Purpose of the Course

This section of Letters and Science W1 is a course for visitors, including international visitors. It provides an introduction to the intellectual landscape of the College of Letters and Science, revealing the underlying assumptions, goals and structure of a liberal arts education. Guest speakers, drawn largely from the faculty and recent graduates of L&S, will shed light on the nature and attractions of their disciplines. Topics will be both theoretical and practical: for example, you’ll learn about the value of a liberal arts education and also discover more about your own interests and aptitudes. If you are a student, this course will transform you into an informed participant in your own educational experiences. If you are merely curious about the American style of higher education, you should find this course enlightening.

This is a special online summer version of the course, which means it will be very fast paced. Your work will be completed in the context of this course website.

Instructor Information, Contact, Social Hour, & Communication

Course Instructor

Alix Schwartz

Social Hour

The course instructor and GSIs (graduate student instructors) will offer virtual social hours, when students can communicate in real time (synchronously) using Adobe Connect. While these online meetings are
optional they can be valuable for discussion, answering questions, and coming to know one another on another level. Social Hours are optional; no points are awarded for participation.

The session will be for one hour. However, if no one shows up in the first 15 minutes, then that office hour will be cancelled.

Please see the Social Hour section for the schedule of days and times.

**Course Mail**

Make sure to check the Course Mail for messages from the instructor. You can access course email within the Learning Management System by clicking on the Inbox link on the Corner Help toolbar (see also Canvas Overview Video (Links to an external site.) or choose to have your course mail forwarded to your personal email account or your cell phone.

**General Course Question & Answer Forum**

Please use this forum to post questions about the course material, assignments, the learning management system or online homework. The instructor and GSIs will monitor this forum, but you should also feel free to post answers to help other students. This helps to create a general FAQ so that all students in the course may benefit from the exchange.

**Course Materials and Technical Requirements and Support**

**Required Materials**

- This course is self contained. Required readings are made accessible in the course.

**Recommended Materials**

- Headset and microphone to participate in Online Office Hours

**Technical Requirements**

This course is built on a Learning Management system (LMS) called Canvas and you will need to meet these computer specifications to participate within this online platform. (Links to an external site.)

**Optional**

Canvas allows you to record audio or video files of yourself and upload them in the course. Although doing so is not required for any of the activities, using these features will enhance your engagement in the course. If you would like to use these features, you will need to have a webcam and a microphone installed on your computer.

**Technical Support**
If you are having technical difficulties please alert the instructor immediately. However, understand that if the instructor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email tech support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately. Be sure to document (save emails and transaction numbers) for all interactions with tech support. **Extensions and late submissions will not be accepted due to “technical difficulties”**.

For 24/7 Tech Help Support: Call **1-855-308-2758** or email support@instructure.com

**Learning Activities**

**VERY IMPORTANT**

You won't be able to access your course material until you take the Academic Integrity Pledge. Click the following button to first read the Academic Integrity Policies.

You are expected to fully participate in all the course activities described here.

1. Read the assigned articles.
2. Participate in the discussion forums.
3. Watch and listen to all of the lecture presentations.
4. Submit questions to the professors through the weekly question form.
5. Complete all writing assignments.
6. Read web-based announcements and postings assign during the course.

**Modules**

Each week is a module, which is a grouping of topics related to one area of study, typically with readings, lectures and various kinds of assignments. Your assignments reflect the learning activities to perform each week. For an at-a-glance view of due dates and projects, refer to the course **Calendar**.

**Course Requirements**

**Watch approximately six short lectures per week:** These are mostly given by Berkeley faculty members, but you will also encounter deans, alumni, and some staff members who organize academic enrichment activities in these online lectures.

**Complete the lecture "food for thought" exercises:** Some lectures have short answer quizzes following the videos (or appearing between the two halves of a longer lecture). You must complete all of the lecture video quizzes.

**Read one to two essays or articles per week:** All but one of the readings are authored by Berkeley faculty members. This expands the number and range of Berkeley faculty whom you will encounter in the class.

**Online discussions of the lectures and readings:** Each week we will be focusing on one disciplinary or interdisciplinary area of the college, and the lectures and readings will all relate to that area. We will have online discussion boards where you will be expected to participate weekly. Your instructor and GSI will be present online to help guide the discussion.

