Course Development Grants on the Environment

The College of Arts and Letters is pleased to announce two course development initiatives to enhance students’ exposure to issues related to the environment across the Arts and Letters curriculum. The aim of these one-time initiatives for the 2008-2009 academic year is to introduce students to a range of problems in policy, economics, law, the arts, and ethics and will coincide with the Presidential Forum, “Charting a Sustainable Energy Future,” in fall 2008. Charting pathways to a sustainable energy future poses a life-long challenge to today’s youth. Given increasingly limited access to ample supplies of affordable energy, they will need to consider seriously such questions as what limits will be placed on economic growth and to what extent will decisions about how to use available resources be influenced by social justice and ethical considerations? In turn, we hope through coursework and the events surrounding the forum – workshops, demonstrations, lectures, films, tours, exhibits, and a conference – that students will transform their understanding into actions they can take to create change.

These initiatives are designed for faculty whose teaching or scholarship does not already focus on environmental issues. They are intended to encourage such faculty to expand their knowledge and either: a) develop a course that uses environmental issues as its primary focus or b) integrate a component on the environment into a new or existing course. Exceptions would be considered for those who are radically expanding, in a documented way, the range of their exploration of environmental issues, although faculty who are expanding into the study of ecology for the first time will be privileged. Courses can be for fall 2008 or spring 2009.

A. Environment Course Development Grants: Funds are available to provide $3,500 in material grant support to faculty who are selected to develop a course on the environment. Applications for this program should delineate how specific themes related to the environment will be incorporated into the course content. In order to establish an ongoing dialogue on these issues, faculty who receive funding are expected to participate in a roundtable discussion of best practices, sponsored by ISLA during the academic year.

B. Environment Component Grants: Funds are available to provide $1,000 in material grant support to faculty who are selected to create a component of an existing course that would focus on issues related to the environment. The course should include approximately 10 to 20 percent of its material on specific environmental issues. Themes related to the environment could be incorporated in several ways, depending on the specific goals of the course. For example, two weeks of the course might include readings devoted specifically to issues surrounding the environment. Alternatively, themes related to the environment might be intricately interspersed throughout the semester, relating its subject matter to other existing or more traditional topics already embedded in the course. In order to establish an ongoing dialogue on these issues, faculty who receive funding are expected to participate in a roundtable discussion of best practices, sponsored by ISLA during the academic year.
Course Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis and should be submitted to ISLA in 101 O’Shaughnessy. For more information, please contact Stuart Greene, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at sgreene1@nd.edu.

Application Guidelines for Course Development Proposals

Submit three collated, stapled copies of your course development proposal to ISLA, 101 O’Shaughnessy Hall.

Project Description:

- Specify nature of grant - new course or component.
- Course description (limit: four single-spaced or eight double-spaced pages.)
- Teaching methods, including media and other resources to be used.
- The target student population and its prerequisite knowledge.
- The optimal class size and projected enrollment goals.

Describe how the development of this course is beyond the normal scope of your responsibility as a faculty member.

- Abbreviated curriculum vitae (two pages only). Include the following information: education, employment history, a list of courses you have taught and research you have published in the area of the new course, and a list of any Notre Dame internal funding previously awarded to you. Keep in mind that faculty who are not specialists in your particular discipline will review your proposal; therefore, avoiding overly technical language will strengthen your proposal.
- A letter of support from department chair.

Review Criteria; these issues should be explicitly addressed in the project description and budget justification:

- **Intellectual Merit:** How important is the proposed course to furthering knowledge and understanding within its field and possibly across different fields? Does the project explore and/or suggest creative and original ideas? How well is the idea conceived and organized?

- **Impact:** Does the proposed course contribute well to the curriculum of the college, major, or concentration? To what extent will the activity promote the goals of the Presidential Forum on the environment, “Charting a Sustainable Energy Future”?
• **Methods:** Are the proposed teaching methods and materials to be used clearly described?