

## **Civic Engagement Scholars Program – UC Santa Barbara**

### **Partial Project Report**

Co-leads for the project:

Katya Armistead -- a student-focused administrator with 30 years of experience -- currently serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Life (AVC/DOS) at UC Santa Barbara.

Maeve Devoy -- Associate Director of the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UC Santa Barbara.

Viviana Marsano -- Director of Civic and Community Engagement. She focuses on the development of students as involved and empathetic citizens as they participate in community initiatives at UCSB and adjacent communities.

In the Fall quarter, the Civic Engagement Scholars Program presented its first quarter of a three-quarter class with 27 students completing the course requirements. This proposal represents a joint effort by four entities at UC Santa Barbara: the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life; the Dean of Students Office; Civic and Community Engagement, and the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, SEAL (for description of these programs, see attachment 1). The Civic Engagement Scholars Program fosters ideals of active citizenship among our undergraduate students, engaging the next generation of leaders on issues that are of import to our campus and to the surrounding communities of Isla Vista, Goleta, and Santa Barbara. We created collaborations with leaders and organizations in those communities to provide students with opportunities to develop their leadership and organizing skills and to affect measurable, positive change.

We believe that students need a firm foundation in the principles of engaged citizenship in order to become effective community leaders. To that end, this Fall we grounded the student cohort in issues related to civic engagement, including the history and foundational principles of free speech in the United States. We used *Free Speech on Campus* (Chemerinsky and Gillman, 2017), provided to the students for free and as the primary text for a 4-unit course the Fall Quarter. Students learned about the principles of active citizenship with an emphasis on free speech and civil discourse. The class also featured guest speakers who led students in conversation on related topics. Guest speakers included nationally and locally recognized experts and leaders including Michelle Deutchman, Executive Director, UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement; Erwin Chemerinsky (UC Berkeley); Tania Israel (UC Santa Barbara), author of *Beyond Your Bubble; How to Connect Across the Political Divide* (also included in the course readings); Gloria Soto, councilmember in Santa Maria; Joan Hartmann and Das Williams, Santa Barbara County supervisors; founders and board of directors of the Isla Vista Community Services District; and experts on student activism, sustained dialogue, voluntarism, mental health for youth, sexual assault, and basic needs (for a complete list of topics and speakers, see the syllabus in attachment 2).

At the end of Fall 2021, students conceived and started designing individual and group projects on issues of their interest. In the Winter and Spring of 2022, students will finish the coordination and design of these initiatives and implement them on campus and in the community, receiving mentorship from staff, faculty, and local community agencies who will benefit from the projects

already mentioned above.

Some of these projects include the first annual graduation ceremony, a documentary, and an awareness week for the Underground Scholars Program (formerly incarcerated youth); development of a first response program for the unsheltered in Isla Vista; mental health services for Latinx families in Isla Vista; the creation of content for a newsletter and social media as well as student recruitment for the Inaugural Dean's Disaster Resilience Fellows program, among others (for a full listing, see attachment 3). We further envision that the first cohort of students in the Civic Engagement Scholars Program will serve as peer mentors to the succeeding cohort in 2022-2023.

The Civic Engagement Scholars Program, in its short life, has already started "breaking barriers" and "fostering community" in keeping with the themes promoted by the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement this year. First, by allowing UC Santa Barbara students to be active participants in community projects and initiatives, we are starting to break down the artificial barrier that exists between the campus and the community and to increase trust and collaboration between them. Second, research has demonstrated that a number of reasons prevent students from becoming active participants in the civic life of their communities. The program addresses several of those barriers, including a common lack of understanding of pressing socio-political issues; under-developed skills of reasoning and persuasion; a dearth of positive role models; and the increasingly pervasive and corrosive incivility that characterize public life. Third, the program has empowered students to reach out to our local community to work together to solve the most pressing social issues of our time. Students have learned how to engage in civil dialogue about often sensitive or contentious topics and how to thoughtfully and constructively work with others from various backgrounds and of divergent viewpoints. We have emphasized this quarter the importance of working through differences across political and social divides and how to be good citizens while building consensus and cooperation in our communities.

Just in one quarter, the Civic Engagement Scholars Program has exceeded our original expectations in terms of the variety and depth of issues addressed by our amazing speakers and the students' engagement with them. Students actively participated in the discussions, bringing up pressing needs of different communities and suggesting solutions they could work on as engaged citizens. Funding from the VOICE Initiative winter cycle will help us solidify the group projects by assisting with the payment of possible expenses, including but not limited to, speakers' fees, room rentals, literature production and distribution, and other supplies. Eligibility criteria and a formal funding application process will be provided for requesting funds.

