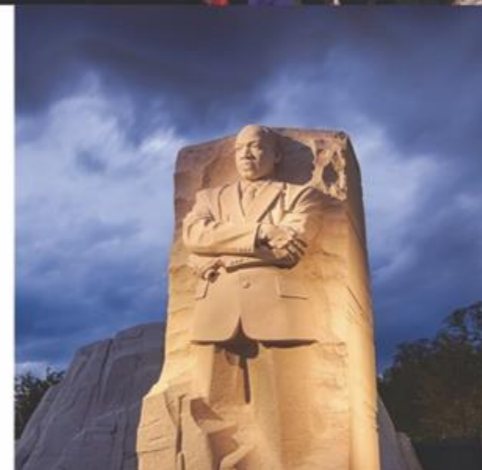


# Overview of the SUA



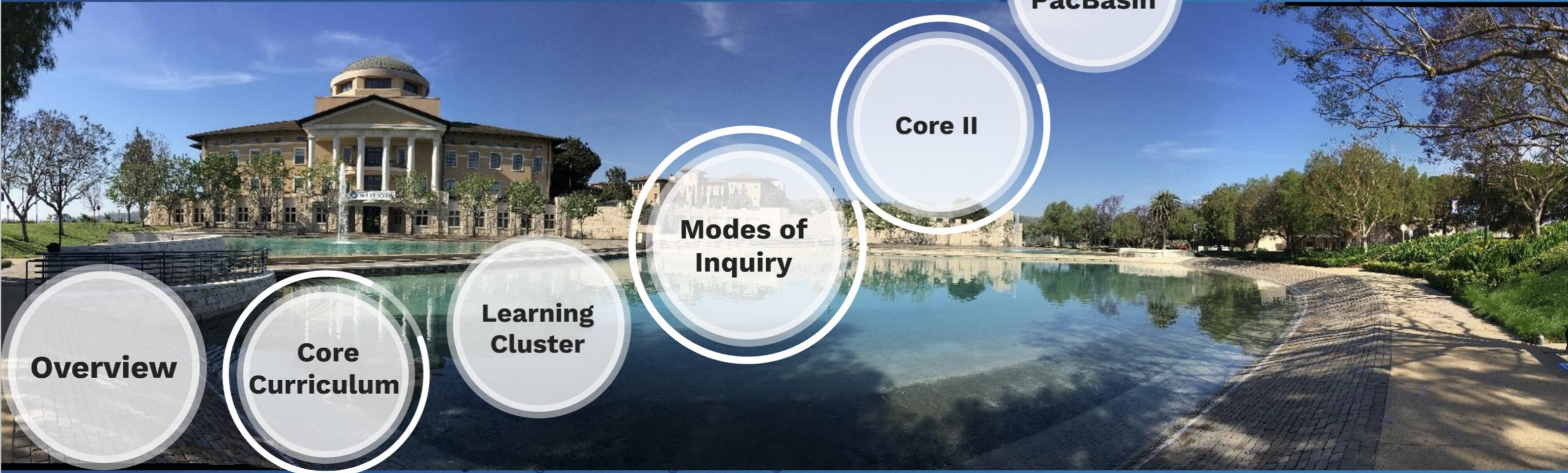
## General Education and the Core Curriculum

By Bryan Penprase  
Dean of Faculty, Undergraduate Program,  
Soka University of America





# Curriculum for Global Citizenship



**Overview**

**Core Curriculum**

**Learning Cluster**

**Modes of Inquiry**

**Core II**

**AMEX PacBasin**

**Science and Math**

**LCP and Study Abroad Programs**

# Overview



- Established in 2001 in Aliso Viejo, CA (near Laguna Beach)
- Founded with Buddhist principles and mission "to foster a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life"
- 70 faculty and 450 students, 40% international from over 40 nations
- Cultural Diversity strengthened with campus-wide events linking cultures, peacemaking and study abroad
- Currently Ranked #39 in USNews for Liberal Arts Colleges



