

THE

BERKELEY
INSTITUTE

Fall 2013 Programs

UNDERGRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

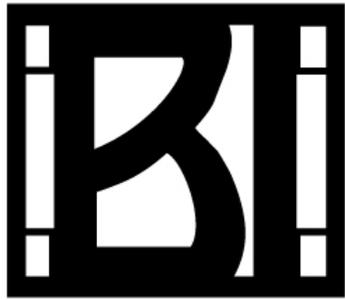
The Undergraduate Colloquium is an intensive monthly discussion of intellectual principles and the intellectual life. These discussions will help students develop a kit of tools to use in approaching their courses, their reading and interests, the ideas they like and the ideas they don't. Discussion topics will build on the interests and questions that students bring to the Colloquium: questions about the use of intellectual inquiry, about the coherence and purpose of their education--nearly anything related to the life of the mind.

Facilitator: Steven Justice

WRITING WORKSHOP

The workshop will provide a forum for graduate and advanced undergraduate students, visiting scholars, and professors to discuss portions of their written work in progress. Such groups are most generative when participants become familiar with each other's disciplinary methods, project aims, and writing styles and when the writing submitted to the workshop is still in draft form. Hence we ask members to commit for at least one semester and we encourage everyone to submit early versions of their chapter/essay/article drafts.

Facilitator: Charity Ketz



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THE SPIRIT OF THE EARLY CHURCH

This half-semester seminar offers a survey of the works of the apostles and theologians on the formation of the early Christian community and the principles by which it expressed its unity and mission. Through careful examination of select readings from the New Testament and various early Christian thinkers, it aims to discover the meaning of the term “church” and how the church defined itself through its sacramental practices.

Facilitators: Monica Mikhail & Bola Malek

THOMAS KUHN READING GROUP

How Science Happens, Who Scientists Are

This seminar is an introduction to the philosophy of science. As a group, we’ll read Thomas Kuhn’s seminal text *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, meeting weekly to discuss the implications of Kuhn’s theory on the practice and evolution of scientific knowledge. The readings and discussions will be supplemented with lectures by scientists from a diverse selection of fields. Guest speakers will offer a look into the historical and on-going revolutions within their respective disciplines, which will (tentatively) include geology, cosmology, genetics and neuroscience. Together, we’ll examine the stages in the “life” of scientific ideas alongside a brief history of the many scientists who shaped them.

Facilitators: Karl van Bibber & Nuri Kim

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