### **Individuals, departments or organizations collaborating on student projects**

This is a partial list.

California Rural Legal Assistance, Language Access Unit, Alena Uliasz  
City of Goleta  
Goleta Unified School District, Jessica Ambroz, social worker  
Hedges House of Hope (Houseless Shelter), Isla Vista

Isla Vista Community Center  
Isla Vista Community Services District  
St. George Youth Center  
Just Communities Central Coast  
Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project  
Santa Barbara County, Housing Program, Lucille Voss  
University of California, Santa Barbara, Inaugural Dean's Disaster Relief Fellow Program  
University of California, Santa Barbara, Student Health and Wellness, Michael Takahara,  
University of California, Santa Barbara (several departments and programs)  
YouthWell, mental health services for youth and families  
Wellness, Mental Health and Medical Supports, Santa Barbara City College  
Westmont College, Counseling and Psychological Services, Eric Nelson, Director of

## **Attachment 1**

### **Description of University of California, Santa Barbara Programs Involved**

The Capps Center is dedicated to the discussion and study of issues related to ethical civic life, with an emphasis on the importance of an informed and engaged citizenry. The Center is increasingly involving students in our work, and the Civic Engagement Scholars Program will provide an important avenue for furthering students' involvement in the civic life of both the campus and our local communities.

The Dean of Students Office is concerned with the holistic development and the complete student experience, in and out of the classroom. The office is responsive to both individual and community-wide student needs and often works to address or resolve student concerns that arise out unique circumstances (whether on or off campus) that impact a student's academic progress. In addition to providing leadership to the Student Life departments, the Dean of Students Office spearheads and supports a number of initiatives and provides special services to assist students facing challenges. In addition, the Dean of Students Office coordinates the Demonstration Response Team, which supports student activists and provides programming around freedom of expression.

Under the Dean of Student Office (DOS), Civic and Community Engagement develops initiatives that foster an environment of inquiry, civil debate, democratic participation, and access to resources such as higher education. These projects are initiated by UCSB students and include voter registration, GOTV, and workshops for first-generation, low-income high school students to pursue post-secondary education. In addition, this program coordinates a high impact environmental project in Isla Vista, the community adjacent to UCSB, with residents that include university students, low income Latinx families, seniors, and long-term community members.

Student Engagement and Leadership (SEAL) supports all registered campus organizations, including fraternities and sororities. SEAL is committed to leadership development through workshops and trainings that facilitate conflict management, team-building, and risk management.

## Attachment 2



### Seminar in Civic Engagement and Deliberative Democracy (RS 188A)

Fall 2021

Mondays, 3-5:50pm

Girvetz 3115

Instructors: Drs. Katya Armistead, Maeve Devoy, Viviana Marsano

#### Course Description

Welcome to RS 188A! We are delighted that you have chosen to participate in this course and program, deepening your knowledge of civic engagement and also actively working to better your community. The first unit of this course, 188A (Fall Quarter), will lay the foundations for your understanding of the tenets of civic engagement and deliberative democracy, as well as the history of campus-community cooperation through active student voluntarism. We are fortunate to have many distinguished speakers joining us throughout the quarter; they will share with us their expertise and inspire you to apply your skills and energy to bettering your community through the specific project that you choose. Additionally, we will engage in discussions about key concepts related to civic engagement and we will build leadership skills.

Each week you will be expected to complete a Self-Reflection survey. The link is located after each week's assignments.

**NB: You must enroll in RS 188A (Fall Quarter), RS 188B (Winter Quarter), and RS 188C (Spring Quarter) in order to receive full course credit.**

#### Course Schedule

##### **Monday, September 27: Student Activism**

- 1) Introduction to CESP and the course, including goals, foundational concepts, and history (Katya Armistead, Maeve Devoy)
- 2) Guest speaker: Professor Richard Flacks (Department of Sociology, Emeritus).

##### Readings:

<https://www.blumcenter.ucsb.edu/initiatives/podcasts>

<https://livinghistory.as.ucsb.edu>

<https://spotlight.library.ucsb.edu/starlight/isla-vista-building-a-community#>

The National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement. 2012. *A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy's Future*. Washington, DC: Association of American Colleges and Universities. Chapters I and III.

