A Program of Personalized Study
for Freshmen at
the University of Southern California
QUESTION:

I've signed up for four units of Spanish, eight units of General Education and four units of my major. What do I do with the other two units?

QUESTION:

I'd like to meet a group of freshman like me, who take their education seriously. And a chance to work with a senior professor during my first semester at USC. Any suggestions?
USC's ANSWER:

FRESHMAN SEMINARS
an inside look at intellectual life

The University has a program to help entering students understand the bigger picture of academic life at USC. We call them Freshman Seminars--small classes open only to freshmen, led by professors invited to teach subjects they find especially intriguing or provocative.

Each class allows students a glimpse of University life from the perspective of an informed member of the campus community who has planned a special seminar with incoming freshmen in mind. The program began twenty years ago with eight seminars, limited to twelve students apiece. Every term since then participants have recommended that classes be made available to more students.

This Fall, twenty-three seminars will be offered with eighteen freshmen in each. Topics were chosen to reflect student interest and the enthusiasm of the seminar leaders: from earthquakes to existentialism, Chekhov to cartoons, inspiration to emotional intelligence. Participants earn two units on a credit/no credit basis. No prior knowledge of the subject matter is expected. Freshman Seminars are scheduled once a week, usually in the afternoons, Monday through Thursday. Most meet for two hours at a time and run for ten or eleven weeks. Some include visits to laboratories, downtown studios, or professors' homes, but all meet initially on the main campus and end well before final exams.

Freshman Seminars are intended to stimulate thinking and personal relationships rather than competition for grades, so tests and assignments, though required, are not usually emphasized. The life of the mind is explored instead in a variety of ways: examining issues of identity and self-expression, bioterrorism, and the graphic novel. Freshmen will discover many opportunities to connect with teachers and fellow students--which can make a world of difference to a college career.

If you haven't quite decided what interests you, consider signing up for a Freshman Seminar. It's a great way to get an inside look at a subject that intrigues you and academic life in general.
**Mondays**

**American Government and the Political Cartoon**  
Terry Seip  
Course FSEM 100; class 34601R  
Meeting Mondays, 12:00 to 1:50 PM

**Bioterrorism and Emerging Diseases: Their Impact on Society**  
John Beierle  
Course FSEM 100; class 34602R  
Meeting Mondays, 12:00 to 1:50 PM

**The Art of the Comic Book: Graphic Narratives from Maus to Sin City**  
Bill Feuer  
Course FSEM 100; class 34605R  
Meeting Mondays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**The Israeli Experience in Literature, Film, and Theatre**  
Yaffa Weisman and Bruce Phillips  
Course FSEM 100; class 34606R  
Meeting Mondays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**Legal Reasoning and Communication**  
James Brecher  
Course FSEM 100; class 34607R  
Meeting Mondays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**What Are Earthquakes All About?**  
Henry M. Koffman  
Course FSEM 100; class 34608R  
Meeting Mondays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**Tuesdays**

**Bread and Vodka: Food and Community in Russia**  
Ayse Rorlich  
Course FSEM 100; class 34603R  
Meeting Tuesdays, 12 to 1:50 PM

**Body Size and Shape: Fitness and Nutrition**  
Robert Girandola  
Course FSEM 100; class 34610R  
Meeting Tuesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**Emotional Intelligence: Literature, the University and Your Life**  
Thomas Gustafson  
Course FSEM 100; class 34611R  
Meeting Tuesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**I Love College: Popular Culture and the University**  
Lacey Donohue  
Course FSEM 100; class 34612R  
Meeting Tuesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**Mind and Body Fitness**  
Margo Apostolos  
Course FSEM 100; class 34628R  
Meeting Tuesdays, 3 to 4:50 PM

**Puzzles, Patterns, Games and Illusions**  
Solomon Golomb  
Course FSEM 100; class 34629R  
Meeting Tuesdays, 3 to 4:50 PM

**Checking Out Chekhov**  
Sharon Carnicke  
Course FSEM 100; class 34631R  
Meeting Tuesdays, 6 to 7:50 PM

*Homecoming Float, 1925. USC Archives.*
**Wednesdays**

You Can’t Go Home Again: Now What  
Eileen Kohan  
Course FSEM 100; class 34604R  
Meeting Wednesdays, 12 to 1:50 PM

The Dig: The Archaeology of Inspiration  
Stacie Chaiken  
Course FSEM 100; class 34632R  
Meeting Wednesdays, 12 to 1:50 PM

Existentialism in Literature and Film  
Ed McCann  
Course FSEM 100; class 34616R  
Meeting Wednesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

looking for DOWNTOWN LA ART  
Robbert Flick  
Course FSEM 100; class 34618R  
Meeting Wednesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

