

## College of Arts and Sciences

## 186 University Hall

230 North Oval Mall

Columbus, OH 43210

## Phone (614) 292-6186

Fax (614) 292-8666

**DATE:** March 13, 2014

**TO:** ASC Executive Deans Office

All ASC Department Chairs & Directors

All ASC Faculty

**FROM:** David Manderscheid, Executive Dean and Vice Provost

**SUBJECT:** Team Teaching Proposals

I am pleased to issue this call for proposals for new, interdisciplinary team-taught courses in the College of Arts and Sciences. As the College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan states, “We will promote a spirit of collaboration and cooperation that embraces the diversity of scholarship in the College while at the same time recognizing the importance of maintaining our traditional areas of strength.”

Team-taught courses, utilizing professors from different disciplines, programs or departments, provide innovative teaching and learning opportunities, promote the goal of interdisciplinarity in teaching, and encourage interdisciplinary research. These courses provide students with the broadest understanding of a liberal arts education by conveying within a single classroom the breadth of perspectives and interconnectivity that is inherent in academia and the world.

**Definition**

For the purposes of this plan, a team-taught course is defined as collaborative in-classroom teaching. That is, professors collaborate on defining the objectives for the course, putting together the course materials, and constructing an assessment plan. Note that courses in which one faculty member of record convenes the course and invites one or more guest speakers to take part in the class are not considered to be team-taught courses.(Team-taught courses may, however, utilize outside speakers in addition to the primary faculty members of record.) Moreover, for the purposes of this plan, *interdisciplinary* will mean that participating faculty instructors must be from demonstrably different disciplines, programs, or departments. Class size for the initial offering should not be lower than the College standard (16).

**Applications**

Interdisciplinary courses should be piloted as "Group Studies" courses (X194), and they will follow the standard policies for course approval at the departmental and college levels (including such information as course title, number of credits, prerequisites, intended student rank, etc.). A syllabus, which includes course goals and expected learning outcomes, must be submitted as part of the regular course request form. The application for Arts and Sciences team-teaching support will include a rationale for, and description of, the course that highlights the following components:

1. its interdisciplinary nature;
2. an explanation of how the course will benefit students, how it will advance the participating departments' academic goals, and how it will fit into each department's curricular map;
3. an explanation of the added value that team teaching brings to the course;
4. an explanation of the form that team teaching in the course will take;
5. a statement of course learning goals and a plan for assessing student success in reaching them.

The application should be accompanied by letters of support from the chairs of participating departments describing how the course enhances their departments or programs, addressed to the Executive Dean of the College

**Selection**

I will charge the ASC Curriculum Committee with reviewing and ranking the submitted interdisciplinary team-taught course proposals. Up to 10 courses will be selected, ideally from a variety of disciplines, to be funded for the initial year of instruction, after which time the expectation is that the course will become a regular part of each department's offerings. Faculty whose courses are selected will each receive one full-course teaching credit for their participation in the initial year of the team-taught course, and departments offering these courses will be compensated at the lecturer rate during the initial year to offset the cost of covering the departmental course that would otherwise have been taught by the team-teaching instructor.

**Assessment**

Each interdisciplinary team-taught course will be evaluated by the University’s usual array of evaluation tools (such as the SEI) as well as by assessment data evaluating achievement of course learning goals; and these materials will be used in reviewing the course for continuation. In addition, each teaching faculty member will submit a grade distribution sheet and a reflective evaluation of the team-teaching experience, the collaborative process and the extent to which course goals and objectives were reached.

Courses that are successfully evaluated should be offered again within the following two years as part of the academic curriculum. For this goal to be realized the following pattern should be established.

1. Interdisciplinary team-taught course should be cross-listed and fully accredited within both instructors' departments;
2. The class should continue to be offered if total enrollment remains at 24 students or more.
3. The primary developers of the course should be given priority in teaching the class. However, if a developing faculty member withdraws, preference should be given to the remaining instructor to choose his/her teaching partner rather than to the withdrawing teacher's department. Every effort should be made by the collaborating department to fulfill the request of the collaborating instructor regarding his/her choice of faculty teaching partner.

**Timeline**

The application deadline for courses to be implemented in the Spring semester of 2015 will be **June 1, 2014**. Completed proposals should be submitted to Kathy Simcox, Assistant to the Associate Deans, 114 University Hall (Simcox.13@osu.edu).