### **Monday, October 4, Free Speech on Campus**

- 1) Guest speaker: Ms. Michelle Deutchman, Executive Director of the University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. Topics: the Constitutional principles of free speech; hate speech.
- 2) Discussion of history of free speech on the American campus (Maeve Devoy)

#### Readings:

Chemerinsky and Gillman, *Free Speech on Campus*, chapter 2 (*Why is Free Speech Important?*) and chapter 3 (*Nullius in Verba*)

### **Monday, October 11: Free Speech, cont'd., and Sustained Dialogue**

- 1) Mental health student announcement as students 2:55-3:00
- 2) Guest speaker: Ms. Marlenee Blas Pedral (incoming UC Student Regent) 3:00-3:25
- 3) Guest speaker: Professor Erwin Chemerinsky (UC Berkeley School of Law).3:30-4:30
- 4) Guest speakers: Ms. Allie O'Brien and Emily Hartigan, UC Davis on sustained dialogue. 4:45-5:40
- 5) Associated Student 5:40-5:50

\*\*Experiential activity assignment due.

#### Readings:

Chemerinsky and Gillman, *Free Speech on Campus*, chapters 1 and 4.

Grenier, Michaela "Building Student Civic Leadership Through Sustained Dialogue." *Higher Education Exchange, Leadership and Democracy*, 2019, pp. 50-58

A One Page Guide for Moderators of Small Group Discussion. Deliberative Democracy in the Classroom Toolkit. The Center for Deliberative Democracy, Stanford University.

### **Monday, October 18: Getting Involved at the Local, State, and National Level Leadership Development**

- 1) Nico Pascal Dean's Inaugural Disaster Resilience Fellow 3:00-3:15
- 2) Project Discussion 3:15-3:30
- 3) Guest speaker: Ms. Gloria Soto, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria 3:30-4:00
- 4) Guest speaker: Joan Hartmann, City Councilmember, 3rd district 4:00-4:30
- 5) Leadership Challenge (Katya Armistead) 4:40-5:50

\*\* Attend experiential activity

#### Readings:

*Everyday People, Extraordinary Leadership*, Kouzes & Posner, chapters 1, 2, & 3

[Golden Circle](#) by Simon Sinek

Finish Chemerinsky and Gillman, *Free Speech*, chs 5 and 6.

### **Monday, October 25: Isla Vista Services and Project Development**

- 1) Welcome from Professor Greg Johnson (Capps Center), 3:00-3:03
- 2) Undergrad Scholars Program Presentations 3:03-3:13
- 3) Guest speakers: Mr. Jonathan Abboud, General Manager; Mr. Ethan Bertrand, Director; and Mr. Spencer Brandt, President of the Board, Isla Vista Community Services District 3:13-4:30

- 4) The Leadership Challenge: Model The Way/Value Sort, 4:30-5:00
- 5) Group project development, 5:00-5:50

**\*\*Experiential activity assignment due.**

Readings:

*Everyday People, Extraordinary Leadership*, Kouzes & Posner, chapters 4 & 5  
[Tuckman's Stages of Group Development](#)  
[Video](#) - Leadership - TED Dancing Guy

**Monday, November 1: Meaningful Dialogues, Voluntarism, and Mentoring Youth**

- 1) Organization presentation: Lisa Jackson on Indivisible 3:00-3:10
- 2) Guest speaker Tania Israel, author of *How to Have Meaningful Dialogues Despite Political Differences*, 3:10 - 4:10 pm
- 3) Guest speaker: Spencer Pritchard and Meikko Lee from Berkeley High School, (followed by class discussion) 4:20-5:50 pm

**\*\* Attend experiential activity**

Readings:

Tania Israel, *How to Have Meaningful Dialogues Despite Political Differences*, chapters 2 and 5.  
YouthWell Workshop on Meaningful Volunteerism [Video](#)

**Monday, November 8: Deliberative Democracy/ Housing Insecurity in Santa Barbara**

- 1) Exercise in deliberative dialogue/free speech (Viviana Marsano) 3:00-4:20
- 2) Guest speaker: Supervisor Das Williams, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors 4:30-5:40
- 3) Elvin Bao on freedom of speech, 5:40-5:50

Readings:

Free Speech/ Deliberative Polling reading **\*\*have to read in advance of class. Come to class prepared to discuss.**

**Monday, November 15: Mental Health and Leadership Challenge**

- 1) Guest Speaker: Ms. Rachael Steidl, Youthwell, Executive Director and Founder, on mental health 3:00-4:00
- 2) Leadership Challenge (Katya) 4:15-5:50

