

# Exploring the Liberal Arts, L&S W1, 2019\*

2 Semester Credits

*\*Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.*

## Course Description

Letters and Science W1 is a course for entering students, particularly those who are excited to be at Cal but uncertain of where to start their explorations. 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 why the L&S breadth requirement exists and also get a good sense of which disciplines would be most engaging for you to pursue while satisfying breadth. The ultimate goal of the course is to transform students into informed participants in their own educational experiences at Berkeley.

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.

## Prerequisites

None.

## Course Materials and Technical Requirements

### Required Materials

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

### Recommended Materials

- Headset and microphone to participate in Online Office Hours (aka "Social 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](#).

### 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.

## 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 Premise.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PREMISE

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 assigned video lecture presentations.
4. Complete all writing assignments.
5. Read web-based announcements and postings assigned during the course.

## Modules

Each week is a module, which is a grouping of topics related to one area of study, typically with readings, video 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](#). For more information refer to the Canvas help guide, [How do I use the calendar?](#)

## Course Requirements

**Watch approximately six to ten 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.

**Read one or more 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 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 receive full credit, whereas an analytical comment or thought-provoking question that assists in reshaping or furthering the asynchronous conversation would.
- 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- to 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 through bCourses by the stated due date.

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

### **Reminder: Your Course End Date**

Your course will end on Friday, August 16th, 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.

## **Communication and Office Hours (aka Social Hours)**

### **Course Instructor**

[Alix Schwartz](#)

### **Course GSIs**

TBA

### **Social Hour**

The course instructor and GSIs (graduate student instructors) will offer virtual social hours, when students can communicate in real time (synchronously) using Zoom conferencing services. 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.

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

### **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 selecting the Inbox icon in the left global navigation toolbar.

See the Canvas Help Guides for information on how to [set your personal notification preferences](#). You can [add additional contact methods](#) to your account so your course messages are forwarded to your personal email or cell phone.

### **General Question & Answer Forums**

In addition to the forums where you will discuss the readings and videos, there are two more general forums set up: a general question forum and an assignment forum.

Please use the general question forum to post questions about the course material, the learning management system or online homework.

Please post any assignment specific questions to the assignment forum.

**The instructor and GSIs will monitor these forums**, 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.

## Grading

### Grading

The course is graded on a Pass/No Pass basis only. In order to pass the course you will be expected to watch the lecture videos 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. **Note that it is impossible to pass this class unless you complete and submit all three required essays.**

### Discussion forum participation:

- Discussions of lectures: up to 6 points each week
- Discussions of readings: up to 6 points for each reading
- Peer responses in lecture forums: up to 2 points each (two peer responses are required each week)
- Peer responses in reading forums: up to 2 points each (two peer responses are required for each reading)

### Essays:

- Berkeley Blog draft (and your peer responses to others' drafts): up to 20 points
- 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 smaller assignments such as the links and summary due in week 4: up to 10 points
- Academic Integrity Pledge quiz: 1 point

There are 376 points possible. **Students must earn at least 263 points, and complete all three essays, to pass the course.**

If you are still reading, send a picture of your favorite vegetable to [alix@berkeley.edu](mailto:alix@berkeley.edu).

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

## 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 busy schedules, not to accommodate procrastination. Students should plan accordingly and cultivate 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**

If your work in a course has been of passing quality but is incomplete for reasons beyond your control (such as extreme illness), you can arrange to receive a grade of "Incomplete" from your instructor, so that you may finish the work during the Fall term. Note that students who take an Incomplete are not eligible for the fee waiver, because an I is not considered a passing grade earned at the end of the course.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are requiring course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability contact the [UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#).

Notify the instructor and GSI through course email and inform them which accommodations you would like to use.

UC Berkeley is committed to providing robust educational experiences for all learners. With this goal in mind, we have activated the ALLY tool for this course. You will now be able to download content in a format that best fits your learning preference. PDF,

HTML, EPUB and MP3 are now available for most content items. For more information visit the alternative formats link or watch the video entitled, "[Ally First Steps Guide](#)".

### **Fee Waiver for Incoming Freshmen Who Pass**

Newly admitted freshmen who complete this course with a "Pass" grade will receive a credit toward the cost (tuition) of this course (2-unit course fee plus the campus fee) on their account. Note that tuition may appear on your account if the credit has not yet been applied. All students are responsible for the \$40 class pass fee. Students who do not receive a "Pass" grade will see the credit removed from their accounts.

### **Academic Integrity, Research, and Proper Citation**

As an online student, you are encouraged to reach out to your fellow students in the online classroom to discuss materials and ask each other questions, but there are limits to this collaboration. Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, unless otherwise instructed, homework assignments are to be completed independently, and materials submitted as homework should be the result of your own independent work.