## SUA General Education Courses Summary (14 credit-bearing courses)

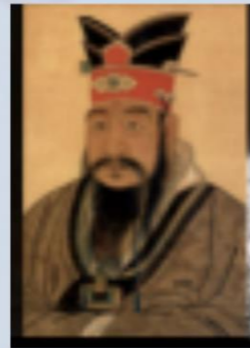
Communication skills	2
Modes of Inquiry	1
Science & Mathematics	
The Mathematical World	1
The Natural World	1
The Physical World	1
Creative Arts + Creativity Forum	2
Pacific Basin	1
American Experience	1
Language and Culture	4
Health and Wellness	1
Enduring Questions of Humanity (Core)	2
Learning Clusters: (2 required, and 1 optional)	2

# Core I

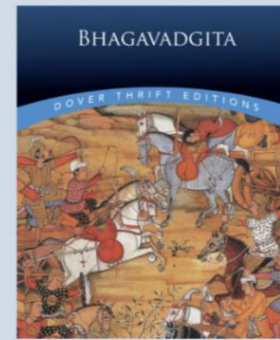
3.5 weeks "Enduring Questions of Humanity"



Plato/Aristotle



LaoTzu/  
Confucius



Bhagavadgita

Enduring  
Questions  
from Global  
Thinkers

# Learning Clusters

Travel Grants

Local Learning Clusters

2018 Learning Clusters



# Travel Grants

Recent Locations for International Learning Clusters



# 2018 Learning Clusters

## Local Learning Clusters:

### 2018 Travel Grants:

**Representing the Slave Trade: Ghana's World Heritage Sites and US Historical Tourism (Ghana)**

**The Past, Memory and the Question of "Abandoned People" in East Asia (Japan and S. Korea)**

**Political Socialization and Disneyland (Japan)**

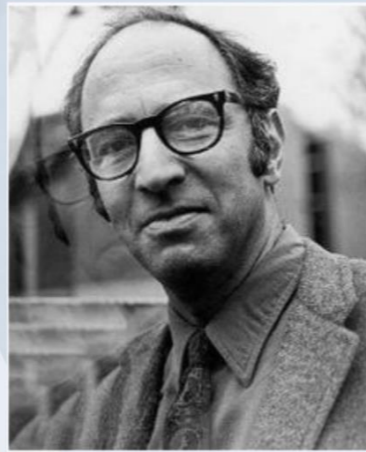
**Entrepreneurship (Silicon Valley)**

- **Spices: From Kitchen Shelf to Drug Designing Lab**
- **Southeast Asia America**
- **Disasters and Emergency Management**
- **Fashion-Activism and Embodied Resistance or "Performing Social Action"**
- **Language and Identity**
- **Understand Economic Behaviour Through Experiment**
- **Human Impacts on Coastal Marine Life in Southern CA**
- **Green SUA: Toward a More Sustainable Campus**
- **Languages of the World**
- **The Psychology of Groups: Group Dynamics and Contemporary Society**
- **Global Health and Local Practice**
- **Social Enterprises and Business Economics: Theory and Evidence**
- **The Critical Urban Wanderer: flânerie in the OC**
- **Second Language Acquisition (SLA) and Pedagogy**
- **Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities**
- **Archaeoastronomy and World Cosmology**
- **Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities**
- **Completing the California Coastal Trail: An Update**
- **Chican@/Latin@ Identity: The Formation Of a Community**
- **Yoga for Individual Psychological Transformation**
- **Experiences of Immigrant Detainees and Their Families**
- **The Culture of Peace - with Ambassador Chowdhury**



# Modes of Inquiry

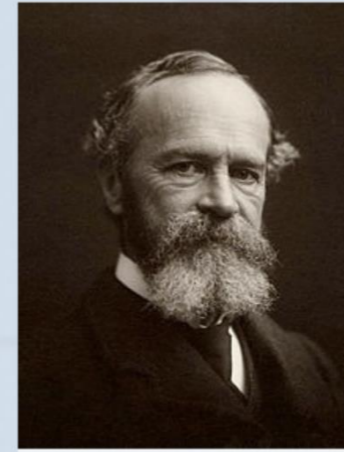
An examination of methods of inquiry and knowing in sciences, social sciences and humanities