**\*\*Experiential activity assignment due.**

Readings:

*Everyday People, Extraordinary Leadership*, Kouzes & Posner, chapters 6 & 7

**Monday, November 22**

- 1) Ms. Brianna Conway on sexual assault and Green Dot; Students against Sexual Assault, 3:10-4:30
- 2) Leadership Challenge

Readings:

*The Culture of Respect Pilot Program*  
*Institutional Betrayal as a Motivator*  
*Everyday People, Extraordinary Leadership, Kouzes & Posner, chapters 6 & 7*

**Monday, November 29: Basic Needs**

- 1) Project check-in, 3:00-4:00
- 2) Guest speakers: Ms. Yuval Cohen and Ms. Rebecca Segundo on basic needs, 4:10-5:30

Reading:

\*\*Experiential activity assignment due.

**A Note on Required Readings**

All readings listed in the syllabus and Gauchospace are to be read **before class** on the week listed. Please come to class prepared to engage in informed participation of the readings.

**Experiential Activities**

You are required to select and attend 4 activities that have been selected by the teaching team (weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8). All pre-approved activities are on the course calendar. After you attend each activity, you will write about your experience and submit in Gauchospace the following week. You can also select your own activity and consult with the instructors in advance to assess its relevance to the course. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Santa Barbara Council meeting. For dates, agendas and instructions visit <https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/cityhall/council/meetings/default.asp>
- Goleta City Council meeting <https://www.cityofgoleta.org/city-hall/city-clerk/public-meetings>
- Isla Vista Community Network meeting (second Thursday of every month, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm). Zoom link:
- Isla Vista Community Services District meeting <https://islavistacsd.ca.gov/board-meetings>
- Isla Vista Recreation and Park District meeting <http://www.ivparks.org/>

**Grading and Course Policies**

You will earn your grade based on your performance in the following areas:

Attendance and Informed Participation: 40%  
Experiential Activities (4 total): 20%  
Group Project Design: 40%



(Workshop presentations in Winter and Spring (minimum 3 per quarter): 35% meet with advisor,

All assignments are due at 3:00 pm on the day of lecture unless otherwise noted. Assignments are late if submitted at 3:05 p.m. Our class policy is to deduct 10 percentage points immediately for late work and then 10 percentage points every 24-hours until the assignment is submitted. Also, notify us when you submit late work so that we know it is there and we can grade it.

\*\*Kindly arrive at class on time and be prepared to participate. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Thank you in advance for being courteous.

### **Office Hours**

Katya Armistead ([katya@ucsb.edu](mailto:katya@ucsb.edu)):

Maeve Devoy ([maeve01@ucsb.edu](mailto:maeve01@ucsb.edu)): via Zoom, by appointment.

Viviana Marsano ([marsano-v@ucsb.edu](mailto:marsano-v@ucsb.edu)):

Project: Integrating elements of class concepts, need to identify the field interested in contributing to, or a student group. What is the need of the group that you want to fulfil? Need to identify the group and contact to see if the organization is open to it. The course instructors will be advisors to the groups. The course continues through the winter and spring quarters with check-ins as students continue working on their projects.

## Attachment 3

### Final Community Projects

- Activities and exercises to support mental health in elementary school children at the St. George Youth Center in Isla Vista.
- Awareness week on formerly incarcerated youth.
- Barriers in the medical field and health resources for indigenous language speakers and the production of a card with common medical terms translated into those languages
- Creation and Launching of *How You Doing?* an online group to address mental health for males in college campuses
- Eco-to-Go: reintroducing ecological to-go packaging at the Coral Tree, one of the campus food services
- Environmental issues and the Zero Waste Committee within Associated Students
- First response, encampment clean-up and educational workshops and book club for the unsheltered population and Father John Hedges House in Isla Vista
- Founding and projects of the Liberal Learning Coalition to advocate for academic projects on campus such as the creation of an ASL course
- Gauchos Underground Scholars Program graduation and fundraising ceremony and establishment of an alumni network
- Inaugural Dean's Disaster Resilience Fellows program: content creation for a newsletter and social media as well as student recruitment for the program
- Mental Health resources documentary and panel discussion for Latinx youth and their families in Isla Vista.
- New initiatives with the African Diasporic Resource Center
- New initiatives with the Young Democratic Socialists of America
- Play on Japanese internment camps with participation of youth in the St. George Youth Center in Isla Vista and the CAN DO program in Just Communities Central Coast
- Sexual assault at UCSB