

# Winter 2010 Honors Seminar Descriptions

## INT 84AA-ZZ Winter 2010

INT 84SB: Constitutional Spain: Democracy and Culture, 1978-2008

**Day:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 6:00-8:20pm

**Location:** NH 1105

**Enrollment Code:** 61226

**Description:**

The purpose of this seminar is to evaluate the radical transformations that have taken place in Spain since the enactment of the Spanish Constitution of 1978 (December 6, 1978) and up until its 30th anniversary (December 6, 2008). Particular attention will be paid to 3 areas that better exemplify Spain's dramatic overhaul from a dictatorship to a postmodern democracy, from a traditionally conservative Roman Catholic Spain into a beacon of sweeping liberal reforms and cultural modernity. These are:

- 1) Spain's multicultural identity—we will focus on the cultural productions of Galicia.
- 2) The enactment of progressive legislation, we will evaluate the "Against Gender Violence Law," (Law of December 28, 2004).
- 3) The explosion of Spanish film in the international arena by assessing Pedro Almodovar's films.

*Professor Silvia Bermudez, Spanish & Portuguese, and Latin American & Iberian Studies, is currently researching the social, institutional, and economic changes of three decades of democracy in the Spanish nation.*

**Email:** [bermudez@spanport.ucsb.edu](mailto:bermudez@spanport.ucsb.edu)

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**\*\*\* INT 84PB: Before Cinema: Art, Performance, and Display**

**\*\*\* CANCELLED**

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INT 84MB: The Languages and Cultures of California

**Day:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 2:00-3:20pm

**Location:** BLDG 387, Room 103

**Enrollment Code:** 61234

**Description:**

From Spanish to surf slang, from Native American languages to Hip Hop Nation Language, California has a remarkably rich linguistic heritage. Yet the full range of the state's linguistic resources is not yet fully understood. This seminar will guide students through hands-on investigation of some aspect of the linguistic and cultural diversity of California, based on their own background and interests.

*Professor Mary Bucholtz, Linguistics*

**Email:** [bucholtz@linguistics.ucsb.edu](mailto:bucholtz@linguistics.ucsb.edu)

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INT 84JH: Getting Personal With Technology: From the Hand as “Tool of Tools” to the “Dehumanization” of the Modern Age

**Day:** Tuesdays – 6 Sessions

**Time:** 5:00-7:50pm

**Location:** SH 1430

**Enrollment Code:** 61242

**Description:**

This seminar offers an introduction into theories of technology, from primitive tool use through the modern age. Students will focus in particular on the basic categories of the "human" and the "body" as they have changed over time. Aristotle might have celebrated the hand the "tool of tools," but the advent of the machine turned the tables. With the dawn of the industrial age, the human body has become increasingly obsolete. At the same time, however, literary figures and metaphors relating to the body and “primitive” tool use have lingered on...Through readings from literature, sociology and philosophy, we will take a "hands-on" approach to what is one of the most pressing problems of our time.

*Professor Jocelyn Holland, German, Germanic, Slavic & Semitic Studies*

**Email:** [holland@gss.ucsb.edu](mailto:holland@gss.ucsb.edu)

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INT 84NR: How Science Gets Done: The Process, The Problems, and the Successes in Real Examples in Biochemistry and Biomedical Research

**Day:** Fridays  
**Time:** 2:00-3:30pm  
**Location:** BSIF 1217

**Enrollment Code:** 60582

**Description:**

We will look at the actual process that lead to landmark discoveries that end up in science text books, including underlying hypotheses, control experiments, validation through additional experiments, etc. The goal is to provide students with a better appreciation both for the power of the scientific method, and its limitations.

*Professor Norbert Reich, Chemistry & Biochemistry*

**Email:** [reich@chem.ucsb.edu](mailto:reich@chem.ucsb.edu)

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**[INT 184AA-ZZ Winter 2010](#)**

INT 184CM: CULTURE CLASH: Studies in Chicano Theater

**Day:** Fridays  
**Time:** 12:00-2:50pm  
**Location:** PSYCH 1902

**Enrollment Code:** 59980

**Description:**

Mexican Americans have become one of the largest minorities in the United States, and their voices are beginning to make an impact on American Culture. Since the 1960's its theater, especially the work of El Teatro Campesino (The Farmworkers Theatre), has made a mark on the professional stage. This course studies the dramatic literature of Mexican Americans and other Latinos in the United States and the social conditions that produced this theater movement.

*Professor Carlos Morton, Theater & Dance*, is a playwright who teaches playwriting and U.S. Latino theater. Most of his plays deal with the Mexican American experience, and he has worked with numerous Chicano theater groups, as well as the San Francisco Mime Troupe and professional theater companies in Mexico. He also witnessed the development of the Chicano theater movement first hand in the 1970's and 80's. His plays have been staged by the New York Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center Theater, Arizona Theater Company and The National Company of Mexico. He is currently on the

Teatro Campesino Archives to the Special Collections at the Davidson Library.

**Email:** [cmorton@theaterdance.ucsb.edu](mailto:cmorton@theaterdance.ucsb.edu)

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**\*\*\* INT 184GL: *Interactional Serendipity in the Social Life of Very Young Children***

**\*\*\* CANCELLED**

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INT 184KF: Research Bench to Paper to Media Outlet: How Much Spin?

**Day:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 9:30-10:30am

**Location:** BLDG 555, ROOM 3103

**Enrollment Code:** 59998

**Description:**

Do you remember when Watson declared that nearly all disease would be cured within a few years of deciphering the human genome? Behind the hype and the hope lies the real science. We will critique papers that spawn biomedical news stories. Students will compare media releases, popular science writing, and primary literature.

*Kathy Foltz, Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology*, has interacted with honors students, offering MCDB 112H (Animal Developmental Biology), for many years. She also trains undergrad researchers in her lab. A number of undergrads have taken cross listed grad seminar courses with her (MCDB 194X). She did a pilot run of a version of the proposed course last year and it was well received. Her own research area is focused on fertilization and the egg to embryo transition. Her research questions address basic developmental processes, with implications for human cancer and birth defects as well as assisted reproductive technologies and contraception in humans.

**Email:** [foltz@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:foltz@lifesci.ucsb.edu)

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INT 184TG: Why Do We Believe The Unbelievable?

**Day:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 12:30-1:50pm

**Location:** GIRV 1108

**Enrollment Code:** 61218

**Description:**

We divide our world into natural and supernatural. While much of psychological science aims to understand how we see, attend to, think and feel about "ordinary" aspects of the world; there is growing interest in our capacity and tendency to believe in the extraordinary. In this seminar we will look at contemporary research into how human cognition may be pre-disposed to allow us to readily believe in things that might at first glance seem unbelievable or magical, such as spirits, ghosts, superstitions, past lives, deja vu and others.

*Professor Tamsin German, Psychology*, her research is primarily in the field of Cognitive Development and Cognitive Psychology, investigating the nature, origins and development of our everyday social understanding, which is founded on a basic capacity to infer and attribute hidden states (like beliefs and desires) to other social agents.

**Email:** [german@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:german@psych.ucsb.edu)

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INT 184DT: Microtubules, Cancer, and Anti-Microtubule Drugs

**Day:** Mondays

**Time:** 3:00-4:30pm

**Location:** SH 1431

**Enrollment Code:** 61200

*Recommended preparation: MCDB 1A*

**Description:**

Microtubules are targets for a number of important anti-cancer drugs. This course will examine discoveries, many of which occurred at UCSB, that have led to our current understanding of the common mechanism of action of these diverse compounds. We will discuss current research related to cancer drug resistance.

*Professor Douglas Thrower, Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology*

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