






INSTRUCTION INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER

April 2025



With only 21 days until commencement, here's a quick checklist for faculty to close out the semester.

-  ALL Grades & Positive Attendance must be submitted in Self-Service by 05/30.
-  SLOs must be submitted in the SLOCloud by 05/30.
-  **Celebrate the end of the semester!**

Summer and Fall Course Materials

- Summer 2025 Course Material Adoptions were DUE April 25
- Fall 2025 Course Material Adoptions DUE: May 15

NOTE: OER or not using materials? To ensure our campus receives the most accurate information, OER and ZCT will need to be reported using the Follett Discover tool.

Here is how to get started:

1. Log into the Canvas system
2. Click on "Account" on the top and left and then choose any link on the navigation menu
3. Start Adopting!

A video illustrating how Follett Discover can be used can be found at the link below:

[Demo: Follett Discover | The Faculty Experience - Follett](#)

Plan Ahead: Submit Your Fall Print Orders Early!



Printing Services is open and ready to support you this summer! Get a jump on the Fall semester by submitting your print orders now. Completed materials can be held and delivered during in-service days—just in time for the start of the term. Early submission helps ensure your materials are ready on day one and avoids the rush that comes with the high volume of last-minute requests.



Have your classes changed for the Fall?

In alignment with AB 1111: Common Course Numbering, effective Fall 2025, some subject names and/or course numbers may have changed.

[Click Here](#) for the full list of the courses that have changed.

Tenure Reception

On Friday, April 25, 2025, the campus community gathered to honor and celebrate the outstanding faculty members who earned tenure during the 2024–2025 academic year. This milestone event recognized their dedication, excellence in teaching, and unwavering commitment to student success.



Empowering Futures:

A LOOK INSIDE SBVC'S SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, KINESIOLOGY AND HEALTH DIVISION

The Social Science, Human Development, Kinesiology and Health Division at SBVC continues to grow with innovative programs, strong community ties, and student-centered initiatives. From anthropology to political science, the division is expanding pathways to academic success, workforce readiness, and civic engagement.

Anthropology: Expanding Minds, Broadening Horizons

The Anthropology Program recently participated in the "Getting to Know You – GE Courses" event, showcasing how its courses fulfill GE requirements across multiple disciplines. Faculty Chair Dr. Melissa King represented SBVC at the January Conference for California Anthropology Teachers and was accepted into Orion Magazine's 2025 Environmental Writers' Workshop in New York.

Human Services: A Remarkable Comeback

Human Services has seen internship participation grow from 6–8 students pre-pandemic to 64 students in 2024–25. Students now intern with organizations like Inland Valley Recovery Services, Mary's Village, and Riverside University Health Care Systems. Through Project Launch, 23 students have completed the Social Work & Human Services Assistants certificate, with a new fall cohort of 30 students from Youth Action Project. Articulation with Cajon High School is underway, and apprenticeship opportunities continue to expand in partnership with local agencies and SBVC itself.

Political Science: Civic Engagement in Action

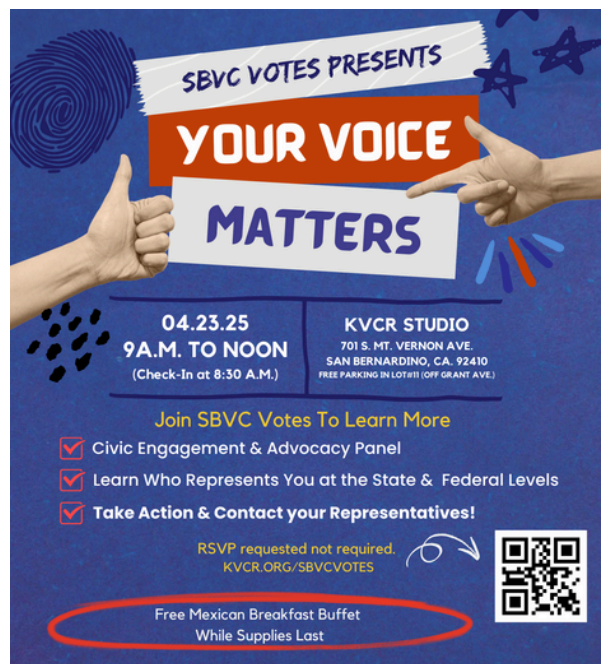
The department continues to lead student voter engagement with another Rock the Vote planned for April 2025 following a successful Fall 2024 campaign.

Sociology & Ethnic Studies: Save the Date

The Ethnic Studies Summit returns on June 14 with workshops, cultural celebration, and community dialogue.

Kinesiology & Health: New Leadership, Broader Reach

The department welcomed James Griffin-Avant as the new head football coach and received a \$125,000 grant from the LA84 Foundation to launch a new community outreach initiative.



Extended Police Academy: We Came as Many... and Leave as One...

SBVC's POST-certified Extended Police Academy offers a 950-hour, year-long program tailored for working students. Many graduates balance full-time jobs while preparing to serve their communities in law enforcement roles. Class #43 will graduate in July 2025. Alumni are serving in agencies across the region, including the San Bernardino Community College District and SBCUSD.

Child Development: Pathways and Partnerships

In March, the department hosted a pathway event linking students to transfer institutions and local employers. Faculty members Danya Sanders-Hester and Tamara Wagner presented on early literacy and co-host the growing podcast Talk Early to Me, focused on early childhood development. The department also launched a new collaboration with San Bernardino Preschool Services to offer core courses to 40 new preschool employees and is expanding offerings through partnerships with Inland Career and Education Center, ESL, and Weekend College (with Spanish-language courses).

Education, Reading & Literacy: Strengthening Transfer Pathways

New MOUs and articulation agreements with UC Riverside and Cal State San Bernardino support two transfer-focused degrees designed to prepare future educators.



