

<b>Date</b>	Aug 10 2015 06:00:40 PM
<b>Sender</b>	Catherine P. Koshland, Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education (campus-wide)
<b>To</b>	Academic-senate-faculty
<b>Orgs</b>	UCBKL
<b>Subject</b>	Freshman and Sophomore Seminars, Spring 2016 deadline Sept. 11, 2015
<b>Body</b>	<p>Dear Colleagues:</p> <p>I am writing to invite you to teach in the <u><a href="http://fss.berkeley.edu">Freshman and Sophomore Seminars</a></u> (fss.berkeley.edu) program this spring. Faculty members from every department are welcome, even those in professional schools without undergraduate programs, many of whom find the contact with bright, eager new students inspiring and invigorating.</p> <p>As one faculty member, new to the Freshman and Sophomore Seminars, said at the end of her spring 2015 seminar, “It was a fabulous experience for me that I looked forward to every week.” When asked to describe the character of her interactions with the students, she described them as “warm, receptive and lively.”</p> <p>To hear both faculty and students extolling the rewards of participation, check out the short, lively <u><a href="http://fss.berkeley.edu">video</a></u> (fss.berkeley.edu) created for the occasion of the program's twentieth anniversary.</p> <p>Many faculty members come back to the program year after year because they find the format and the students so congenial. But we also offer a more tangible award in the form of a \$3,000 research grant for Senate faculty members who teach a seminar as an overload. The grant funds can be used to enhance your teaching or your research, and can be carried forward from year to year.</p> <p>Seminars on any topic that can be discussed with freshmen and/or sophomores are welcome. For inspiration you might check out the remarkable range of <u><a href="http://fss.berkeley.edu">fall seminar offerings</a></u> (fss.berkeley.edu) online.</p> <p>If you choose, your seminar can be enhanced in one of these ways:</p> <p>1) <u><a href="http://fss.berkeley.edu/about/connecting.html">Connections at Cal Seminars</a></u> (http://fss.berkeley.edu/about/connecting.html) are a relatively new option for faculty members who want to forge lasting bonds with</p>

(and among) their students. Connections at Cal seminars qualify for a \$500 grant to support cohort-building activities, and technical assistance with the social-networking component of the program.

2) Our longstanding Food for Thought

(<http://fss.berkeley.edu/about/food.html>) seminars continue to be popular. If you would like to eat lunch or dinner with your freshmen before or after class, to become better acquainted in a more informal setting, the Office of Student Development will provide meals for you at the dining commons.

If you would like to teach a seminar, please fill out the Freshman and Sophomore Seminars faculty participation form

([http://fss.berkeley.edu/facstaff/faculty\\_form.html](http://fss.berkeley.edu/facstaff/faculty_form.html)) by Friday, September 11, and be sure to let your departmental chair and scheduler know as soon as possible.

Please do not reply to this message. If you have questions about Freshman and Sophomore Seminars, or just want to brainstorm some topic ideas, feel free to contact Alix Schwartz (642-8378, [alix@berkeley.edu](mailto:alix@berkeley.edu) (<mailto:alix@berkeley.edu>)).

Thank you,

Catherine P. Koshland  
Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Education

*If you are a manager who supervises UC Berkeley employees without email access, please circulate this information to all.*

**Please do not reply to this message**

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