by establishing a strong foundation of media theory, economic analysis, and major modern media criticisms. Building on that foundation, we will then conduct an in-depth examination of Fox News, MSNBC and CNN. We will look at each of these three outlets' background information, examining their history, ownership, current lineup, nature of their coverage, key on-air personalities, as well as the top off-air personalities. Finally, students will apply what they have learned by conducting a content analysis of the news presented on a specific outlet.

Gon Carpel is a 4th year Communication Studies major, concentrating on mass media, with a minor in Political Science. He has always been fascinated with all things media and politics. These days he can be found keeping up with the zeitgeist, debating the quality of a network's new lineup of shows, or checking Politico for updates.

Communication Studies 88SB: Business Strategies for Journalism in the Internet Age

Student Facilitator: Corinne Crockett – Faculty Mentor: Tim Groeling

This seminar will inspire structured discussion of the future of the journalism industry in the Internet age, focusing on the "selling" of news. You will examine the newest models or the industry and their corresponding critiques. You will critically analyze these models and evaluate their viability in real-world application.

Corinne Crockett is an entrepreneurial journalist and will graduate from the University of California Los Angeles in 2010 with a Bachelors degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Political Science. Corinne began her journalism career with a national student Emmy, which she won with her high school broadcasting class in 2006. As a student at UCLA, Corinne served as Daily Bruin Television's Executive Producer from 2008-2009, where she built the foundation for the video department for the student newspaper.

Economics 88S: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: An Economic Look at Food Systems in America

Student Facilitator: Neha Bazaj – Faculty Mentor: Matthew Kahn

Food production and consumption patterns in the U.S. have changed more rapidly in the past 100 years than at any other point in history. Farms that once produced a variety of crops are now dedicated to a single crop, and home-made food is no longer the only option. The advent of industrial agriculture, changing lifestyles and growing incomes are just a few of the factors commonly cited for these changes. The next 50 years are likely to be just as tumultuous as the "food movement" encourages Americans to find their way back to the land. This course aims to examine America's food system through an economic lens; how changing constraints, changing incentives and the desire for efficiency have shaped the current food system.

Neha is a senior Economics/International Area Studies major who realized her love for economics when she started laughing a little too loudly at her professors' jokes. Neha's course will give you a new perspective on why you ate Taco Bell for lunch instead of bringing a sandwich, and why living in the dorms is likely to result in the Freshman 15. Her seminar will put these choices in a broader context, by examining how thousands of individual choices by producers and consumers have shaped the American food system.

English 88SA: A Rose By Any Other Name: Representing the Wars of the Roses Through Literature

Student Facilitator: Anna Wylie – Faculty Mentor: A.R. Braunmuller

In this seminar, students will look at retellings of famous battles as well as character assessments of the main players in the Wars of the Roses, and how these accounts change depending on who is in power when they are written. Students will also discuss the power of literature as state propaganda, and how it affected the perceptions of these events when they were written as well as their current influence on modern understanding of this time period. Furthermore, students will consider how to determine which writings are accurate and which are not, or even if this task is possible.

Readings will consist of historical chronicles such as those by Raphael Holinshed and John Rous, as well as more obviously fictional accounts, like Shakespeare's History plays and Samuel Daniel's *Civil Wars*.

Anna Wylie is a senior majoring in English, with minors in Music History and Film, Television, and Digital Media. Anna became fascinated with the Wars of the Roses on a field trip with her Academic Decathlon team her senior year of high school, where they saw Shakespeare's *Richard III* in Ashland, Oregon. Captivated by this ruthless villain, she decided to learn more about him, and her shock at discovering that the real man was nothing like the character on stage motivated her to learn as much as she could not only about Richard III, but the Wars of the Roses in general.

English 88SB: Happily Ever After: Fairy Tales and Folk Tales Across Cultures

Student Facilitator: Nancy Giang – Faculty Mentor: Christopher Mott

Why do we read fairy tales and folk tales as children? Why have they been able to withstand the transience of oral and literary tradition? Why do we still cherish these stories as part of our heritage? This course studies these fanciful stories in order to reveal the literary and cultural reasons for their permanence despite iterations and translations. We will read selected works from various cultural traditions which will be translated into an English version that still maintains the lexical integrity of the original pieces, in order to facilitate discussion and comparison of them. The seminar is, however, not focused solely on analyzing stories of previous eras, but is also designed to trace the implications of plot, style, and other literary techniques of the tales through subsequent periods.

Nancy is a 4th-year undergraduate studying English Literature and Italian and Special Fields. While she entered UCLA as an English major, it was not until her second year that she discovered her love of Italian language and culture. After studying abroad for a summer and following the delicious aromas of coffee, basil, and pizza around the sun-baked hills of Tuscany and along the rest of the Italian peninsula, Nancy returned to the States with a fresh perspective of the world and new interest in world literature.