Thomas Kuhn



Carl Sagan



William James

# Core II

Semester Course on "Enduring Questions in a Social Context"



Mohandas  
Gandhi



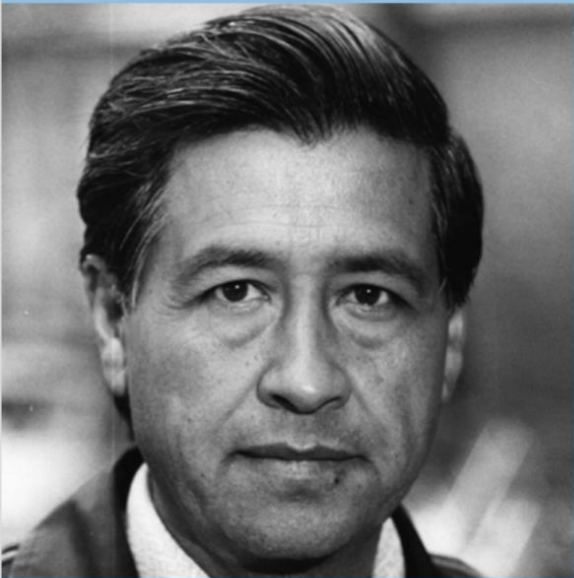
Hannah  
Arendt



Martin  
Luther  
King

Enduring  
Questions about  
Society and  
Citizenship

# American Experience



Cesar Chavez



Robert Moses

**Biographical Case Studies highlight emergence of themes in American culture that include:**

- Power
- Citizenship
- Democracy and Freedom
- Inclusion and Exclusion

**Historical Examples Connected to Diverse Student Experiences**

# Pacific Basin

Discussion of the entire region  
with deep faculty expertise  
- with experts on:

Oceania (Micronesia)

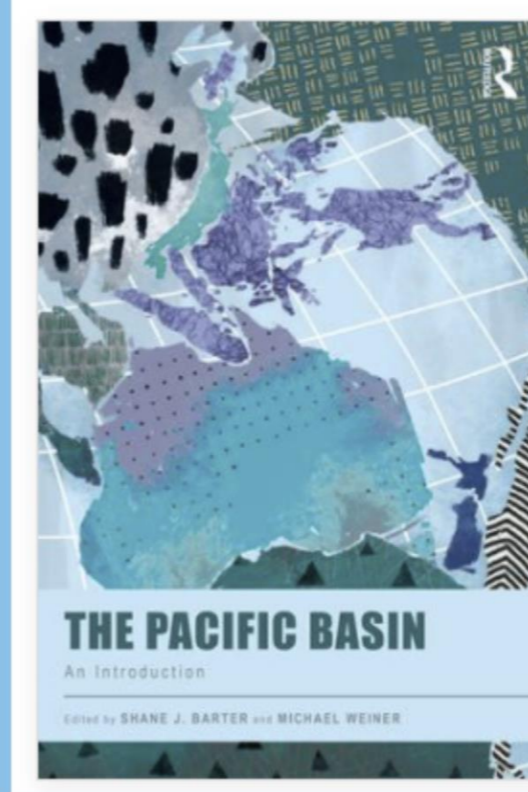
Southeast Asia (Indonesia)

China, Japan, Korea

North America

Latin America (Guatemala, Brazil, Honduras)

The interrelationships between Pacific Rim cultures, economies  
and peoples - explored in depth