A large portion of our classroom activity will take place in discussion threads. **Quality and quantity of participation count** in the online learning activities. Quantity includes the number of activities that you
complete for the week and the length of your posts, as well as the number of replies you make to other student posts. Quality includes, among other things:

- Thoughtful, insightful responses to the lectures and readings. A summary, for instance, would not count, whereas an analytical comment or thought-provoking question that assists in reshaping or furthering the asynchronous conversation would count.
- Insightful, constructive and respectful critiques of others’ contributions
- Integrative comments across activities and/or courses

You will find discussion topics and further clarifications of expectations within each week's module.

**Essay Assignments:** There will be one short (2-3-page) and two slightly longer (4-page) essay assignments. (See below for details.) Unless otherwise noted, all assignments should be typed and double-spaced, using 12-point font, and 1-inch margins, and submitted via the dropbox by the stated due date.

Late assignments will be docked two points for each day they are late.

**Participation:** You will earn participation points for completing a few shorter assignments (often just a sentence or a paragraph long).

**Reminder: Your Course End Date**

Your course will end on August 14, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. (PT). As you work through the course, please keep the end date in mind, and if you want to save any commentary or assignments for future reference, please make sure to print or copy/paste those materials before your access ends.

**Grading**

The course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis only. In order to pass the course you will be expected to watch the lectures regularly, keep up on the reading, participate actively in the discussion forums for both the lectures and the readings, and complete written assignments and exercises.

Discussion forum participation:

- Discussions of lectures: up to 4 points each week
- Discussions of readings: up to 6 points for each reading
- Peer responses in lecture forums: up to 2 points each
- Peer responses in reading forums: up to 2 points each

**Essays:**

- Berkeley Blog Assignment: up to 35 points
- Value of a Liberal Arts Education research/reflection paper: up to 45 points
- Self-reflection essay: up to 45 points

**Miscellaneous:**

- Includes short exercises after video segments, and smaller assignments such as the links and summary due in week 5: up to 32 points
There are 350 points possible. Students must earn at least 245 points, and complete all three essays, to pass the course.

It is important to note that not all components are graded online and included in the online course grade book. Because of this, the online course grade book will not convey your exact number of earned points at any given time, or your final grade. It should simply be used to assess your performance on the components that are included within it. Your final letter grade will be mailed to you by the registrar’s office.

**Course Policies**

**Promptness**

Homework assignments and discussion forum postings all have specific final due dates and times. You will not receive full credit if assignments are submitted after the indicated due date.

Further, each online activity must be submitted through the course website by the due date. Fax or mail submission will not be accepted. Students who wait until the final hours prior to a submission deadline risk having problems with their ISP, hardware, software, or various other site access difficulties. Therefore, it is advisable to submit assignments and tests through the course website early. The multiple days allowed for submission are to accommodate the busy schedules of working professionals, not to accommodate procrastination. Students should plan accordingly and get into the habit of checking the course website several times each week, and submitting and posting early.

**Honor Code**

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

**Plagiarism**

To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, explore the resources linked below:

[UC Berkeley Library Citation Page, Plagiarism Section](#)

[GSI Guide for Preventing Plagiarism](#)

**Incomplete Course Grade**

Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the final exam, may request an Incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing or by email to the GSI and course instructor. You must provide verifiable documentation for the seriousness of the extenuating circumstances. According to the policy of the college, Incomplete grades must be made up within the first three weeks of the next semester.

**Students with Disabilities**
Any students requiring course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability must contact the [Disabled Students' Program (DSP)](https://www.diverse.berkeley.edu/studentservices/disabled-students-program). They will review all requests on an individual basis.

- Request your Disabled Student Program Specialist to send the instructor a formal request before the official course start date by email
- In addition, notify the instructor and your Online Learning Support Specialist, which accommodations you would like to use.
  - Your Online Learning Support Specialist is Tracie Allen Littlejohn and her email is twgallen@berkeley.edu

**Week by Week Course Syllabus**

**WEEK ONE (June 22): LIBERAL ARTS OVERVIEW; ARTS AND HUMANITIES, PART I**

**Pre-writing:** what is the value of a liberal arts education? (1 paragraph, submit online)

**Watch/discuss:** Course overview by Alix Schwartz; Liberal Arts lecture by Carol Christ; Arts and Humanities Dean interview; Arts and Humanities Alumni Panel: Taleen Alexander (English), Glory Liu (Classics), Masis Parunyan (Music), and Pierce Vollucci (Rhetoric)

**Read/discuss:** Robert Hass, “Images,” from *Twentieth Century Pleasures: Prose on Poetry*

**Get Ready!**: Make it a habit to read at least two Berkeley Blog entries per week: you will need to write an essay in response to one of them in Week Four.

