

SOC GEN RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

SPRING 2018

<http://socgen.ucla.edu/academics/undergraduate-research/>

How to apply:	<p>See projects below. Email your resume and a very brief project-specific statement of interest to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cyndi Tando, Student Affairs Officer UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics ctando@socgen.ucla.edu 3360C Life Sciences Building 310-206-1890</p> <p>If applying to more than one project, send a statement of interest for each. In the end, you can enroll in only one project in quarter.</p> <p>Applicants will receive an email confirmation of receipt of application. Applications will be forwarded to the relevant project leader(s) for their consideration, along with a copy of your transcript (which Cyndi will supply). Project leaders decide whom to interview and hire. Once you decide to enroll, course contract must be submitted to Cyndi by Friday of WEEK 2.</p>
When to apply:	Apply as soon as the undergraduate research position is posted
Who can apply:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either a Junior standing (90-134.9 cumulative units) with at least a 3.0 GPA in major • Or Senior standing (135.0 or more cumulative units)
Contract Course types:	<p>SOCIETY AND GENETICS 196. 2 units; choose <u>letter grade</u> option, if you want Human Biology and Society major program credit. May be repeated once for credit. <u>No written work or final exam required.</u></p> <p>SOCIETY AND GENETICS 199. 2 to 4 units (2 unit contract is appropriate for 6 -10 hours/week project; 4 unit contract is appropriate for 12+ hours/week.) Choose <u>letter grade</u> option, if you want Human Biology and Society major program credit. <u>Student must write a research paper on topic related to research under guidance of project leader and submit completed paper to project leader AND Cyndi by end of Week 10.</u> May be repeated for credit.</p> <p>Also note the academic regulations for Independent Study Units here: http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/counseling/independent-study.html</p>

PROJECT TITLE:
OPEN ACCESS, PIRACY, AND PRESSURE IN SCIENCE

Course Contract available:	SOCIETY AND GENETICS 196
Quarter(s) help is needed:	Spring 2018
Hours/week:	10 hours/week
Work in Laboratory?	No
Project Supervisor(s):	Christopher Kelty, Alexandra Lippman
Project Description:	Scientists claim to be under increasing “pressure.” What are the causes and consequences of “pressure”? This project explores research oversight institutions and open access responses to assess how various actors work to create robust and reliable research. We are interested in how Open Access publishing is changing how scholars communicate, produce, and circulate knowledge. The broader aim is to offer tools and knowledge for policy makers, reformers, activists, publishers, and journalists seeking to promote reliable and robust science.
Job description:	You will analyze and assist with interviews we are conducting with scientists, scholars, librarians, publishers, and employees at Open Access platforms (e.g. Research Gate and Academia.edu). Based on this analysis, we will work on refining our research plan to identify questions you are interested in pursuing. You also will conduct online ethnographic research to understand how scientists use platforms such as Research Gate and Academia. Overall, you will learn how to analyze qualitative data and to conduct interviews, online surveys, and online participant-observer research.
Job qualifications:	

Applications are no longer being accepted for the project below, as of March 15, 2018.

<u>PROJECT TITLE:</u>	
PERSONALIZED MEDICINE AND GENOMICS: NEW PERSONS, DIAGNOSIS, AND INSTITUTIONS	
Course Contract available:	SOCIETY AND GENETICS 196
Quarter(s) help is needed:	Spring 2018
Hours/week:	6 hours/week
Work in Laboratory?	No
Project Supervisor(s):	Damien Cartron
Project Description:	<p>“Personalized medicine” is a catchword. It designates the high medical expectations triggered by genomics, but it remains very vague. The project aims at giving this a more precise meaning.</p> <p>For this, we will be studying sociologically the “Undiagnosed Disease Network” (UDN.) A network that consists of seven research universities (among them UCLA,) two sequencing cores, and many more entities. It uses cutting edge methods of genomic sequencing, and aims at providing a diagnosis to patients who have been through a diagnosis odyssey that might have lasted several years, but remain not diagnosed. We want to understand how this network will give a shape to personalized medicine, in transforming the concept of the “person” that is sick, in changing the process of diagnosis, and in creating a new institutional setting coherent with this new kind of medicine.</p>
Job description:	The job will consist of treating qualitative interviews with people from the UDN. Students will transcribe interviews that have already been performed, discussing a coding system with the supervisor, and code the interviews. They will learn the basic skills in interviewing techniques and handling.
Job qualifications:	None, an interest in social science methods is necessary

