

A Call for First-Year Seminar Proposals

The Provost's Office is soliciting proposals for first-year integrative seminars to be offered first in the 2010-2011 academic year. The seminar 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. The two halves of the seminar should be well integrated with both instructors attending and interacting in class meetings.
- 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 six units of teaching load credit which may be taken as release time (preferred) or overload compensation. Funds or release time for course development may be obtained through the Professional Development Grants.

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.

Proposed Time Line:

January 30, 2009	Course development proposals due to the Professional Development Committee
March 15, 2009	Responses due back from Professional Development Committee
November 15, 2009	Developed courses with syllabi due in the Provost's Office
February 2010	Reviews by the Academic Senate Review Committee and General Education Committee completed
September, 2010	Initial seminars offered

To Apply: Funding is available to support the development and offering of two to three seminars. Proposals for course development should be submitted to the Professional Development Committee by January 30, 2008 and should include a narrative explaining how the proposed seminar will meet the guidelines delineated above and how the instructors are equipped by background, training, or proposed study to lead the proposed seminar.

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>