"Once the students get their hands on the material, the momentum comes from them. The instructor's job is to be able to fuel the discussion."

"The quality of intellectual engagement was great—we got to feed on each other's opinions that opened our eyes to different understandings."

"This form of teaching is at the very heart of what education ought to be: an opportunity to engage faculty and students in thoughtful and collegial discussions about an array of topics."

"We each brought our own ideas to discussion and challenged each other's views in a respectful and beneficial manner, making me think in ways I don't usually think."

www.fiatlux.ucla.edu
“I had the privilege of teaching a Fiat Lux class on biological chronometry. Students engage in critical thinking, explore new ideas and draw from a broad range of viewpoints. Faculty learn from the fresh perspectives of our youngest Bruins.”
—Chancellor Gene D. Block

The Fiat Lux Freshman Seminar Program takes its name from the University of California motto: Fiat Lux—Let There Be Light! First-year students participate in stimulating discussions with distinguished faculty on a variety of critical topics in these one-unit seminars.

The program originated from the ashes of September 11, 2001 when UCLA administrators and faculty recognized an urgent need to help the campus community grapple with the complex emotional, intellectual, social and political issues suddenly thrust upon the country and the world. Its fundamental aim—to provide entering students an opportunity to study with ladder faculty in a small seminar setting—is vital to the educational mission of UCLA.

As with all efforts to improve undergraduate education at UCLA, the astounding success of Fiat Lux reflects a collaborative effort of widespread participation and support across campus. Participants in Fiat Lux include 350 faculty from across the College and all 11 of UCLA’s professional schools, who have taught 1,300 seminars to 20,000 undergraduates.

Judith L. Smith
Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Gary Nash Emeriti Seminars

The Gary Nash Emeriti Seminars were established through a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Leiv Blad in honor of Professor Gary Nash, a noted historian and professor emeritus of history.

An award-winning author, Professor Nash is considered one of the most distinguished historians of colonial and revolutionary America in the United States. He co-chaired the National History Standards project and has written several books including Race and Revolution, History on Trial and, his latest, The Forgotten Fifth. He is also director of the National Center for History in the Schools, an organization designed to help educators teach U.S. and world history.

A special seminar series in his name is a fitting tribute to the life work and intellectual legacy of Professor Nash, who has been a tireless supporter of seminars for undergraduates and is devoted to improving the undergraduate experience.
The Vasa cube is awarded for every four seminars taught.

- 2009-10 Vasa cube recipient
- Previous Vasa cube recipient

## Arts & Humanities

### Ancient Near East 19
- Aaron Burke, S10
- *Ancient Warfare, Modern Concerns*

### Architecture and Urban Design 19
- Diane Favro, F09
- *Mapping Movement in Ancient Rome: Digital Geo-Temporal Analysis*

### Art History 19
- Charlene Villasenor Black, S10
- *Frida Mystique: Art and Life of Frida Kahlo*

### Arts & Architecture 19
- John Bragin, S10
- *Rome in Arts: Interpreting Eternal City*

### Asian 19
- William Bodiford, W10
- *Asian Martial Theory, Fantasy, and Practice*
- Robert Chi, S10
- *“I See You”: Globalization and Avatar*
- John Duncan, W10
- *Korea on the Internet*
- Natasha Heller, F09
- *Crime and Punishment in China*

### Chinese 19
- Hongyin Tao, W10
- *Globalization and Chinese Language*

### Classics 19
- Robert Gurval, S10
- *Exploring Ancient Rome*
- Alex Purves, W10
- *My Broken Tongue: Reading Sappho’s Poetry*

### Comparative Literature 19
- Michelle Clayton, S10
- *Charlie Chaplin, Planetary Clown*
- Nouri Gana, W10
- *Teaching North Africa through Film*
- Katherine King, W10
- *Women Warriors: Amazons and Others from Ancient Greece to Modern Times*
- Kathleen Komar, W10
- *The Short Works of Franz Kafka, or How the Modern World Works*
- Todd Presner, S10
- *Web 2.0: Cultures and Technologies of Programmable Web*
- Ross Shideler, S10
- *Poets and Desire*
- Jascha Kessler, F09
- *What a Poem Says*
- Saree Makdisi, S10
- *Reading Poetry and Designs of William Blake*
- Robert Maniquis, S10
- *Reading and Discussion of Huckleberry Finn*
- Joseph Nagy, F09
- *Cartoons, Folklore, and Myth*