



“Once the students get their hands on the material, the momentum comes from them. The instructor’s job is to be able to fuel the discussion.”



“We each brought our own ideas to discussion and challenged each other’s views in a respectful and beneficial manner, making me think in ways I don’t usually think.”



Fiat Lux

Let There Be Light!



“This form of teaching is at the very heart of what education ought to be: an opportunity to engage faculty and students in thoughtful and collegial discussions about an array of topics.”



“The quality of intellectual engagement was great—we got to feed on each other’s opinions that opened our eyes to different understandings.”



“I had the privilege of teaching a *Fiat Lux* class on biological chronometry. Students engage in critical thinking, explore new ideas and draw from a broad range of viewpoints. Faculty learn from the fresh perspectives of our youngest Bruins.”

—Chancellor Gene D. Block



The *Fiat Lux* Freshman Seminar Program takes its name from the University of California motto: *Fiat Lux—Let There Be Light!* First-year students participate in stimulating discussions with distinguished faculty on a variety of critical topics in these one-unit seminars.

The program originated from the ashes of September 11, 2001 when UCLA administrators and faculty recognized an urgent need to help the campus community grapple with the complex emotional, intellectual, social and political issues suddenly thrust upon the country and the world. Its fundamental aim—to provide entering students an opportunity to study with ladder faculty in a small seminar setting—is vital to the educational mission of UCLA.

As with all efforts to improve undergraduate education at UCLA, the astounding success of *Fiat Lux* reflects a collaborative effort of widespread participation and support across campus. Participants in *Fiat Lux* include 350 faculty from across the College and all 11 of UCLA's professional schools, who have taught 1,300 seminars to 20,000 undergraduates.

Judith L. Smith

Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Gary Nash Emeriti Seminars

The Gary Nash Emeriti Seminars were established through a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Leiv Blad in honor of Professor Gary Nash, a noted historian and professor emeritus of history.

An award-winning author, Professor Nash is considered one of the most distinguished historians of colonial and revolutionary America in the United States. He co-chaired the *National History Standards* project and has written several books including *Race and Revolution*, *History on Trial* and, his latest, *The Forgotten Fifth*. He is also director of the National Center for History in the Schools, an organization designed to help educators teach U.S. and world history.

A special seminar series in his name is a fitting tribute to the life work and intellectual legacy of Professor Nash, who has been a tireless supporter of seminars for undergraduates and is devoted to improving the undergraduate experience.

Chemistry and Biochemistry 19

Herbert D. Kaesz,* F08
Serendipity in Science

David Scott,* F08
Chemistry and Art

Civil & Environmental Engineering 19

Ertugrul Taciroglu, S09
Learning from Our Mistakes: Catastrophic Failure of Structures through Ages

Community Health Sciences 19

Jill DeJager,***** and Rena Orenstein,*** F08; W09; S09
So Cosmo Says You are Fat? Well, I Ain't Down with That: Nutrition and Body Image Life Skills

Dentistry 19

Kathryn Atchison and Michael Shockro, F08
Intellectual Property

Francesco Chiappelli,* W09
Current Issues in Evidence-Based Research in Dentistry

Anahid Jewett, F08
Novel Topics and Discoveries in Oral Biology, Medicine, and Dentistry

Earth and Space Sciences 19

Mark Moldwin,* F08
The End of Modern Civilization: Problems and Solutions

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 19

Donald Buth,* S09
Parasites: Eating Us Alive

Peter Nonacs,* W09
Evolutionary Medicine: How Natural Selection Helps Us Understand Why We Get Sick

Honors Collegium 19

Mike Gresser,* S09
How Drugs are Made

Mike Gresser,* F08; W09
The Rise and Fall of a Blockbuster Drug

Human Genetics 19

Christina Palmer* and Michelle Fox,* F08
Dinner with Geneticist/Genetic Counselor X

Chiara Sabatti,* S09
Genetic Enhancement and Quest for Perfection

Management 19

Martin Greenberger,* W09
Technology in Time of Obama

Richard Saouma, F08
Electronic Entrepreneurship: From e-Bay to Craigslist

Medicine 19

Oleg Melamed, F08
Hot Topics in Medicine: Disease, Politics, and the Bottom Dollar

Microbiology, Immunology, & Molecular Genetics 19

Lawrence Feldman, S09
Bird Flu: What Is It? Is It Dangerous?

Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology 19

John Merriam,*** W09
Read Science Times on Tuesday, Discuss over Coffee on Wednesday

John Merriam,*** F08
Read the New York Times Science Section and Discuss It over Coffee

Neurobiology 19

Edwin Cooper, W09
Links Between the Nervous and Immune Systems

Arnold Scheibel, S09
Thinking and Feeling: Introduction to Your Brain

Neuroscience 19

Scott Chandler,* S09
Shall We Dance? How Brain Controls Movement in Health and Disease

Nursing 19

Diana Lynn Woods, W09
Elders on YouTube

Janet Menten,* W09
Who Wants to Live to 100? Aging in the 21st Century

Pathology 19

Linda Baum, F08
Thinking Scientifically: How to Evaluate Science in the News

Physics 19

Steven Furlanetto, S09
Everyday Physics: How Things Work

Michael Jura, S09
Energy in Modern Economy

Physiological Science 19

Mark Frye, S09
A Bug's Brain: What We Can Learn from Insects About Our World and Ourselves

Alan Grinnell,* W09
On Human Nature: The Evolution of the Human Animal

James Tidball, F08
The University: What Is It and Why Are We Here?

Physiology 19

Nancy Wayne, F08
The Biology of Birth Control

Psychology 19

Aaron Blaisdell, W09
Tool Use and Causal Cognition in Animals

Seymour Feshbach,* W09
Human Aggression: Issues, Causes, Myths and Management

Carlos Grijalva,** F08
Stress! Causes, Symptoms, and Remedies

Yuen J. Huo, W09
The Diversity Challenge: Understanding and Overcoming Group Conflicts

Richard Marken,* F08
The Psychology of Personal Control

Thomas Minor,* W09
The Psychobiology of Stress Resilience

Letitia Anne Peplau,* W09
Sex and Gender: Current Controversies

James Thomas, W09
See the Colors: Glimpses of What We See and How We See Them

Society and Genetics 19

Hannah Landecker, W09
Food and Science

Edward McCabe* & Linda McCabe,* W09
Forensic DNA Searching: Guilt by Association

Statistics 19

Nicolas Christou,* W09
Statistics & Portfolio Risk Management with Stock Market Applications

Frederick Paik Schoenberg,* F08; W09; S09
Hold'em or Fold'em: Poker and Probability

The Vasa cube is awarded for every four seminars taught.

*2008–09 Vasa cube recipients

*previous years' Vasa cube recipients

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Fiat Lux

2008–09 Seminars

Arts & Humanities

Ancient Near East 19

Aaron Burke, S09
Investigating Forgotten Port: Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project

Applied Linguistics and TESL 19

John Schumann,* S09
Cavemen Walking

Olga T. Yokoyama,* F08
Election Media Language and Gender

Architecture & Urban Design 19

Diane Favro,* F08
Mapping Ancient Rome in the 21st Century

Asian 19

Robert Chi, S09
Bruce Lee: Way More than Kung Fu

John Duncan,* S09
History Wars in Northeast Asia: Politics of Past

Namhee Lee, S09
Global Koreans/Korean Diaspora through Documentaries and Film

Chinese 19

Hongyin Tao, W09
Understanding Chinese Cultures through Keywords

Classics 19

Robert Gurval,* S09
Rediscovering Pompeii

Comparative Literature 19

Kathleen Komar,* W09
The Short Works of Franz Kafka— or How the Modern World Works

Todd Presner, S09
Googolization of Everything

Ross Shideler,* W09
Poets and Desire

Design | Media Arts 19

Erkki Huhtamo,* F08
What is Interactive Media?

English 19

Charles Batten,* F08
Birth of the Comic Strip

Jascha Kessler, F08
What a Poem Says

Robert Maniquis,* S09
Thoreau's Walden: Individual and American Society

Joseph Nagy,* W09
Cartoons, Folklore, and Myth

Barbara Packer, F08
Douglass, Stowe, and Ideas about Race

Karen Rowe,* W09
Origins of Identity: History and Memory in Women's Poetry

Mona Simpson,* F08
Meeting Your Favorite Contemporary American Writers

Robert Watson, F08
Great American Movies, 1967–74: The "New Hollywood" in Context

Ethnomusicology 19

Roger Kendall,* S09
Cognitive Psychology of Music in Science-Fiction Film

Roger Savage,* W09
Music Theory through the Recorder

Film and Television 19

Marina Goldovskaya,* S09
Documentary and Society

William McDonald, W09
The Art of Cinematography