Musical Subcultures of the Sixties  
William Biersach  
Course FSEM 100; class 34615R  
Meeting Wednesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

Seeing Ourselves As Others See Us  
Dixon Johnson  
Course FSEM 100; class 34620R  
Meeting Wednesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

Self-Expression and the Arts  
Eric Trules  
Course FSEM 100; class 34617R  
Meeting Wednesdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

**Thursdays**

Sports: Legal and Other Issues  
Justice Richard M. Mosk  
Course FSEM 100; class 34600R  
Meeting Thursdays, 11 AM to 12:50 PM

Anne Frank was not Alone:  
Holland and the Holocaust  
Anthony Anderson  
Course FSEM 100; class 34621R  
Meeting Thursdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

Lend Me Your Ears:  
The Power of Speechmaking and the Art of Speechwriting  
Holly Bridges  
Course FSEM 100; class 34624  
Meeting Thursdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

Writing to Be Read  
Richard Fliegel  
Course FSEM 100; class 34625R  
Meeting Thursdays, 2 to 3:50 PM

Earth, Air, Fire, and Water:  
How to Save Los Angeles?  
James Haw and Donald Manahan  
Course FSEM 100; class 34622R  
Meeting Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:30 PM
Some comments from earlier years:

I liked the comfortable, informal attitude as well as the small, intimate group. The seminar has made the university seem smaller and more personal.
-English major in "Five Women Writing"

It was a wonderful experience both intellectually and socially. I learned a great deal and also met some really nice people.
-International Relations major in "Eastern Europe in the 20th Century"

You get a chance to take a class on something that personally interests you. Once a week for two credits is definitely worth it.
-Uncertain major in "Sigmund Freud: An Introduction to Psychoanalysis."

You will meet people and learn without a lot of pressure.
-Political Science major in "Women in the City: Images, Novels, Films"

Our instructor was great and respectful of our opinions and needs. The course itself was very interesting and I enjoyed it.
-Biomedical and Electrical Engineering major in "Medical Controversies and the Law"

It helps you balance yourself. It's good to read a little Tolstoy when you only have chemistry and biology bouncing around in your head.
-Psychobiology major in "Tolstoy's War and Peace"

This course helped me understand what great resources the faculty are and in general the wide variety of knowledge available at this University.
-Journalism/Political Science major in "Existentialism"

You learn about yourself and the class helped me to put my career into perspective. It made me open my mind to more things I could do.
-Biology major in "Sensual Science"

The best part was when I left the building after class and just went and ate dinner and thought about what was said.
-Uncertified major in "The End of the Cold War"

Great program. Great class. I'm going to take another Freshman Seminar next semester. So will my roommates.
-Business major in "The Renaissance Ideal"
**Mondays**

**American Government and the Political Cartoon**  
Terry Seip

As the prime target of Thomas Nast's scathing political cartoons in the early 1870s, the corrupt William Marcy "Boss" Tweed of New York City fumed, "I don't care a straw for your newspaper articles, my constituents don't know how to read, but they can't help seeing them damned pictures." Tweed was merely one of the first public figures to feel the sting of political cartoonists. With the work of Nast, Joseph Keppler, and others in the late nineteenth century, the art began to evolve into its modern form—occasionally subtle and nuanced satire, more often blunt and biting editorial commentary. In our own time, the artistry, insight, and wit of Herblock, Maudin, Conrad, Oliphant, Wright, Trudeau, Peters, MacNelly, Szep, Marlette, Borgman, Handelsman, Ramirez, Locher, Toles, Horsey, Telnaes, Luckovich, Kelby, Morin, Wilkinson and a host of others in the latest generation of practitioners have made political cartooning a rich and powerful—and often controversial—medium in American public life.

This seminar will explore the emergence and evolution, the art form and technique, the subject matter and historical context, and the reception and impact of modern political cartooning. Readings will include historical surveys, the collected work of select artists, weekly and annual compilations of editorial cartoons, and the extensive internet sources. There will be weekly research assignments which contribute to a final analytical paper.

An Associate Professor in History, Terry Seip specializes in the history of the American South and the Middle Period of the nineteenth century. He is the recipient of excellence awards for teaching from Mortar Board, the USC Associates, and the American Historical Association.

**Bioterrorism and Emerging Diseases: Their Impact on Society**  
John Beierle

Ebola, dengue fever, and Rift Valley fever are right now ravaging areas of the world—and those diseases are spreading. This course will cover the key diseases emerging throughout the world today, the underlying causes behind their appearances, and the economic, political, and societal pressures which impact their emergence.