## The Pacific Basin

An Introduction

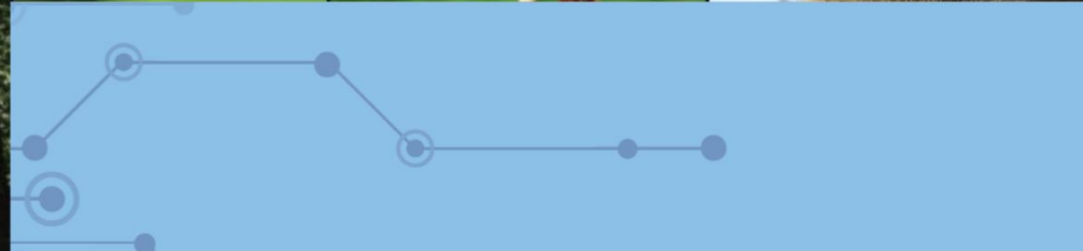
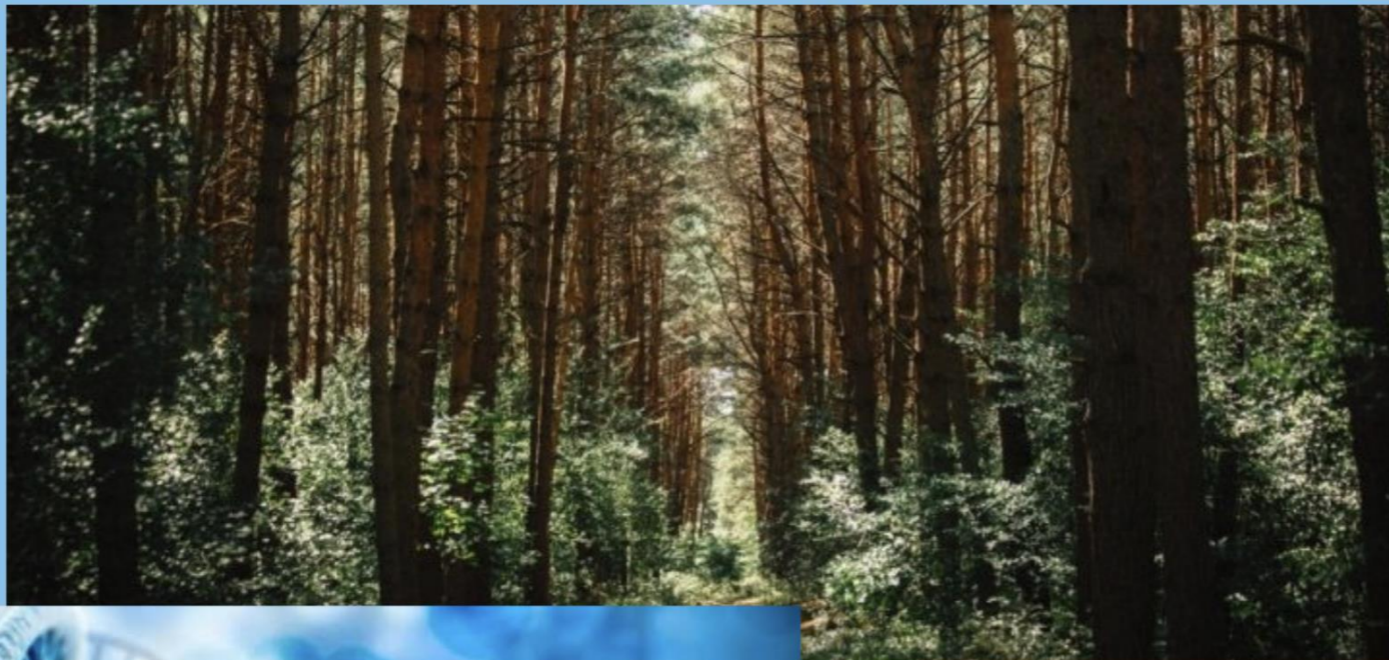
Edited by **Shane J. Barter**, **Michael Weiner**

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222 pages | 12 B/W Illus.



