INT94SE Winter 2016, Freshman Seminar

**Debating Isla Vista’s Political Future, M 1:00-1:50 HSSB 4202**

[**https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/courses/course/view.php?id=10796**](https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/courses/course/view.php?id=10796)**.**

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Office hours: M 2-3, W 1:15-3:15 and by appointment

The aim of this seminar is to familiarize students with the issues, community-based organizing, policy choices, and political dynamics associated with what is slated to be one of the most significant votes in IV history: whether or not to approve the creation of a proposed Community Services District, with an elected board and power to provide new, locally controlled services with funding from new taxes. This proposal, which represents the culmination of a sustained period of local organizing and a long history of efforts to achieve self-governance in Isla Vista, will in all likelihood appear on the November 2016 ballot and will require a 2/3rds vote of registered IV voters to gain approval. It also brings Isla Vista to a crossroads: when, following an intensive period of residential growth, increased overcrowding, funding losses, conflicted policy/community relations, and episodes of sexual and, tragically, homicidal violence, diverse constituencies within the community have come together in recognition of the need for some kind of governance reform. Although there is by no means agreement about what form it should take or whether the CSD is the best answer, the 2016 vote sets the stage for an unprecedented debate about Isla Vista’s political future, and who should have a say in what it looks like. As current or future residents of the community, this is a debate freshman will want to engage!

 After a comprehensive briefing on the proposed CSD and the coming ballot, the seminar will look more deeply at the issues this and other governance reform proposals seeks to address, starting with readings, discussion, and a look at some artifacts from IV history. Guest speakers and site visits will put us in touch with the dynamics of IV politics, governance, and organizing today. At the end of the quarter, students will have an opportunity to offer analyses of the issues—and whether/how they will be addressed by governance reform—in group presentations prepared with others in the class.

 This is a one-unit seminar that will meet weekly throughout the quarter, and is graded on a P/NP basis. In addition to readings I will post on Gauchospace in advance of our meetings, required texts include *Isla Vista: A Citizen’s History*, by Carmen Lodise and friends, which is available in the UCSB bookstore. Regular attendance and active participation at seminar meetings and site visits is a must, and will constitute a substantial part of your final grade. All absences must be excused in advance.

**Schedule**

Jan. 4: Introduction

Jan. 11: Briefing on AB 3, Guest: Cameron Schunk, Office of Assembly Member Das Williams

Jan. 18: No class meeting, Martin Luther King Day (a day for community engagement!)

Jan. 25: Class discussion of Lodise, *Isla Vista: A Citizen’s History*, Guest: Jonathan Abboud, Trustee, SBCC

Feb. 1: Site visit (field trip!) with IV Recreation and Parks District Board and Staff

Feb. 8: Visit to view IV holdings in Special Collections Davidson Library

Feb. 15: No class meeting, President’s Day (a day for contemplating constitutional governance!)

Feb. 22: Briefing and panel discussion with IV Tenants’ Union representatives

Feb. 29: Student presentations and discussion

Mar 7: Student presentations and discussion