We will learn also about the microbes projected to be used in bioterrorism and the means by which they may be transmitted to large segments of the population, as well as the response of health agencies throughout the world. We will examine key websites and personal and protective devices that can be applied to everyday life.

Students will come out of this class with a basic understanding of disease transmission, the global impact of infectious diseases. The basic concepts of vaccines and vaccinations will be detailed, and what we should expect in the future.

This course will be taught by John Beierle, an Associate Professor of Microbiology in the Basic Sciences Department in the School of Dentistry at USC. Dr. Beierle has been a National Institutes of Health Career Research Development Awardee, past President of the California Tissue Culture Association, and International Lecturer on infection control. His current research interests include environmental microbiology and public health.
The Art of the Comic Book: Graphic Narratives from *Maus* to *Sin City*

Bill Feuer

Over the last four decades the comic book has grown up. Once a favorite target of critics, the graphic narrative now garners serious critical attention from literary scholars around the world. They have recognized R. Crumb, Aline Kominski Crumb, Lynda Barry, the Hernandez Brothers, Dan Clowes, Art Spiegelman, and Frank Miller as just a few of the new masters of the form.

In this seminar, we will explore the work of these artists as well as several other important contributors. We will trace the evolution of the genre and develop our ability to interpret graphic narratives. Students will write a critical reading of a comic of their choice. Working in small groups, they will also produce a collaborative graphic story.

Bill Feuer received his Ph. D. in American Literature from the University of Southern California. He has been teaching in the Writing Program for nearly two decades and has picked up a couple of teaching awards along the way. He has been reading comic books since he was thirty.

The Israeli Experience in Literature, Film, and Theatre

Yaffa Weisman and Bruce Phillips

Dozens of countries were created or gained independence in Africa and Asia following the end of the Second World War. The modern state of Israel is unique among them because of the many transitions it created: from a Diasporic people to a homeland, from a “people” to a modern nation-state, from powerlessness to self-determination, from a philosophical idea to a self-governing reality. This process of transformation has been ongoing for over a century and has been reflected and refracted in Israeli culture.

Using literature, film, and theater this course examines the defining experiences of being Israeli: the kibbutz, a unique experiment combining Marxist utopianism with a “return to the land”; military service, which starts at age 18 and continues through annual reserve duty for two decades; the shadow of the Holocaust; the absorption of immigrants from Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America; and the transformation of Hebrew from a language of sacred texts to a modern tongue able to cope with the complexities of contemporary life.

We will also examine how literature, film, and theater have addressed some of the ongoing paradoxes of Israeli society. No prior background in Hebrew, Jewish history, or Judaism is required for this course.

Dr. Bruce A. Phillips is a sociologist and demographer specializing in the study of modern Jewry. Dr. Yaffa Weisman holds a BA in Theater from Tel Aviv University and a PhD in Comparative Literature from USC.
Legal Reasoning and Communication
James Brecher

Lawyers think differently from “normal” people; their professional training enables lawyers to see all the diverse elements which compose a problem. This type of advanced thinking is not only important for success in the legal profession but essential to success in a true liberal arts education. This developed skill is the reason so many business and political leaders have legal training even if they never intend to practice law.

This course will look at the way lawyers examine issues and seek results. We will apply these techniques to a range of problems, especially as their solutions relate to undergraduate problems. We will accomplish this examination by looking at legal commentaries, stories and essays, and case law and learning the practical thinking of everyday lawyers and how they communicate with differing audiences.

James Brecher, J.D., Ph.D., is an Associate Teaching Professor in The Writing Program at the University of Southern California and has practiced law, worked in the business world, and taught English and American Studies/Humanities at the University of South Florida and currently teaches advanced composition to pre-law, arts and humanities undergraduate students, and Occupational Therapy graduate students at USC for the past eight years; he was awarded the 2004-2005 USC College Outstanding Teaching Award in Advanced Writing and the 2005-2006 John R. Hubbard award for fraternity and sorority service; he was named one of USC’s “best professors” in the September 2007 issue of Saturday Night Magazine; and won the 2008 Tommy Award in recognition of the faculty member who has fostered the development of leadership skills and attributes in students. He is faculty advisor to the Sigma Nu fraternity, and a representative to the Academic Senate, where he chairs a committee on developing the residential college at USC.

What Are Earthquakes All About?
Henry M. Koffman

The University of Southern California is one of the world's leading earthquake research centers. Virtually every region of the planet experiences earthquakes at one time or another, but California experiences especially frequent events. When earthquakes occur in major metropolitan areas, effects can be dramatic. San Francisco is still recovering from the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, and Los Angeles will be responding to the effects of the January 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake for years to come.