# Biology and Life Science

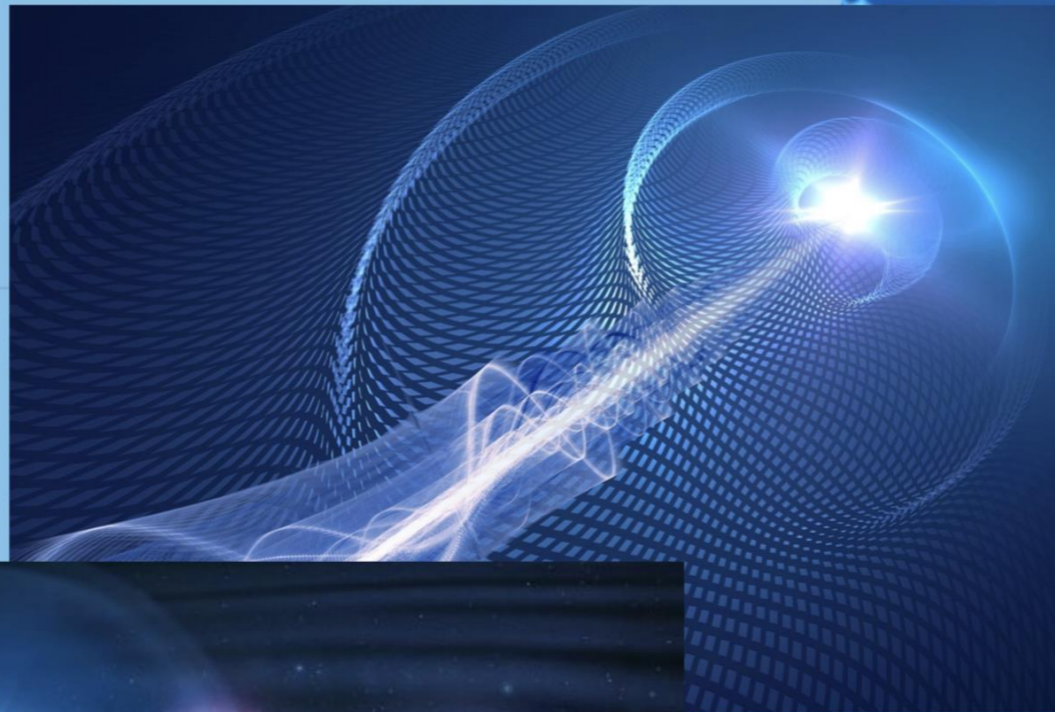


The Human Body  
Nature and Humanity  
Animal Diversity

and New Life Science  
Concentration - coming  
2020!



# Physical Science



Heaven, Space and Earth  
- A first Synthesis

Space, Time and Reality

General Chemistry

Earth's Cosmic Context

Motion on Earth



# Study Abroad Programs

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**PROGRAM WORLD MAP**

Map Satellite

+

-

**All** students study abroad with all courses taught in Chinese, Japanese, Spanish or French

34 Programs in Argentina, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Franch, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Spain, Taiwan

# Examples - French and Japanese

## French Programs 2017 -2018

1. ISA – Paris, France
2. CIEE – Rennes, France
3. CEA - Aix-en-Provence, France
4. CIEE – Dakar, Senegal
5. CEA – Grenoble
6. Accès – Strasbourg

CIEE - Rennes

ISA Paris

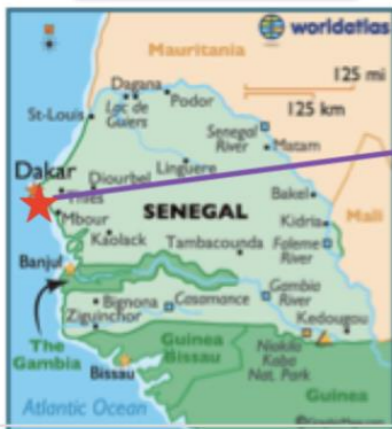
Accès-Strasbourg



CEA – Aix-en-Provence

CEA – Grenoble

CIEE - Dakar



## Japanese Programs Fall 2017 & Spring 2018

