CAT 90: Experiential Learning Seminar
Sixth College, UCSD
*Syllabus is subject to change at any point in the quarter

Professor: Bill Robertson Geibel   **Email:** wgeibel@ucsd.edu

Class Hours: Mondays from 11-11:50am
Class Location: CTB 108 (i.e. CAT Lab)

Office Hours: Mondays from 12-1pm or by appointment
- *Please sign-up for a time slot here: https://calendar.app.google/MLi1yg9sGjTkTiAEA*
- *See CANVAS Home Page for directions on finding my office.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CAT 90 is a one-unit reflection seminar designed for students who engage in summer experiential learning activities and would like to apply these activities towards the experiential learning requirement. The purpose of CAT 90 is to encourage student growth through facilitated reflection and analysis of their experiential learning activity and future goals. Through guided prompts, discussions, and written reflections students will investigate their own perspectives, assumptions, and values and evaluate how these things informed their experience. Additionally, students will be asked to engage in reflection for action, a practice focused on improving student success in the future by applying their cultivated knowledge to future career and academic decisions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following:
- Effectively connect their previous experiential learning activity to their academic discipline and professional ambitions
- Identify impactful learning experiences gained through experience and critically reflect upon how those experiences have shaped their understanding of self and others.
- Develop a professional narrative that incorporates past experiences to compellingly articulate their unique perspective and identity
- Confidently explore, identify, and apply to experiential opportunities of interest

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Participation (40%):** We all play a role in making this class successful, which is why you are expected to come to class each week prepared to engage and learn. It is not enough to just show up, you need to demonstrate genuine engagement through sharing your opinion, listening actively, and participating in class activities. You can have one absence excused by attending office hours. Subsequent absences will negatively impact your grade.

- **Homework Assignments (25%):** Throughout the quarter you will be assigned homework assignments to complete that are due before class. These will be graded complete/incomplete. To receive a passing grade you must fully complete the assignment, show thoughtful engagement with the prompt, and ensure that it is free from significant grammatical or spelling errors. Late assignments will be penalized a letter grade for each day late (up to three days).

- **Informational Interviewing (15%):** For this assignment you will be tasked with locating, reaching out to, and conducting an interview with an individual of your choosing. More specific directions will be provided.

- **Office Hours (5%):** At least once during the quarter, you are required to attend my office hours (does not count towards making up an absence). It is recommended that you let me know when you plan to attend, if possible, to reduce wait times.

- **Final (15%):** For your final assignment, you will identify and prepare for a future experiential learning opportunity. More directions will be provided.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTIONS
- Preparation: N/A
- Due: Supervisor Confirmation Form (by Sunday, October 6th)

WEEK 2: WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING?
- Preparation: Read and watch the videos on "What is Experiential Learning?"
- Due: Reflection on your EL experience

WEEK 3: CRITICAL REFLECTION
- Preparation: Read What is Critical Reflection? and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (click and skim through all the goals - taking more time on the ones you find most interesting)
- Due: Reflection on your EL experience

WEEK 4: IDENTITY AND POSITIONALITY
- Preparation: Read A Note on Reflexivity and Positionality
- Due: Reflection on your EL experience

WEEK 5: PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND GOALS
- Preparation: Read How to Develop Your Professional Identity
- Due: Positionality Statement

WEEK 6: INTERVIEWS AND NETWORKING
- Preparation: Read Social Capital and It's Value

- Due: Career Hypothesis / Career Matrix

WEEK 7: BUILDING A NARRATIVE
- Preparation: Read [What's Your Story?](#)
- Due: Informational interview research

WEEK 8: IDENTIFYING NEW OPPORTUNITIES - Research & EL
- Preparation: TBD
- Due: None - work on setting up your informational interviews

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WEEK 9: IDENTIFYING NEW OPPORTUNITIES - Career and Internships
- Guest Speaker: Mike Stromayer, Career Center
- reparation: UCSD Career Center, [Roadmap](#)
- Due: Communicating Yourself

WEEK 10: NEXT STEPS
- Preparation: Read [How to measure a good life](#)
- Due Monday: Future EL Opportunity (or Alternative)
- Due Friday: Informational Interview Summary

WEEK 11: FINALS WEEK
- Due Wednesday: Final Assignment

<u>**COURSE POLICIES**</u>

The Respect Rule: I ask you all to show the utmost respect to everyone in the classroom. We all have different backgrounds, values, beliefs, identities, and experiences that may sometimes cause disagreement; but when you are in this class, you are required to demonstrate understanding, respect, and empathy towards your fellow classmates, guest speakers, and instructors. Additionally, you should take care to represent your opinions as your own, and not generalize or speak for others (e.g. "I think…").

Office Hours Policy: I highly encourage you to take advantage of my office hours. My door (both physical and virtual) is always open and I am happy to talk to students about a range of topics, not just course-specific issues. I want to help make your experience at UCSD a positive one. If you cannot make my scheduled times or would like to meet in person, please let me know, and we can make an individual appointment.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism or cheating is a serious offense and will be dealt with following university guidelines. It is your responsibility to become familiar with its policies, definitions, and penalties. These rules apply to exams and papers. If you have any questions about proper conduct, please see me. Do not guess or be uncertain about what constitutes cheating. Resources and information on academic integrity can be found at
https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/

Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated, and at **the very least**, you will receive zero points on the assignment and be reported to the University. Ultimately, you may receive a failing grade in the class and be subject to university discipline.

AI Policy: All work for this course needs to be original and created by you for this class. This doesn't mean you can' t get feedback from friends or work together, but the work you turn in needs to be your own. If you are not sure if you are committing an AI violation, please talk to me or your TA before submitting your assignment. If you are planning to use generative AI, please ask your TA and/or instructor first to discuss appropriate uses of the technology. Anytime you use generative AI, you will need to cite the use of the technology and describe how you used the technology.

Please note: UCSD has a university-wide Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, published annually in the General Catalog, and online https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/. All students must read and be familiar with this Policy. All suspected violations of academic integrity will be reported to UCSD's Academic Integrity Coordinator, following Academic Senate policy. Students found to have violated UCSD's standards for academic integrity may include suspension or dismissal, and academic sanctions may include failure of the assignment or failure of the course.

Discrimination and Harassment: UCSD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. This class adheres to those guidelines. Alternative viewpoints are welcome in this classroom. *However, statements that are deemed racist, sexist, classist, ableist, homophobic, or otherwise discriminatory toward others in the class will not be tolerated and students will be asked to leave.* Students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and possess a diverse array of values and beliefs and the classroom must be a safe space to discuss opinions and ideas. As such, I will not tolerate harassment of any kind in my classroom.

ADA Statement: Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability should (if needed) provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are then required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact your professor privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. No retroactive accommodations can be provided. The CAT OSD liaison is Jeanne Monhan, jmmonahan@ucsd.edu

Transfer Students: The Triton Transfer Hub is available to meet transfer students' academic, social, and personal needs, including group & individual study space, events, workshops and coaching. Take time to meet with a peer coach and learn a little more about the UCSD culture.
    Triton Transfer Hub
    Transferstudents.ucsd.edu
     tritontransfers@ucsd.edu
    Biomedical Sciences Library (Pepper Canyon Hall – Coming soon!)

Other Important Policies: Anyone having problems or challenges related to the course is strongly encouraged to contact me as early as possible. Whether it's challenges with childcare,

transportation, housing, work, or anything, I am here to help however I can. If you have children, they are always welcome to join us if needed. **My goal is for you all to succeed!**