

A Call for First-Year Seminar Proposals

This is an invitation to submit a proposal for one of several first-year integrative seminars to be offered first in the 2009-2010 academic year. Seminar proposals should substantially conform to the following guidelines.

- The seminar should be organized around a cross-disciplinary topic.
- The seminar should be designed as an 8-unit course taught in back-to-back periods by a pair of faculty members from two different disciplines.
- Enrollment will be limited to 30 students per seminar.
- The seminar should fulfill two GE common-context or common-inquiry areas.
- In addition, the seminar should be writing or speech-intensive and should devote time to helping students see the value of their education as a whole.
- Several sessions should be devoted to study/research skills presentations by library, advising, and writer's corner staff.

Compensation: Each of the two faculty members will be given four units of teaching load credit. Funds or release time for course development may be obtained through the Professional Development committee. We are investigating the possibility of an additional teaching stipend.

Anticipated Benefits:

- Students will be more academically engaged and will do a better job of integrating the various components of their education.
- Students will have intellectually satisfying relationships with other students and with faculty.
- Student retention will be enhanced.

Sample Seminar Topics:

- Christian Theology and Biological Science (human nature, salvation, freedom, love and altruism, evolution, humanity's place in and responsibility for the world).
- US – Latin American Relations (political and artistic expressions)
- Politics, Policy, and Physics (global warming, Louisiana levies, alternative energy sources, research funding)
- Aging in America (physical and economic issues)
- On Being Human (philosophical and psychological perspectives on human nature)
- See also <http://www.tcnj.edu/~gened/fye.htm>

Resources: (also type "First-Year Experience" in google)

National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience:

<http://www.sc.edu/fye/resources/fyr/index.html>

Learning Communities National Resource Center:

<http://www.evergreen.edu/washcenter/pResources.asp?pid=73>

Physics for future Presidents: <http://muller.lbl.gov/teaching/Physics10/PffP.html>