Exploring the Liberal Arts L&S 1W

2 Semester Credits

Course Purpose and Description

Letters and Science 1W is a course for entering students, particularly those who are excited to be here 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 hybrid version of the course, in which you will watch the lectures online and attend in-person discussion sections.

Purpose of the Discussion Sections

The discussion section will help you to explore the five disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas in Letters & Science and to understand the rewards and challenges of pursuing a liberal arts education. The discussion section is also an opportunity to build a sense of intellectual community. We will spend our time doing exercises to keep you engaged with the material, discussing the readings and the lectures, and sharing the results of the homework exercises. The discussion section will provide you with a venue to think about what your education means to you and how to make the most of your years at Cal.

Prerequisites

None.

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

Required Materials

- This course is self-contained. Required readings and videos are made accessible in the course.
• However, you do need to bring a hard copy of each reading to discussion section on the day it is to be discussed. You can either print them from bCourses or buy a reader at Copy Central, at 2576 Bancroft Way (510-848-8649).

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.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties please alert one of the GSIs immediately. However, understand that neither the GSIs nor the professor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email tech support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately.

In your course, click on the "Help" button on the bottom left of the global navigation menu. 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.”

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. Post responses to the readings to the online discussion forum.
3. Watch and listen to the lecture presentations
4. Read web-based announcements and postings assigned during the course
5. Complete written assignments
6. Attend in-person discussion sections.

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 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. You will be asked to make one thoughtful comment on the videos in an online forum by Wednesday night, so that you come to your in-person discussion sections ready to have a productive discussion.

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. You will be asked to make one thoughtful comment on each reading in an online forum by Wednesday night, so that you come to your in-person discussion sections ready to have a productive discussion.

In-person discussions of the lectures and readings: Your in-person discussion sections will be where you find (one of we hope many sites of) intellectual community at Cal. There you will discuss the readings, videos, assignments, and more.

Essay Assignments: There will be one very short (1-page), two short (2- to 3-page) and one 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 essays 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) and for actively engaging in the discussion section.

Communication and Office Hours

Course Instructor

Alix Schwartz (office hours: 10:00 Tuesdays, 257 Evans)
Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)

Discussion Sections

Section 101: Friday 10:00-11:00: Christine Mullarkey
Section 102: Friday 11:00-12:00: Zachary Chestnut
Section 103: Friday 2:00-3:00: Tony Soyka
Section 104: Friday 12:00-1:00: Laura Spautz
Section 107: Thursday 2:00-3:00: Emma Strong
Section 108: Thursday 3:00-4:00: Jon Phillips

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

There are two 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 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. Note that it is impossible to pass this class unless you
complete and submit all four required essays. It is also impossible to pass this class if you are absent from your discussion section more than three times.

Breakdown of Scoring Your Work:

Discussion forum participation:

- Discussions of readings: up to 3 points for each reading, for a total maximum of 42 points.
- Discussions of videos: up to 3 points for each week's videos, for a total maximum of 39 points.

Essays:

- On the Same Page essay: up to 14 points
- Arts essay: up to 30 points
- Interacting with the Faculty (Office Hour) essay: up to 25 points
- Self-reflection essay: up to 40 points

Section Participation:

You can earn up to 10 participation points. These are earned, for instance, by engaging in the class discussion during your discussion section, attending the library tour, doing in-class exercises, etc.

Summary of Point System:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Maximum Points Per</th>
<th>Total Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading forum responses</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video forum responses</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section participation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Same Page essay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts essay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office-hour essay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-reflection essay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total points required to pass:

There are 200 points possible. Students must earn at least 70%, or 140 points, meet the attendance requirement, and complete all four essays in order to pass the course.

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

It is important to note that not all components are graded online and included in the online course grade book. (For instance, you can earn up to 10 points for participation in your section.) If you are still reading this, please send me a picture of your favorite fruit, to alix@berkeley.edu. 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.

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 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 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 essay 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). 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.

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 from the Files section 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".

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.

Canvas Tech Support and UC Berkeley Extension Student Services

Canvas Tech Support

The learning management system (LMS) used in this course is Canvas, which has convenient mobile apps for phones and tablets. Part of the orientation materials in your course will help you make sure that your computer is at par with Canvas specifications. Any time you are in Canvas you can report problems, get support, and search Canvas user guides from the Help link on the top menu bar. Other options:

- Canvas Support 24/7 Hotline: 855-308-2758
- Email: support@instructure.com