Our class will trace the history of earthquakes, examine the mechanics of geological faults, and try to understand the emergency and public safety measures taken to cope with earthquakes both before and after the fact. We study the nature of the forces released, how these forces impact the environment, how these forces are measured, and how structural and foundation designs are intended to respond to earthquake forces. We will summarize the current state of earthquake research. The class will take field trips to local facilities and affected sites.

Henry M. Koffman, P.E., is the Director of the Construction Engineering and Management Program in the Viterbi School of Engineering's Civil Engineering Department. He is a real estate land developer, licensed building contractor, and a registered Professional Engineer in the State of California.
**Tuesdays**

**Bread and Vodka:**
**Food and Community in Russia**
Ayse Rorlich

Food has long played a prominent part in the construction of national identity; what people eat is universally a potent ingredient of national stereotyping. This course aims to provide an introduction to the cultural history of food and diet in Russia. Because culture is learned, shared, and transmitted, this course will focus on the study of the cultural implications of food and diet in Russia, while investigating the evolution as well as transmission of food culture.

We will identify the socio-economic conditions which made possible the emergence of certain staple foods and then move on to discuss the cultural elaboration that took place. For instance, bearing in mind that two of the most important influences on what and how people eat are religion and class, we will attempt to offer explanations for the emergence and changes in food tastes, culinary practices and "fashions." Hence, we will look at the importance of social competition, new raw materials, the relationship between town and country, state and society, as we attempt to identify the forces of differentiation which have shaped the food culture marked so uniquely by the importance of Bread and Vodka.

Azade-Ayse Rorlich is an Associate Professor of Russian History at USC. She received the Social Sciences Division Distinguished Teaching Award in 1983 and the General Education Teaching Award in 2001. She has conducted archival and library research in many cities of the former Soviet Union, has traveled extensively through the Russian republic and Central Asia, and specializes in the study of the Muslims of the Russian empire, the Soviet Union and its successor states. Her research focuses on the study of identity issues with a special emphasis on the place of religion and ethnicity in identity construction.

**Body Size and Shape:**
**Fitness and Nutrition**
Robert Girandola

This class will look into the continuing national problem of weight control. Obesity is considered the second most prevalent disease, which is controllable. Despite this, it has reached epidemic proportions in the USA as well as many other industrialized nations. We will discuss the complexities of caloric balance and the appropriate methods for weight loss and gain. Specific emphasis will be placed on young adults, such as college students who do not have the luxury of eating at home. Appropriate dietary patterns for weight control as well as health will be analyzed. Finally, appropriate exercise programs for maintaining body weight and shape will be discussed.

Students who enroll in this class should be prepared to become actively involved in class discussions. Many of the myths and fallacies of weight control and nutrition will be revealed, but keep an open mind!! Students should have access to the internet in order to download some of the many materials that are advertised for weight control and obesity.

Robert Girandola received his undergraduate degree in physical education from Hunter College (New York) and his Ed.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in Exercise Physiology in 1970. He has been at USC since 1973. He teaches classes in Nutrition and Weight Control, Exercise Prescription, and Principles of Human Performance. His research has centered on Obesity and Weight Control, Ergogenic Aids and Human Performance, Environmental Effects on Human Performance.
Emotional Intelligence: the University, Literature and Your Life
Thomas Gustafson

The university holds itself as a place devoted to the study and practice of critical thinking, and college curricula always give a pre-eminent place to courses on the history of Western (and non-Western) thought. But where in our education do we study and develop emotional intelligence? Can emotional intelligence even be taught? What if the university offered a course where we had the chance to study not just the head but the heart, not critical thinking but emotional intelligence, and where love of knowledge was combined with knowledge about love?

This Freshman Seminar will be such a course: It will draw upon literature ranging from the writings of Epicurus and Montaigne to stories by James Baldwin and the film “Groundhog Day” (and upon recent research in the sciences and psychology) to study such emotions as love, jealousy, anger, fear, hate, compassion, joy and happiness. At the heart of the course will be an attempt to study how and where we learn forms of intelligence not measured by any SAT test but significant for your life, including what one author calls such “essential human competencies” as “self-awareness, self-control, and empathy, and the arts of listening, resolving conflict, and cooperation.”

Inside the classroom, Thomas Gustafson teaches courses in American literature and American Studies. Outside the classroom, he serves as Faculty Master of Birnkrant Residential College.