Human Complex Systems 88SB: Artificial Intelligence: Here, Now, and All Around Us

Student Facilitator: Amy Huang – Faculty Mentor: Dario Nardi

The seminar will begin by examining how our perceptions of intelligence have shifted over the last century, how it has traditionally been implemented in machines, and how it might be newly represented today. Then, we will explore instances of intelligence in a variety of locations not typically associated with the science-fiction robots of the future. We will see where algorithms originating in AI have produced solutions, or raised questions, in other, seemingly disparate fields. After examining our current reality, we'll look ahead to future and alternate realities, to the end of judging exactly where we stand among them. Finally, we'll question whether the Internet, as a collection of millions of individual minds, might ever begin to "think" in human fashion.

Amy is a 4th year senior majoring in Geography with minors in Human Complex Systems and Japanese. She used her first computer at the age of three and designed her first website when she was seven. Ever since, she's been interested in the ways that humans use and experience computers, and specifically in the ways that new technologies, like the Internet, Twitter, and GPS-enabled cellphones, are shortening the distances between people and communities.

Environment 88S: Environmental Nonprofits: Opportunity in a Changing World

Student Facilitator: Isis Krause – Faculty Mentor: Carl Maida

This class seeks to begin the learning process of how nonprofits function and the role they play in society. Nonprofits with an environmental focus are a particular subset of nonprofits and will be the focus of this class. Whether considering local water pollution, citywide environmental justice or national climate change policy, nonprofits play a large role in shaping the future of our environment. By gaining a deeper understanding of the history, managerial/leadership practices, key concerns, and future direction of nonprofits, specifically through the lens of environmental nonprofits, students will have the background knowledge to help them seek future jobs in the environmental nonprofit field.

Isis Krause is a senior majoring in Geography/Environmental Studies with an Environmental Systems and Society Minor. Isis' passion for the environment came after taking a student-led sustainability lecture course her first year, part of the Education for Sustainable Living Program. She currently works at GOOD Magazine, after having interned for their Nonprofit Partnerships division.

Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology 88S: Science and Society: Bridging the Gap

Student Facilitator: Rameen Moridzadeh – Faculty Mentor: Karen Lyons

Both the advances and shortcomings of science continually morph our society. As such, it is imperative for aspiring public policy advisors, government officials, and other non-science students to understand how science directly impacts our futures. Entrenched in these debates, however, are strong misconceptions about scientific topics such as evolution, genetics, and regenerative medicine. The purpose of this course is not only to identify these misconceptions, but more importantly to provide a deeper understanding of the scientific culture and its bearing on seemingly unrelated fields. Through a combination of debate, guest lecturers, and presentations, students will delve into topics and questions at the forefront of science. For instance, should insurance agencies and potential employers screen applicants using genetic profiling, and what is the validity of such profiling? Is immortality attainable in our lifetime?

Rameen is a fourth year Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology major with a minor in Biomedical Research. He began his relationship with research as a freshman in Dr. Volker Hartenstein's lab where he investigates the development of intestinal stem cells in *Drosophila* (fruit flies). Throughout the course of his undergraduate career, Rameen has come to realize the significance of scientific research to our society. In his seminar, Rameen hopes to share his experience with other undergraduates by highlighting the relevance of molecular and developmental biology to non-science student.

Political Science 88SA: Gaming the World: Experiencing Power Politics and the Theory of Tripolarity

Student Facilitator: Einar Engvig – Faculty Mentor: Michael Lofchie

The first half of the class will be made up of a short reading introducing lecture followed by discussions of either the class introduction (first day) or previous in-game experiences and corresponding readings, while the second half of each class will be devoted to active simulation. Discussions will revolve around relating new gaming experiences and knowledge, as well as aspects of the game itself to the Theory of Tripolarity, political realism in general and any related aspects therein. Specifically, the second half of class sessions will consist of students engaging in problem-based simulation learning by playing Hearts of Iron 2 (HOI2) as specific great power nation-states from the year 1936 to 1948, where an understanding of the geopolitics of the era are not only relevant for winning, but essential. The game is designed to follow a general historical lineage that can be altered depending on the strategy the student uses; strategies students will be simultaneously studying.

Einar (pronounced Eye-Nar) Engvig is a fourth-year Global Studies major and Political Science minor. Einar has studied the Second World War thoroughly and was raised by a father who remembers a childhood in Nazi occupied Norway, yet found personally that utilizing videogames made the information stick better than any lecture and was thus inspired to create his seminar. At UCLA, Einar works with the UCLA Model United Nations and BruinHope and is currently working on a thesis on space security.

Political Science 88SB: Private Parts: Privatization, the Public Sector and You

Student Facilitator: Justin Lam – Faculty Mentor: Brian Walker

Through the lenses of political theory, public policy and management, you will receive a national and international perspective on the private and public sectors. This outlook, rarely provided in undergraduate courses, will help situate your understanding in a 21st century and global context. This seminar will begin with a review of the motivations guiding the private and public sectors, and a historical survey of the factors that have resulted in the privatisation of certain public goods today. Through case studies, this course will expose you to several ways in which decisions about whether they receive public goods from private or public entities can affect them. These studies will take place in a mostly American but also comparative government contexts, with relevant examples brought in from other countries. Finally, you will be challenged to think about these relationships in the context of your role as a citizen and about how you might be able to influence those around you with this knowledge.