**WEEK TWO (June 29): ARTS AND HUMANITIES, PART II**

**Watch/discuss:** lectures by Professors Catherine Cole and Gail de Kosnik (TDPS), Ken Ueno (Music), John Campbell (Philosophy), Anneke Lenssen (History of Art), Harsha Ram (Slavic Languages and Literatures), and Kathleen Donegan (English)


**Get Ready!** Keep reading the Berkeley Blog, and read the essay prompt for essay #1, due in two weeks.

**WEEK THREE (JULY 6): PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**Watch/discuss:** interview with Physical Science dean and lectures by Professors Mariska Kriek (Astronomy), Richard Allen (Earth and Planetary Science), Ken Ribet (Math) and Dan Garcia (Computer Science), plus a Physical Science Alumni Panel: Arturo Fernandez (Statistics), Alen Gong (Statistics), Mike McGowan (Math), and Pierce Vollucci (Computer Science)

**Read/discuss:** Walter Alvarez, Prelude and Chapter 1 from *The Mountains of St Francis*;
Edward Frenkel, “Apprentice Mathematician,” from *Love and Math*

**Get Ready!**

1. Keep reading the Berkeley Blog.
2. Complete sections 1, 2, and 3 of the UC Library Research Tutorial (Links to an external site.). This will help prepare you for essay #2.
3. Read the prompt for essay #2, due at the end of week 6.

**WEEK FOUR (July 13): SOCIAL SCIENCES, PART I**

**Watch/discuss:** interview with Social Science dean, plus an Alumni panel: Jesekah Odom (Sociology), Andrew Saito (Ethnic Studies), Adam Francis (Political Science), and Jacqueline Hoffman (Gender and
Women’s Studies
Read/discuss: Kristin Luker, “Sex and Politics in American Life” and all three Appendices from *When Sex Goes to School*
Get Ready!: Complete sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the UC Library Research Tutorial
Assignment due: Berkeley Blog essay

WEEK FIVE (July 20): SOCIAL SCIENCES, PART II

Watch/discuss: Lectures by Professors Stefano DellaVigna (Econ), Jake Kosek (Geography), David Henkin (History), Serena Chen (Psychology), Sandra Smith (Sociology), Na’ilah Suad Nasir (African American Studies), and Line Mikkelson (Linguistics)
Get Ready!: Find and provide links to at least three academic journal articles that interest you, on the topic of the value of a liberal arts education.
Assignment due: Submit a one-paragraph summary of one of the three academic journal articles you identified, and one paragraph on why it interests you.

WEEK SIX (July 27): BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Watch/discuss: Interview with the Biological Science Dean and lectures by Professors Diana Bautista (MCB, Eileen Lacey (IB), David Weisblat (MCB—Cell and Developmental Biology) and David Presti (MCB—Neurobiology), and an Alumni Panel: Ernie Fok (MCB), Sean Jenvey (MCB), and Rachael Shen (IB).
Read/discuss: Anthony Barnosky, Chapter 1 from *Heatstroke: Nature in an Age of Global Warming*; Marian Diamond, Chapter 1 from *Magic Trees of the Mind*
Assignment due: Value of a Liberal Arts research/reflection paper
Get Ready:
1. Read the prompt for essay #3.
2. The following steps will ensure you are prepared for the online demo next week, which will in turn prepare you for essay #3, due in the final week.
   A) Please visit this link to setup your Eureka username and password
   B) Complete Personal Information (email address is required in case you forget your password)
   C) Under "Registered Counselors/Teachers:", highlight "Jung, Paula"
   D) Click Next to create your username and password

WEEK SEVEN (August 3): INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Watch/discuss: Interview with the Undergraduate Studies Dean and lectures by Professors Max Auffhammer (Political Economy), Tom Griffiths (Cognitive Science), Don McQuade (American Studies), and Peter Sahlins (Interdisciplinary Studies Field Major), plus an Alumni Panel: Angic Chau (ISF), Glory Liu (PE) and Andrew Reddie (PACS)
Get Ready!: Watch the online demo of Eureka prepared especially for our class, then explore Eureka or other self-assessment tools available through our bcourses site.