I Love College: Popular Culture and the University
Lacey Donohue

A glance over the bestseller lists in the past five years reveals a lot about the current generation of college students; not only are you labeled Generation Me and Generation Debt, you are also Smashed, Pledged, Unhooked, Hooking Up, Consumed, and Unprotected. Opinion pieces in The New York Times have attributed the lack of college student involvement in political and social causes to time spent on Facebook (or time spent texting, or time spent hugging). And Hollywood and Asher Roth would like us to believe that college is one big party. But in what ways do our individual experiences differ from (or confirm) these arguments - has college really shifted from a space of higher learning to a site of conspicuous consumption and online networking? Is it, as some say, the "new high school"? And really, why are you even going to college in the first place? What is it all for?

In this seminar, we'll investigate many aspects of college life in America, such as its development and current status, as well as issues of technology, accessibility, race, class, and gender. We will explore popular opinions in films, music, history books, magazines, newspapers, blogs, and physical artifacts on the USC campus itself. Our job in this seminar is to look at how these arguments about college are made and interrogate the rhetoric in them and surrounding them. We'll keep observation journals, write short reflection papers, and, collectively, define what it means to be a college student at USC in 2009.

Lacey Donohue is a lecturer in The Writing Program. She received her PhD in English from The University of Texas where she won several teaching awards while teaching in the Department of Rhetoric and Writing. Her true loves are teaching, teaching Rhetoric and Composition, teaching Popular Culture, and watching Gossip Girl. She loves doing all of these things at USC.
**Mind and Body Fitness**
Margo Apostolos

The human spirit and body in symmetry will be the theme of this Freshman Seminar. The union of mind and body into a dual component to foster the duality of human thought and action is the goal of this course. Reading assignments will accompany simple exercises to enhance the mind and body to aid in creative development and stress reduction.

“Mind and Body Fitness” is designed to promote the union of the physical and mental capabilities with both readings and the practice of simple movement sequences. The focus of the work is to promote a relaxed and natural state for creative thinking. Various exercises will include imagery, breath control, and relaxed stretching to coincide with appropriate reading assignments.

Margo K. Apostolos is an Associate Professor and Director of Dance in the School of Theatre at USC. She earned her Ph.D. from Stanford University and holds a M.A. in Dance from Northwestern University. Her research includes the exploration of an aesthetic dimension to robotics movement and the use of robots by the severely disabled in rehabilitative settings.

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**Puzzles, Patterns, Games and Illusions**
Solomon Golomb

This Freshman Seminar will deal with intuitive and recreational aspects of geometry, without the complex calculations or intricate proving of theorems from axioms so typical of mathematics courses. The seminar is intended for students interested in shapes, designs, and patterns, and no background in mathematics, science, or engineering is assumed or required. Students who enroll will be expected to attend regularly, and participate in course activities.

Solomon W. Golomb spent six and a half years at the Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he conducted and supervised research in Space Communications, before joining the USC faculty full-time in Spring 1963. He is a professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics, and holds the title of Distinguished University Professor. He is an elected member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. At USC he served as President of the Faculty Senate and as Vice Provost for Research. In addition to some 200 technical journal articles on mathematics, engineering, and related topics, one of his four books currently in print is *Polyominoes*, subtitled, *Puzzles, Patterns, Problems, and Packings*. He has had a lifelong interest in games and puzzles, and has written regular puzzle columns for a number of newspapers and magazines.
Checking Out Chekhov
Sharon Carnicke

Why is the Russian writer Anton Chekhov one of the two most produced playwrights in the world, when he wrote only a handful of plays and short comedies? Why have the world’s greatest actors vied to appear in them? And why have famous American playwrights so admired Chekhov, that they translated him even though they could speak no Russian? The answers to such questions can be found only in Chekhov’s writings, which tap universal themes (like family, love, and economic class). Chekhov was born into a serf family, whose members were owned like slaves by wealthy aristocrats. His grandfather bought their freedom. Poverty-stricken as a child, Chekhov put himself through school by writing short stories for popular magazines. He studied medicine and became a doctor who could diagnose the ills of both body and spirit. When he began writing plays, he used his diagnostic skills to create memorable characters whose simple stories embody profound human experiences.

In this seminar, the group will check out Chekhov by reading select plays and rehearsing key scenes. Students who love theatre, literature, and the study of culture are welcome to join.