As a UC Berkeley student you are bound by the [Academic Integrity, Research and Proper Citation policies](#) outlined in the [UC Berkeley Extension Code of Student Conduct Policy Statement](#) dated July 11, 2011 that clearly defines what constitutes cheating, as well as plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct.

You must review all sections of the Academic Integrity Pledge and Course Policies Module within your Canvas course and complete the following item prior to gaining access to course content: Take the Pledge to Academic Integrity.

### **Course Evaluation and Course End Date**

#### **Course Evaluation**

Before your course end date, please take a few minutes to participate in the Course Evaluation to share your opinions about the course.

The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain strictly confidential. A link to the evaluation will be made available via bCourses on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be available until August 14<sup>th</sup>. You will also be emailed a link to the course evaluation.

To access the course evaluation via bCourses:

1. Enter the course in bCourses
2. Choose **Course Evaluation** from the left-hand navigation menu.
3. Complete evaluation and submit.

## Course End Date

Your access to the online classroom will expire at 11:59pm on Friday August 16th, which is indicated in the initial e-mail you received when you enrolled.

## Course Outline

You'll find complete instructions for your assignments within the course modules.

### WEEK ONE: 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), Samin Nosrat (English), Masis Parunyan (Music), Pierce Vollucci (Rhetoric), and Sam Bleiberg (Comparative Literature)

#### Read/discuss:

- Robert Hass, "Images," from *Twentieth Century Pleasures: Prose on Poetry*

#### Get Ready!

- Read the [Week 3 Assignment Instructions: Berkeley Blog](#) so that by the time you sit down to write the Berkeley Blog essay you are well prepared.
- 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: ARTS AND HUMANITIES, PART II

#### Watch/discuss:

Choose seven of the lectures by the following eleven professors:

- Kathleen Donegan (English)
- Gail de Kosnik (TDPS)
- Ken Ueno (Music)
- John Campbell (Philosophy)
- Eglantine Colon (French Studies)
- Asma Kazmi (Art Practice)
- Anneke Lenssen (History of Art)
- Rita Lucarelli (Near Eastern Studies)
- Michael Mascuch (Rhetoric)
- Ellen Oliensis (Classics)
- Harsha Ram (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

**Read/discuss:**

- Ken Ueno, “Finding the Score Within,” *Opinionator, New York Times*, June 22, 2011;
- Daniel Boyarin, “Genealogy of a Book,” *The Townsend Center Newsletter*, April/May 2008

**Get Ready!****Submit A Rough Draft**

- Re-read the Week 3 Assignment Instructions: Berkeley Blog, and write a rough draft. By “rough” I mean not polished—ideally it will be a full draft, ready to profit from peer input.
- Upon completing your rough draft, submit it for Peer Review: Week 2: Rough Draft Assignment. Complete and submit your rough draft by Sunday of Week 2 at 11:55pm.
- Review two rough drafts by your peers by Thursday of Week 3 at 11:55pm.
- In order to be assigned two peer reviews, you must submit your draft no later than Sunday July 1st at 11:55pm (PT). Peer reviews will not be assigned to you if your draft is submitted late.
- Identify and submit (copy and paste) the thesis statement from the blog or blogs you will be writing about in your essay. Include a link to the blog itself.

**WEEK THREE: Mathematical and PHYSICAL SCIENCE****Watch/discuss:**

**Watch the** interview with the Mathematical and Physical Science dean, and then choose four of the seven lectures by Professors in her division:

- Mariska Kriek (Astronomy)
- Richard Allen (Earth and Planetary Science)
- Ken Ribet (Math)
- Fernando Perez (Data Science)
- Elizabeth Purdum (Statistics)
- Irfan Siddiqi (Physics)
- Dan Garcia (Computer Science)

Also watch three of the four Physical Science Alumni videos:

- Arturo Fernandez (Statistics)
- Alen Gong (Statistics)
- Mike McGowan (Math)
- Pierce Vollucci (Computer Science)

**Read/discuss:**



- Walter Alvarez, Chapter Two from *T. Rex and the Crater of Doom*, and at least two pages of his article in the *Gubbio Review*
- Edward Frenkel, “Apprentice Mathematician,” from *Love and Math*

**Assignment due:**

1. Read the [Week 3 Assignment Instructions: Berkeley Blog](#) and then submit your essay: [Week 3 Assignment: Berkeley Blog Essay](#)
2. Your Assignment is due Sunday, by 11:55pm.

**Get Ready!**

Complete sections 1-5 of the [UC Berkeley Library Research Tutorial](#). This will help prepare you to complete the essay assignment due in Week 5.

We want to make sure you are well prepared, so read the instructions for [Week 5 Assignment Instructions: The Value of the Liberal Arts Essay](#).