Faculty Spotlight

Parul Khokher- ***Helping Students Thrive - Bringing Economics to Life***



Dr. Parul Khokher joined San Bernardino Valley College in Fall 2024, bringing a global perspective and deep passion for student success. Born and raised in New Delhi, India, Dr. Khokher holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Suffolk University in Boston, an M.A. in International Economics from Jamia Millia Islamia University, and a B.A. in Economics from Delhi University.

Before joining SBVC, she taught for eight years at Whittier College, and served as a graduate instructor at Suffolk University and the College of the Holy Cross. Her decision to move to Valley College was driven by a heartfelt commitment to helping students reach their academic and career goals.

"I try to connect economic concepts to real-life experiences and current events," Dr. Khokher says. "Students are more engaged when they see how economics impacts their world—whether it's in the price of their groceries or public policy debates." Dr. Khokher emphasizes critical thinking in her classroom and encourages students to apply economic theory to news articles and everyday decision-making. "The supply and demand framework may seem basic," she adds, "but it's foundational for understanding how markets function, anticipating trends, and making informed choices."

One of the most rewarding moments for Dr. Khokher has been receiving thank-you notes from students who initially doubted their ability to succeed in economics. "When a student tells me that this course changed how they see the world or gave them confidence in a subject they once feared—that's the real reward."

Her teaching philosophy is shaped by her own academic journey. "The 2008 financial crisis really shifted my path. As part of the graduating class of 2008, I faced a tough job market, which led me to pursue graduate school and deepen my understanding of international economics." Dr. Khokher also shares advice for students interested in economics: "Start with the basics, and stay curious. Read about what's happening in the world—economic decisions are everywhere, from government policies to the choices we make at the store."

Outside the classroom, Dr. Khokher is a proud mom of two energetic boys, ages 4 and 6. She and her husband spend weekends hiking, exploring local parks, visiting farms, or enjoying California's beaches. "Spending time in nature with my family keeps me grounded and energized."

She also reflects on the importance of adaptability in education and career planning. "Always be ready with a Plan B—or even a Plan C. Life doesn't always follow our first plan, and having options helps us stay resilient and empowered."

Dr. Khokher's blend of academic rigor, real-world relevance, and student-centered teaching makes her a powerful addition to the SBVC community. Her global background, passion for equity, and dedication to economic literacy are already leaving a lasting impression.

Faculty Spotlight

Anthony Blacksher - *Reimagining the World through Sociology*



For many students, college is where they begin to question the world around them. For Anthony Blacksher, that journey started years earlier—while supervising a busy logistics dock. “I came to Sociology because I was trying to make sense of my own life and my place in the world,” Blacksher explains. “I had started my career in logistics and every day, I witnessed how our facility and the broader company reproduced patterns of racial, gender, and class stratification. It felt like I had graduated college learning about inequality—and then stepped into a workplace where I was suddenly part of reinforcing it. That disconnect really shook me.”

That turning point led to a bold decision: leaving a stable job to return to school and study Sociology, not just to understand those systems—but to disrupt them. Today, this drive to connect classroom learning with real-world impact shapes every aspect Dr. Blacksher’s teaching. “Sociology is really the study of what’s happening right now,” he said. “Even when we’re discussing theory or historical events, the purpose is to better understand the present.” Whether analyzing mass deportations, exploring the rise of artificial intelligence, or simply unpacking why Disneyland has become so expensive, students are encouraged to investigate the systems and structures that shape their lives, and think through what can be changed.

A highlight of Dr. Blacksher’s classes is the innovative use of Virtual Reality (VR). “It’s incredible to see how much learning happens when we put the notes away, turn off the PowerPoints, and students are fully immersed in an experience,” he shares. From exploring homelessness to witnessing the realities of mass incarceration, students gain a visceral understanding of the social issues they may pass by every day but rarely see up close. “The reactions are powerful - shifting from curiosity to deep emotional reflection. It changes them.”

This blend of empathy and analysis is central to Dr. Blacksher’s approach. Students aren’t just expected to memorize facts or recite theories, they’re challenged to create, perform, and reflect. One standout student created a homemade documentary using just their phone camera. “He wasn’t a filmmaker. But he wanted to connect with his grandkids in a new way. That stuck with me. It’s those personal breakthroughs—those moments of courage—that I’ll never forget.” Dr. Blacksher also works to correct one of the biggest misconceptions about Sociology: that it’s easy. “It’s not,” he says bluntly. “There’s no such thing as ‘common sense’ in Sociology—everything is up for examination. We ask students to question what they’ve always known and to think deeply about the forces that shape our world.” Those skills, deep critical thinking, the ability to analyze systems, and a drive to create change, prepare students for a wide range of careers, from public policy and education to social work, tech, and business. “Martin Luther King Jr. majored in Sociology,” Blacksher points out. “That alone should tell you—sociologists change the world.”

Looking ahead, the department is expanding its use of virtual reality and pushing the boundaries of online education. With the support of colleagues like Professors Romana Pires, Amber Neyses, Elizabeth Burkhalter, and Denise Nealon, SBVC Sociology faculty are helping lead the way in accessible, equity-minded digital learning.

In a rapidly evolving world, the need for sociological insight is more urgent than ever. From AI to global inequality, climate change to algorithmic bias, today’s students will be tomorrow’s leaders navigating these complex systems. Dr. Blacksher puts it simply: “Sociology trains you to ask better questions, to see the bigger picture, and to create solutions that address root causes.” His advice to students? “Tune out the noise that says you can’t do anything with a Sociology degree. The world needs people who understand how systems work—and how to change them.” At San Bernardino Valley College, those future changemakers are already in the making.