

TO: Faculty of the College

FROM: Steven R. Leigh, Dean

SUBJECT: Gamm Interdisciplinary Courses

DATE: August 27th, 2012

Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce a competition for financial support for interdisciplinary courses made possible by a generous gift from a friend of the College, Gordon Gamm.

Interdisciplinary courses taught by two or more faculty members often present learning opportunities for students at the intersections of disciplines that are difficult to attain in courses taught within a single discipline. Furthermore, cross-disciplinary interactions of participating faculty members and students create opportunities for new scholarship, research, and creative works. Fortunately, Mr. Gamm's generous gift offers us opportunities to support teaching reallocations necessary for this kind of project. Gordon Gamm has made it possible for us to explore curricular frontiers more fully.

Program Description

1. The Gordon Gamm Fund will fund two to three interdisciplinary courses each year. Courses designed for undergraduates are strongly preferred.
2. Courses may be offered either fall or spring term.
3. Courses must be taught by at least one member of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, but proposals to partner with colleagues from other schools and colleges are fully eligible. All faculty ranks are eligible to participate.
4. Courses taught by faculty members from two different disciplines will be prioritized over team taught courses from within a single discipline.
5. Successful applications will address topics that require an interdisciplinary perspective, stepping beyond conventional wisdom of purpose, limit, and scope of a single discipline. Proposals should illustrate that multiple disciplines provide fresh insights into the questions or subject matter. Disciplines also can evaluate one another in terms of contributions to the search for truth, critical thinking skills, and moral values. Applications for interdisciplinary courses will consider perspectives that challenge conventional paradigms within academic disciplines and may address critical issues facing the community, nation, or the world.
6. The intent of this initiative is to facilitate the development of these courses and the experimentation of curriculum in new, cross-disciplinary areas. Therefore, as a general rule, courses will not be eligible for renewed course development funding.
7. Funded courses will be asked to acknowledge on their syllabus funding of the course from the "Gamm Interdisciplinary Fund." Faculty selected to teach these courses will be known as Gamm Teaching Fellows during the academic year that their course is offered.
8. Replacement costs for lost teaching will be negotiated with the participating units and paid to the units from the Gordon Gamm Fund.

Application Procedure

- a. Applications are due by Noon on November 16, preceding the academic year in which the course is to be taught.
- b. Applications should include the following
 - a. A brief description of the unique perspectives made possible by interdisciplinary collaboration
 - b. A prospective syllabus including assignment and reading lists
 - c. A description of the target audience for the course, what credit the course would carry (# hours, credit towards which if any majors), and the desired enrollment for the course.
 - d. Endorsement of the proposal by the appropriate primary unit officials
 - e. An estimate of the necessary replacement teaching cost
- c. Applications will be reviewed and recommended by a faculty committee appointed by the Dean in consultation with the Chair of the ASC Curriculum Committee based upon the criteria implied by the Program Description and the application materials.

The inaugural review committee includes:

Dan Barth, Psychology and Neuroscience
Michelle Ellsworth, Dance
Michael Radelet, Sociology
Andy Cowell, FRIT & Linguistics