Sharon Marie Carnicke is a Professor of Theatre and Slavic Languages and Literatures, internationally known for her research on acting for both stage and film. Her books include Stanislavsky in Focus: An Acting Master for the 21st Century, Reframing Screen Performance, and The Theatrical Instinct. Her translations of Chekhov’s plays have been performed nationally; she won a Kennedy Center Award for Achievement for The Seagull. Her translations are published as Chekhov: Four Plays and Three Jokes (Hackett Publishing, 2009).
You Can't Go Home Again. Now What?  
Eileen Kohan

From Thomas Wolfe to Oprah, people have been trying to answer the question: what should I do with my life? Through examining the lives and writings of the famous and not so famous, students will learn how people make career choices. To be successful in college and in life, you must live your story and learn from the stories of others. This seminar will help you write the first chapter in your story. Drawing from the disciplines of art, literature, music, film, public affairs, journalism, and sports, you will learn how people have defined their lives in their profession. In class discussion you will build linkages from these experiences to your own. At the end of the seminar you will have an appreciation for the complexity of career choice as well as a growing level of confidence in your own career decision.

Readings will include selections from a variety of authors including Thomas Wolfe, Studs Terkel, David Halberstam, Anna Quindlen, George Plimpton, Po Bronson, David Brooks, David Whyte, Michael Lewis and Thomas Friedman.

Eileen Kohan is the Executive Director of the USC Career Planning and Placement Center. Her career has included both corporate and academic experiences, and she has frequently taught MDA 250, Internship for the Liberal Arts. She is an avid reader and is currently writing a book based on her research with student athletes.

The Dig: The Archaeology of Inspiration  
Stacie Chaiken

Playwright-performer Stacie Chaiken of the School of Theatre was invited to visit Israel and the Middle East to “write her next play.” She became fascinated with archaeology, went on some digs, sifted through tons of dirt, and found inspiration for a play, The Dig, a performance of which will be the center of a Visions & Voices event taking place in the fall.

Whether you’re a scientist, a business person, an artist, or utterly undeclared, the world is full of inspiration from which we cook things up: plays, movies, meals, sonnets, songs, models for a whole new way of doing commerce.

Join Professor Chaiken for a series of lectures by passionate experts in fields including archaeology, scientific ethics, Biblical artifacts, and the history and politics of the Middle East. You’ll visit some mummies, maybe, taste some exotic treats, and go on field trips to places you’ve likely never been, looking for inspiration to make something, anything. And whatever we make, we’ll show in an on-campus exhibit late in the fall.

Actor-writer Stacie Chaiken is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the USC School of Theatre, where she teaches Acting and Solo Performance. She has performed on and off-Broadway, on television and film, in the US and abroad, and is the writer-performer of the acclaimed solo play Looking for Louie. Chaiken has served as a visiting Fulbright Senior Specialist Scholar on the faculty of the Theatre Department of Tel Aviv University, and has lectured at Bar Ilan and New York Universities.
looking for DOWNTOWN LA ART
Robbert Flick

This seminar will seek out some aspects of the rich visual history of Los Angeles, with particular emphasis on works of art within a bus-ride of the USC campus. We will be visiting specific downtown sites such as the Downtown Library, Union Station and the MTA building, as well as Galleries in the Downtown Art District, China Town and Korea Town. We will be making extensive use off the Dash and Subway line(s). You are expected to do some preparatory research and readings, walk a lot, keep a journal, and to share your explorations and perceptions of the city with one another.

Robbert Flick has been teaching Photography within a Fine Arts context at the USC Roski School of Fine Arts for a long time. The visual experience of Los Angeles is his subject. Examples of his work may be found at Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, http://www.rosegallery.net/ and Robert Mann Gallery, New York, http://www.robertmann.com/

Musical Subcultures of the Sixties
William Biersach

During the sixties, due to circumstances within the music industry peculiar to the time, various popular musical styles developed which expressed the social, cultural, religious, political and sexual changes in our society. While the music of this period survives today and enjoys considerable popularity, much of the meaning behind it has been lost because the context has largely been forgotten.

In this seminar, students will pair off to do research projects involving various aspects of the sixties and how they found musical expression. Together we will sift through the lyrics, musical styles, facts, tall tales, and contrived myths surrounding various influential people, events, and movements. In so doing we will try to arrive at an understanding of what was really going on in the music business, the drug scene, the pop culture, political and social trends, and the minds of the youth during those turbulent years.

