



June 2, 2014

Kathy Simcox  
Assistant to the Associate Deans  
College of Arts and Sciences  
114 University Hall  
230 N. Oval Mall  
Campus

Dear Ms. Simcox:

I am pleased to support the proposal for a new team-taught course, "HIV: From Microbiology to Macrohistory." This course would fit very nicely with the Department of History's goals and offerings. My colleague Thomas McDow would teach the course with Jesse Kwiek from the Department of Microbiology, and their students would learn skills and insights appropriate to each discipline.

The course uses African and world historical approaches to provide framing for the emergence of HIV, first as endemic disease in central Africa and eventually as a global pandemic. This approach, in conjunction with a virologist perspective, would showcase the way that history (and the humanities more broadly) play an important role in understanding the context of scientific discovery, infectious diseases, and their consequences. Conversely, the course would provide an opportunity to humanities students to develop and practice a new set of tools and scientific methodologies.

The interdisciplinary course provides an undergraduate perspective on one of the latest discovery themes (Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease) and contributes to one of the Department of History's most active thematic constellations (Environment, Health, Technology, and Science).

Our department prides itself on excellent undergraduate teaching. Earlier this year, Thomas McDow joined the ranks of our many prize-winning teachers when he was awarded the Paul W. Brown Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching in the Departments of English and History. McDow has been very successful teaching our large survey course on world history, 1500-present, and it is clear that he conveys the broad sweep of history to a wide variety of students. McDow also developed and taught a new course for our department on the History of

African Health and Healing that attracted a large number of students from the biomedical sciences. The proposed course would allow him to elaborate on the HIV section of the earlier course while building on the scientific expertise of Dr. Jesse Kwiek, the other instructor.

The fact that McDow and Kwiek are considering adding a service-learning or study abroad component to the class in the future adds to the value of the course in our department. We have launched other multidisciplinary study abroad programs, and a course like this one would be an ideal complement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Hahn", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter L. Hahn  
Professor and Chair