Justin Lam is a fourth-year Political Science major and Public Affairs minor. He has developed a strong interest in how public and private resources and leadership can intersect to affect change, especially after having travelled across the U.S. and Europe and working with the American Red Cross and State Farm Insurance. While studying abroad at the London School of Economics and Political Science in his third year, he took courses in international relations, European Union public policy, and marketing. This, along with classes and research at UCLA and the CAPP Quarter in Washington, inspired him to prepare an interdisciplinary seminar at the intersection of political theory, public policy and management.

Psychology 88SA: L.A. Schools: An Inside Look

Student Facilitator: Lauren Camarillo – Faculty Mentor: Jim Stigler

In this seminar, we will take an inside look into two middle school classrooms in Los Angeles and Compton Unified School Districts, analyzing lessons, student-teacher interaction, learning optimization, and the instructional dynamic of a classroom. Using our observational experiences from these two videotaped lessons, we will compare schools in the suburban-urban context, discussing factors of the academic achievement gap. Broadening the scope from Los Angeles schools to K-12 education in the United States, this seminar will address the socioeconomic and psychological implications of underachievement in our public education system. Is the so-called academic achievement gap truly an achievement gap? Or is it merely a gap in opportunity? Through discussion, we will discover which factors of a school's structure – both externally and internally – perpetuate the negative cycles in our history from which we are trying to progress.

Lauren Camarillo is a senior majoring in Linguistics and Psychology and minoring in Spanish Linguistics. From a young age, Lauren has witnessed the inherent inequity in public education, and has been interested in discovering ways of improving it ever since. Most of her family members work in education, and she aspires to be a middle or high school teacher after graduation. Having worked as a teacher assistant at the UCLA Lab School and tutored children from government housing projects in Watts and East L.A., Lauren has developed a strong interest in Los Angeles schools, and the disparities between suburban and urban education. As a director of the Watts Tutorial Program, she strives to provide educational opportunity for youth, and wishes to inform and inspire UCLA students to consider how they can improve our public education system.

Psychology 88SB: The Psychology of Investing

Student Facilitator: Alexandra Davis – Faculty Mentor: Adriana Galvan

In this course, we will examine human rationality (or irrationality), and the psychology behind decision-making. The course will explore the shortcuts people use when presented with too many choices, and the biases that steer people towards one decision over another. We will compare the differences in the outcomes of options when they are presented in various ways, and consider the impact social factors may have on the decision-making process. Subsequently, we will discuss how these factors may apply to investment decision-making, additionally evaluating the roles of emotion and mood, as well as risk tolerance in investment choices. Then, we will attempt to discern whether or not economic theory is still applicable, given what we have learned. Finally, the course will conclude with a discussion of the real-world value of the concepts covered, and how this knowledge about decision-making can be used to make more fitting choices in the future.

Lexi Davis is a senior Business Economics major and Global Studies minor. Lexi has been very interested in the financial services industry for the last few years, and is currently working as an intern for a Morgan Stanley Smith Barney financial advisor team in Beverly Hills. She likes that the financial world is constantly changing and that there is always more to learn about markets and the economy.

Psychology 88SC: The Psychology of Child Play

Student Facilitator: Nancy Young – Faculty Mentor: Scott Johnson

Child games are important activities that enhance many aspects of child development (e.g., social, physical, and mental developments) and promote intrinsic interests in learning. This seminar poses some important questions to keep in mind throughout the course. How do games reinforce gender stereotypes and gender division? Do children naturally gravitate toward certain games, and if so, why? How do children become socialized through their participations in the games? This seminar will cover different topics ranging from Jean Piaget's theory of children as active learners to motor development to sex differences. Students will come to understand how various games played in childhood strongly influence child development and affect the way children perceive themselves and the world.

Nancy is currently in her 4th year as a Psychology major and Education Studies minor. While working as a research assistant and studying how children interacted with their parents, she became highly interested in the topic of child development. She now devotes her time to serving as a tutor for elementary school students. Working with young students has been such a rewarding experience that, in the future, she hopes to continue interacting with kids and become a social justice educator.

Sociology 88S: Sociology of Facebook and Online Social Networks

Student Facilitator: Eric Kim – Faculty Mentor: Terri Anderson

Online social networking websites such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter have dramatically altered the ways in which individuals in society interact with one another. No longer do we give each other phone calls, but instead we simply write on each other's "Facebook walls." No longer are our diaries private and kept to ourselves, but instead they are now public and available for all to see on blogs. Although the Internet is overcoming the distance gap in terms of communication, how authentic are these cyber-relationships? Can relationships now be defined by quantity instead of quality? Is the Internet ultimately bringing us closer together, or further apart?

Eric Kim is a senior majoring in Sociology and grew up in the Bay Area in Northern California. Ever since the advent of Myspace, Facebook, and now Twitter, he has become fascinated in how online social networks affect interpersonal relationships. One of the biggest epiphanies he had was when on his 21st birthday when he received hundreds of posts on his Facebook wall saying "happy birthday!" but only one phone call from his mother.