PROJECT TITLE:
CHEMICAL ENTANGLEMENTS

Course Contract available:	SOCIETY AND GENETICS 196, 199
Quarter(s) help is needed:	Spring 2018 (Possibility to continue in 2018-19 Academic Year)
Hours/week:	6 hours/week (2.0 units)
Work in Laboratory?	No
Project Supervisor(s):	Rachel Lee
Project Description:	<p>Exposure to environmental toxicants and endocrine-disrupting chemicals have been proven to have negative impacts on human reproductive health. Because products containing such substances (cleaning products, cosmetics, etc.), are overwhelmingly marketed to women, and because environmental pollution is often concentrated near the places where people of lower economic status or people of color live; gender, race, and class can determine level of exposure and health outcomes. CSW's Chemical Entanglements initiative is a response to this dynamic. The goal of this research project is to illuminate the way in which women have been enrolled, both as scientists and nonscientists, in chemical experiments since WWII, and to increase the chemical literacy of scholars in gender/sexuality studies. We will also reveal the gendered patterns of exposure that lead to illnesses such as Toxicant-Induced Loss of Tolerance (TILT) and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS).</p>
Job description:	<p>Undergraduate researchers will contribute to one of the following projects:</p> <p>Chemical History Timelines Undergraduate researchers will help compile detailed historical timelines using primary and secondary sources. Students will spend the majority of the quarter compiling resources to complete a robust timeline and will also conduct 1-2 interviews to complete a 1,000 word blog post for the CSW website on a selected topic. The goal of the timeline is to create a detailed historical view of the history of a specific genre of personal care and cleaning products, while the interview/blog post will serve as a narrative means of recounting this story. Students are expected to meet weekly with a CSW advisor, and will compile an annotated bibliography. Strong independent research skills are a requirement. Students can choose to research the history of one of the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular laundry detergents • Air fresheners in cars • Cleaning products (like bleach, Fabuloso, etc.) • Synthetic food-like scents in personal care products <p>Chemical Sensitivity Survey</p> <p>Undergraduate researchers will assist in disseminating and analyzing surveys to assess the prevalence of chemical sensitivity and exposure-related illness among UCLA students. Surveys will evaluate how many students experience sensitivity to fragrance, and whether exposure presents a barrier to educational access. Undergraduate researchers will identify sites for distributing surveys, conduct outreach, and assist in interpreting data. Undergraduate researchers will develop skill at conducting in-person and online surveys and outreach, creating online data-gathering tools, and using social media for recruitment. Students are expected to meet weekly with a CSW advisor and/or the survey team. Strong independent research skills and communication skills are a requirement.</p>
Job qualifications:	Strong independent research skills, experience conducting research using library and digital resources, exceptional oral communication skills, ability to synthesize and present information, exceptional writing and communication skills.

To apply, please submit an application through an online form:
<https://uclacsw.submittable.com/submit/110120/application-spring-2018-chemical-entanglements-undergraduate-research-group>

PROJECT TITLE:
GRACILE CAPUCHIN MONKEY DIVERSITY

Course Contract available:	SOCIETY AND GENETICS 196
Quarter(s) help is needed:	Spring 2018
Hours/week:	6-10 hours/week
Work in Laboratory?	No
Project Supervisor(s):	Jessica Lynch Alfaro
Project Description:	Gracile capuchin monkeys have traditionally been lumped into only 3 or 4 species; our genetic research suggests there may be up to 10-12 species, and several of them are little known and endangered. This project documents the morphological and pelage variation in gracile capuchin monkeys in Central and South America, through an international collaboration of primatologists. The product of this project will be a published article that documents the morphological characteristics and distribution of all species of gracile capuchins.
Job description:	Work with archival material, research articles, field guides and internet sites as well as photographs submitted by professional primatologists to create a guide to the diversity of gracile capuchin monkeys, in the form of a published research report. All work will be done in close collaboration with the Project Supervisor, Dr. Lynch Alfaro.
Job qualifications:	Some knowledge of primate morphology and behavior preferred. Understanding of taxonomy/systematics preferred. Familiarity with web-based data searches for research material preferred. Skills at editing photographs (i.e. Adobe Photoshop knowledge) and page layout preferred. Database management skills preferred. Skills at reading Spanish and/or Portuguese preferred.

Wildlife & Public Health Research Assistants Wanted



Conduct local zoonotic pathogen research with UCLA wildlife veterinarians & ecologists!

We are looking for responsible, motivated individuals to help with our research focused on detecting pathogens of zoonotic & conservation concern in local wildlife and creating a mammalian biodiversity atlas for Los Angeles County.

Responsibilities *(may include some or all of the following):*

- Wildlife carcass retrieval from local animal care centers (gas reimbursed)
- Wildlife necropsies & sample collection
- Bacterial culture monitoring using dark-field microscopy
- Live & camera trapping of small mammals (rodents)
- Collaborate on a Natural History Museum citizen science project to assess wildlife occurrence data in LA County
- Data & sample management (terrestrial & marine mammal)

**** We are actively recruiting drivers/helpers to aid in picking up carcasses****

Interested?

Email our team: MammalPickUp@gmail.com OR

Attend a Winter 2018 group meeting: TLSB 1100 Wed 5:30-6:30 pm

*****NOTE: there is no meeting on February 14th or February 21st**

Spring: Especially in need of students for wildlife carcass retrieval; students who can do this once a week can also get a shift doing one of the other things listed on the flyer. If interested, you may contact Dr. Lynch Alfaro at jlynchalfaro@g.ucla.edu as well