William L. Biersach has been teaching electro-acoustic media and recording technology in the Thornton School of Music since 1975, and has been conducting Freshman Seminars for over twenty years. In 1997 he received the USC Gamma Sigma Alpha Professor of the Year Award. As a studio musician and synthesizer programmer he composed the score for the Japanese cartoon series, Dan Cougar, and the musical theme for the USC Campaign for Leadership into the 21st Century. In 1995 he produced his first solo album, Filaxis Reconsidered: Music for Chapman Stick and Extensively-Prepared Digital Gadgets Nineteen Inches Wide, and among other projects since then, The Great Apple River Down Stream Inner Tube Float in 2000. His courses on the Beatles and Classic Rock have attracted the attention of Rolling Stone Magazine, CNN and Prime Time Live.
Existentialism in Literature and Film
Edwin McCann

Existentialism is an extremely influential movement of in philosophical and religious thought in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century philosophy, associated with figures such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Sartre. Because it deals with themes of broad concern—modernism and specifically 'the death of God,' the meaning (or meaninglessness) of life, alienation, individuality, radical freedom, and morality, it found expression in a number of important works of literature and film (as well as other arts) in the period. We’ll read fiction by Tolstoy, Kafka, Camus, Dostoevsky and Beckett, together with a brief essay by Sartre on existentialism and some late writings of Nietzsche’s. Among the films we’ll view are Gary Walkow’s Notes from Underground, Carol Reed’s The Third Man, Joel and Ethan Coen’s No Country for Old Men, Michael Curtiz’s Casablanca, and one or two others. The seminar meetings will combine the close study of these texts with free-ranging discussion.

For each seminar meeting, we’ll have three students take responsibility for kicking off discussion. That means they will provide very brief summaries of the reading for that day, and frame a question or two which will be a basis for discussion. Each student in the seminar will thus have responsibility for two of the sessions. At the end of the class each student will submit a four to five page paper reflecting on the broad themes of the course and tying them into one or more of the readings and films.

Edwin McCann is Professor of Philosophy and English, and Faculty Master of North Residential College. His research interests include the history of seventeenth and eighteenth century philosophy and science, the philosophy of mind and action, and the philosophy of Wittgenstein. He has been on the faculty of USC for 26 years, and previously taught at Harvard and MIT.

Self-Expression and the Arts
Eric Trules

Self-expression is the taking of an internal impulse—a personal vision—and through self-awareness putting it into external form. Writing, acting, painting, dancing, sculpting, filmmaking, singing—these are the wings upon which artists have flown from time immemorial. Self-expression and creativity are universal functions of the human experience. We are all creative, and we all have the need to express ourselves.

"Self-Expression and the Arts" will be an opportunity to start this process. We will look at the wide range of self-expression in the performing, literary, and visual arts by talking in the classroom, and by attending local events, shows, and exhibitions in Los Angeles, as time permits. The seminar will attempt to open up the doors of perception in appreciating the arts—and simultaneously, to ask the student to have first-hand experience with his or her own creativity and self-expression. There will be brief weekly writing assignments on the process of seeing and experiencing art—as well as on the process of expressing oneself—in whatever ways each student finds the courage to discover.

Eric Trules is full time Assistant Professor of Practice at USC’s School of Theater and has been an artist-educator for almost 40 years. He was a modern dancer in Chicago, founder and director of NYC’s resident clown troupe, and he has been a writer-director, poet, screenwriter, documentary filmmaker, arts festival producer, and solo performance artist in Los Angeles for the last 25 years. He is a USC Phi Kappa Phi "Faculty Recognition Award" winner, an Allen Ginsberg Poetry award winner, and is currently a Fulbright Senior Specialist in American Studies (2008-13). For more see:

Seeing Ourselves As Others See Us
Dixon Johnson

In this age of steadily increasing globalization, responsible citizenship requires that the American people have a better understanding of how we are perceived by the rest of the world. It is only by having this understanding - not necessarily agreement - that we can interact with foreign people and foreign countries from a shared starting point. After reading both historical and contemporary writers' opinions of America and its society, we will discuss how views and attitudes have changed over time and the forces and events leading to these changes. The course will center around discussion of a short book, assigned short historical and contemporary articles exploring how America and its society are presented and perceived around the world. Additionally USC international students will be invited to attend selected classes and share their views held before arrival and acquired since coming to this country from abroad. Evaluation will be based doing the assigned readings and the quality of participation in class discussions.

Dr. Dixon C. Johnson served as Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director of the Office of International Services for close to 25 years. He has been involved in international educational exchange for more than forty years on four different university campuses. In addition to his work on American campuses, he has traveled and conducted research in more than 40 countries. His overseas experiences have included consulting on American higher education, and lecturing on American society in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.
**Thursdays**

**Sports: Legal and Other Issues**  
Justice Richard M. Mosk

The general topics of this seminar include a brief history of sports, legal principles, legal and other issues related to sports, the effect of sports on society, and ethical issues arising out of sports. The seminar is not just for those interested in pursuing a law career.

