The Open University seminars were conceived as forums in which an intellectual who was also a scholar or knowledgeable professional would begin by reporting his/her work and its implications for Armenians, with the express purpose of drawing in the knowledge, thoughts and experiences of those present. Typically, an Open University Program consists of a presentation in the morning, a lunch break, and a seminar discussion of the topic in the afternoon. A representative selection of these seminars is listed below.

Armenia & Caspian Oil Politics
Henry Huttenbach, City College of New York. Columbia University, November 7, 1996.

The Construction of Gender Issues in Armenian American Communities
One way culture is transmitted is through the family. The role of women is absolutely in the center of preservation and perpetuation of tradition. However, if a tradition or culture does not evolve and becomes too narrowly defined, what happens to the community as a whole and to women in particular, when women feel they cannot abide by or uphold a tradition which they feel locks them out or denigrates them? Is there a double standard for men as opposed to women?
Arlene Avakian, Professor of Women’s Studies, University of Massachusetts-Amherst. MIT, April 13, 1996.

Diasporas within the Diaspora: Case Studies from Cyprus and Kessab
Susan Pattie. Tufts University, March 30, 1996.

After Independence: Diasporas and Homelands — Predicaments and Opportunities in the New Armenian World Order
Khachig Tololyan, Wesleyan University. Tufts University, February 24, 1996.

States, Nations and Diasporas in the New World Order

Armenian-North American Literature and the Possibility of a Diaspora Culture

Democratization in Armenia
Since February 1988, Soviet Armenian political culture was the focus of world attention and community discussion. One of the central topics of debate was the process of democratization in Armenia—its characteristics, architects, mechanisms, long-term goals, and limitations.

Inter-generational Effects of Genocide: From Collective Mourning to Personal Identity

A Sociologist Looks at Armenia: Class and Everyday Life
Levon Chorbajian, University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Tufts University, October 21, 1989.

Educating for the Future in Armenian Schools
Hagop Der Garabedian, University of LaVerne and Armine Proudian Der Garabedian, Fontana School
Recent Political Developments in Soviet Armenia

The Style of Reactive Symbolism in Armenian Diaspora Politics
It is a commonly held view that Armenian political life since the Middle Ages has been polarized. In the modern era too, tensions amongst the three “national” political parties have not subsided. What are the causes of the polarity which pervades all dimensions of Armenian political life? What are the consequences of such a situation? What kind of political behavior does this result in? What are the major characteristics of such behavior? What style of ideology does this entail?

Legitimacy and Democracy in Armenian Life

Cultural Pluralism and the Question of Ethnic Integration in the Armenian Community of Montreal

Armenian Issues and the Non-Armenian Media: Assumptions, Practices, and Alternatives
Since February 1988, Armenian issues in general and the question of Karabagh were the focus of continued media attention by the non-Armenian media in North America and throughout the world. At not other time in recent memory have so much sustained information and commentary been generated by the non-Armenian media about a series of related events which had far-reaching consequences, not only for the Armenian community, but also for much larger developments in the world. What patterns of interpretation were evident in the presentation of Armenian issues in general and the question of Karabagh in particular? How have the processes of news gathering, packaging, and dissemination reinforced these patterns? How have Armenian organizations attempted to make inroads in the media and to evaluate successes? What do these evaluations reveal about community structures and modes of collective action? Are there alternatives to the existing situation?

The Armenian Diaspora in a World of States
Hratch Zadoyan, Dean at Queen's College of the City University of New York and Professor of Political Science. Montreal, November 17, 1988.

Ethnicity and Political Development in the Armenian Diaspora

The American-Armenian Community and the Status of Women: Dilemma or Opportunity

The Lebanese Conflict: The Role of the Armenian Community

Gender, Politics, and Ethnicity in an International Perspective
What is the concept of gender differences, and what are the various approaches to political feminism? What are the international issues facing women in developing and developed countries? How do the concepts of gender difference and political feminism relate to ethnic, religious, and racial minorities in general and to
Armenian women in particular?

Genocide and Ideologies of Economic “Development”

Past and Present in Armenian Art
This seminar elicited an often heated debate over the political, cultural and emotional ramifications of such questions as, What is Armenian art? Do we herald it as “Armenian” simply because it repeats the traditional styles and motifs to which we have been exposed in the past? Is there room for another kind of Armenian Art? Is change acceptable? Do our community’s expectations oppress the modern artist?

Concepts of Power: Perceptions and Measurements

Leadership and Authority in the Diaspora
Khachig Tololyan, Professor of English Literature, Wesleyan University. New York, January 24; Boston, March 14; Montreal, September 26; and Toronto, October 3, 1987.

Conflict and Change in the Armenian Community

Foreign Policy in a Diasporan Setting
Hratch Zadoian, Dean at Queen's College of the City University of New York and Professor of Political Science. Toronto, December 13, 1986; New York, February 14, 1987.

Nation-states and the Diaspora

The Crisis of Legitimacy