**WEEK FOUR: SOCIAL SCIENCES, PART I**

**Watch/discuss:**

interview with the Social Sciences dean, plus at least three of the four faculty presentations below:

- Serena Chen (Psychology)
- Stefano Della Vigna (Economics)
- Jake Kosek (Geography)
- Line Mikkelsen (Linguistics)

Also watch at least three of the following five alumni videos:

- Jesekeh Odom (Sociology)
- Andrew Saito (Ethnic Studies)
- Adam Francis (Political Science)
- Glory Liu (Political Economy)
- Andrew Reddie (Peace and Conflict Studies)

**Read/discuss:**

- Kristin Luker, “Sex and Politics in American Life” and all three Appendices from *When Sex Goes to School*

**Get Ready!**

Submit Preliminary Materials for Your Value of the Liberal Arts Essay

1. Read carefully the “Finding an Article” tab on the [UC Berkeley Library Research Tutorial](#). This will help prepare you to submit the preliminary materials due this

week and complete the essay assignment due in Week five. If you want to read additional information on research, check out the [Research Survival Guide](#).

2. If you haven't already, read the [Week 5 Assignment Instructions: The Value of the Liberal Arts Essay](#).
3. Find and provide citations (in MLA format) and links to at least three academic journal articles that interest you, on the topic of the value of a liberal arts education.
4. Submit a one-paragraph summary of one of these articles and one paragraph on why it interests you, and include the three citations and links to your journal articles in the [Week 4 Get Ready Assignment: Links to Academic Journal Articles](#) **by Sunday at 11:55pm (PT)**. This exercise will prepare you for the Value of a Liberal Arts essay due next week.

If you are having trouble accessing the Library from off-campus, please review the [Berkeley Library EXproxy instructions](#).

## **WEEK FIVE: SOCIAL SCIENCES, PART II**

### **Watch/discuss:**

Choose at least five of the eight lectures by Social Sciences professors:

- David Henkin (History)
- Sandra Smith (Sociology)
- Max Auffhammer (Political Economy)
- Max Auffhammer (Global Studies)
- Tom Griffiths (Cognitive Science)
- Professor Stephen Small (African American Studies)
- Kent Lightfoot (Anthropology)
- Juana Maria Rodriguez (Ethnic Studies)

### **Read/discuss:**

- Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton, "Framed!," *Greater Good*, Summer 2008;
- Dacher Keltner and Jason Marsh, "We Are All Bystanders," *Greater Good*, Fall/Winter 2006-07

### **Get Ready!**

- Read the [Week 7 Assignment Instructions: Self-Reflection Essay](#) and start thinking about how you will approach this assignment, due in two weeks.
- Complete the following steps to set up your Eureka account, so you are prepared for the online demo next week, which will in turn prepare you for your essay due in the final week.

### **Assignment due:**

- Your week-five essay: The Value of the Liberal Arts, is due Sunday by 11:55 p.m.

## WEEK SIX: BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

### Watch/discuss:

Interview with the Biological Sciences Dean and lectures by at least three of the four Biological Sciences professors:

- Diana Bautista (MCB)
- Eileen Lacey (IB)
- David Weisblat (MCB—Cell and Developmental Biology)
- David Presti (MCB--Neurobiology)

Also watch the two alumni videos: Ernie Fok (MCB) and Rachael Shen (IB)

### Read/discuss:

- Robert Dudley, excerpts from *The Drunken Monkey* and at least two pages of his peer-reviewed article.
- Marian Diamond, Chapter 1 from *Magic Trees of the Mind*, and at least two pages of her peer-reviewed article.

### Get Ready:

- Watch the Eureka tutorial.
- Explore [Eureka.org](http://Eureka.org) and the other Career Resources.
- Re-read the [Week 7 Assignment Instructions: Self-Reflection Essay](#).

## WEEK SEVEN: INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

### Watch/discuss:

Interview with the Undergraduate Studies Dean and lectures by three professors:

- Don McQuade (American Studies)
- Peter Sahlins (Interdisciplinary Studies Field Major)
- Edward Timke (Media Studies)
- Alumni Panel: Angie Chau (ISF), Eli Wirtschafter (American Studies), and Chandler Le Francis (Media Studies).

### Read/discuss:

- Jean Retzinger, "Spectacles of Labor: Viewing Food Production Through a Television Screen," from [\*Environmental Communication\*](#), December 2010
- Michael Cohen, "Jim Crow's Drug War," from *Southern Culture*, Fall 2006

### Assignment:

- Your week-seven Self-Reflection essay is due Sunday by 11:55 p.m.

## **WEEK EIGHT: ENRICHMENT PANEL AND WRAP-UP**

### **Watch/discuss:**

The nine enrichment program presentations:

- The Art of Writing, Berkeley Connect, Big Ideas Courses, Cal Teach, Course Threads, Public Service Center, Study Abroad, UCDC, and Undergraduate Research.

### **Read/Discuss:**

- an excerpt from *There There*, by Tommy Orange

\*subject to change