The seminar materials consist of various works, historic cases, and movie clips that depict some of the subjects. The seminar is interactive, with discussions about the issues. Students are encouraged to participate in the discussions. Class attendance and familiarity with the reading material are required.

Justice Richard M. Mosk of the California Court of Appeal is a graduate of Stanford and Harvard Law School. He earned three athletic letters, served on the Stanford Athletic Board, and represented professional sports teams and athletes. He was on the staff of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President Kennedy and on the Christopher Commission that investigated the L.A. Police Department. He was a judge on the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal. He headed the body that gives parental ratings to motion pictures, and argued cases before the U.S. and California Supreme Courts.

**Anne Frank Was Not Alone: Holland and the Holocaust**  
Anthony Anderson

In German occupied western Europe nowhere did the Nazis pursue their genocidal policies against the Jews with more zeal and devastating results than in the Netherlands. By the end of World War II more than 75 percent of the Jews living in Holland had perished in the Holocaust. This, in a nation which has been and is one of the world’s most tolerant and least anti-Semitic societies.

This course will explore this enormous tragedy which befell Dutch Jewry. Particular emphasis will be given to examining the agonizing ethical choices which confronted the Dutch, both Jewish and Gentile, during the German occupation. The class will follow a lecture/discussion format, with readings, film clips, and guest speakers. There will be also involvement with the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation at USC.

Note: students are advised that during the course of this class they will be subjected to images of the Holocaust, which will be at times graphic and may be distinctly unsettling.

Anthony Anderson is an Arts and Humanities and Social Studies Librarian. He has previously taught two other Freshman Seminars: “Can’t We All Just Get Along?” Ethnic Conflicts in the World Today and the Media” and “He Said, She Said, They Said: Making Sense of the Opinion Makers and Making Up Your Own Mind.”
Lend Me Your Ears: The Power of Speechmaking and the Art of Speechwriting
Holly Bridges

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Romans, countrymen, my fellow Americans, citizens of the world: Speakers have the power to stir, catalyze, persuade, comfort, explain, and galvanize. From ancient Athens to YouTube, from rallies to radio, from tributes to diatribes – speeches continue to be one of our species’ most effective means of communication.

In this seminar we will read, listen to, and watch some of the most influential and artful speeches, from Cicero to Bono. We will dissect them to discover why they work and how they work, as well as why some are colossal flops. We will try our hand at writing and delivering our own speeches, discovering what experts have to say about body language, appearance, vocal variety, stage fright, and effective organization of words and thoughts. We'll also look at visual aids such as PowerPoint and determine what works and what doesn't.

Having started her career as a newspaper reporter, Holly Bridges has been a speechwriter for twelve years. She now leads a department at USC dedicated to executive communications. The author of three books on spirituality topics, and a published poet, she has been responsible for writing or editing more than a thousand speeches and has spent some time on the local speaking circuit herself.

Writing to Be Read
Richard Fliegel

"No one but a blockhead ever wrote except for money," said Samuel Johnson, but that's not the end of the story. There is after all a reader or an audience, expecting something. This is a seminar for writers or for people who are trying to be. We will focus on the question, "How does it change what I write when I'm determined to affect my readers?" Writing to express yourself accurately is hard, but it's like falling off a log compared to writing things that succeed in stirring other people's emotions.

Students will be expected to read other writers' work in several genres and to share with the class what they themselves have written, sometimes on the spot. We promise not to laugh unless it's funny -- and if that isn't scary, the devil knows what is.

Richard Fliegel is the Director of the Freshman Seminar program and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs in USC College. He has published seven detective novels and tried his hand at some other forms, from poetry to episodic television.
Earth, Air, Fire, and Water:
How to Save Los Angeles
James Haw and Donal Manahan

The Nobel-prize-winning Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu, was recently quoted as saying that climate change imperils the future of California's water, agriculture, and the sustainability of our cities. Even if this prediction is only partially correct, this certainly is one of the most important problems facing scientists, policy makers, physicians, lawyers, business people, and engineers in California today, and for decades to come. What are possible solutions to these problems? Why do these issues come into focus so strongly in Los Angeles' coastal environment?

In this Freshman Seminar, Professors Haw and Manahan will explain these issues and focus on possible solutions that are likely to provide major career opportunities in the future. The class will meet three times on campus but will also include a weekend experience at the USC campus on Catalina Island, scheduled to avoid conflict with other USC activities.

James Haw is Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Environmental Studies Program at USC. He is an expert in energy and the analysis of environmental pollution.

Donal Manahan is Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. He brings a global perspective to this seminar through his research in Antarctica, and the analysis of the impact of climate change on life on earth.