WEEK EIGHT (August 10): ENRICHMENT PANEL AND WRAP-UP

Watch/discuss: the nine enrichment program presentations (Berkeley Connect, Big Ideas Courses, Cal Teach, Course Threads, Public Service Center, Study Abroad, UCDC, the Berkeley Charter of
End of Course Evaluation

Before your course end date, please take a few minutes to participate in our End of Course Evaluation to share your opinions about this course. The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain strictly confidential. To access the evaluation, please select the "Course End Evaluation" link in the left navigation menu. The evaluation will be available starting on Friday July 31st through Friday August 14th. You may only take the evaluation once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jun 27, 2015</td>
<td>W1 Discussion: Finding the Score Within due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W1 Discussion: Genealogy of a Book due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W1 Discussion: Meet the Professors and Alumni due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W2 Answer the Question: Professor Anneka Lenssen due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W2 Answer the Question: Professor Catherine Cole due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Thu Jul 2, 2015</td>
<td>W2 Answer the Question: Professor Gail de Kosnik due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W2 Answer the Question: Professor Harsha Ram due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W2 Answer the Question: Professor John Campbell Part 1 due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W2 Answer the Question: Professor Ken Ueno due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Sat Jul 4, 2015</td>
<td>W2 Discussion: Images due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W2 Discussion: Meet the Professors and Alumni due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W3 Answer the Question: Dean Frances Hellman due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W3 Answer the Question: Professor Geoff Marcy due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Thu Jul 9, 2015</td>
<td>W3 Answer the Question: Professor Ken Ribet due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W3 Answer the Question: Professor Richard Allen Q1 due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W3 Answer the Question: Professor Richard Allen Q2 due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W3 Answer the Question: Professor Richard Allen Q3 due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W3 Discussion: Apprentice Mathematician - Love and Math due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Sat Jul 11, 2015</td>
<td>W3 Discussion: Meet the Professors and Alumni due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W3 Discussion: The Mountains of Saint Francis due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Thu Jul 16, 2015</td>
<td>W4 Answer the Question: Dean Carla Hesse due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W4 Discussion: Appendices due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Sat Jul 18, 2015</td>
<td>W4 Discussion: Meet the Professors and Alumni due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W4 Discussion: Sex and Politics in American Life due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Sun Jul 19, 2015</td>
<td>Week 4 Assignment: Berkeley Blog Essay due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor David Henkin due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor Jake Kosek due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor Na’ilah Suad Nasir due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor Sandra Smith due by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Sat Jul 25, 2015</td>
<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor Serena Chen Part I</td>
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<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor Serena Chen Part II</td>
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<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor Stefano DellaVigna Q1</td>
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<td>W5 Answer the Question: Professor Stefano DellaVigna Q2</td>
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<td>W5 Discussion: Framed!</td>
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<td>Sun Jul 26, 2015</td>
<td>W5 Get Ready Assignment Dropbox</td>
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<td>W6 Answer the Question: Dean G. Steven Martin</td>
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<td>W6 Answer the Question: Professor David Weisblat</td>
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<td>W6 Answer the Question: Professor Diana Bautista</td>
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<td>W6 Get Ready Assignment Dropbox</td>
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<td>Thu Jul 30, 2015</td>
<td>W6 Answer the Question: Professor Eileen Lacey</td>
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<td>Sat Aug 1, 2015</td>
<td>W6 Discussion: Magic Trees of the Mind</td>
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<td>W6 Discussion: The Heat Is On</td>
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<td>Sun Aug 2, 2015</td>
<td>W6 Assignment: The Value of the Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>W7 Answer the Question: Dean Bob Jacobsen</td>
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<td>W7 Answer the Question: Professor Tom Griffith</td>
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<td>W7 Discussion: Can Computers Think?</td>
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<td>Sat Aug 8, 2015</td>
<td>W7 Discussion: Jim Crow’s Drug War</td>
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<td>W7 Discussion: Meet the Professors and Alumni</td>
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<td>Fri Aug 14, 2015</td>
<td>W8 Assignment: Self Reflection Essay</td>
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<td>W8 Discussion: Meet the Staff of the Enrichment Programs</td>
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<td>Mon Aug 17, 2015</td>
<td>W8 Discussion: Behind the Beautiful Forevers</td>
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**Academic Integrity Pledge**

W1 Answer the Question: Dean Tony Cascardi

W1 Answer the Quiz: Professor Carol Christ

W2 Answer the Question: Professor John Campbell Part 2

W3 Answer the Question: Dean Francis Hellman