

Date: August 20, 2003

To: All UC Santa Cruz Faculty with Tenure or Security of Employment (SOE)

From: Lynda J. Goff, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

RE: 2003/04 FRESHMAN DISCOVERY SEMINAR PROGRAM

Dear Colleagues:

After a very successful introduction in 2002/03, the UC Santa Cruz Freshman Discovery Seminar Program is now starting its second year, and I am writing to invite you to submit a seminar proposal.

These seminars engage undergraduate students, particularly first year students, in challenging small-group discussions that help nurture the kind of critical thinking that will be vital for their academic careers. Additionally, the seminars introduce students to the research and other scholarly activities in which our faculty are engaged, and they initiate important connections between faculty and students at an early stage in a student's university life.

You should soon be receiving from your Dean an invitation to participate in next year's seminars. As they were this year, these one- or two-unit seminars will again be scheduled during winter and spring quarter. Since the classes are taught in addition to the usual workload, faculty who teach a Freshman Discovery Seminar will receive either \$1,500 (for a one-unit seminar) or \$2,000 (for a two-unit course), paid into their faculty research account. Student FTE credit is assigned to the department of the participating faculty member.

Please consider participating in this program. The first year of the Discovery Seminars was a shining success for the campus, and both students and faculty have expressed to me their enthusiasm for the classes (see attached compilation of student and faculty comments). The students were delighted at the opportunity to work closely with senior faculty during their first year on campus. Also, Executive Vice Chancellor and Campus Provost Simpson, along with the Academic Deans, fully support faculty involvement in the program, as demonstrated by their personal participation in this year's program. It will, I know, continue to be a very satisfying and memorable experience for us all.

If you are interested in offering a seminar this academic year, a course approval form is enclosed with this letter. Please be sure to submit your proposals no later than September 30, 2003 for the winter quarter, and November 21, 2003, for the spring quarter. Additional information, including a link to the electronic version of the course approval form, is available at planning.ucsc.edu/vpdue/froshseminars. I also encourage that you visit the Registrar's website at <http://reg.ucsc.edu/forms/discoverySem.pdf>, the site of the special course approval form for these classes. Again, I hope you will consider teaching a Discovery Seminar, and ask that you please contact me if you have any questions about this program.

cc: Academic Senate Chairs Blumenthal & Galloway
Vice Provost Brown
Committee on Educational Policy Chairs Freeman & Brenneis
Chancellor Greenwood
Committee on Teaching Chair Habicht-Mauche
Vice Chancellor Michaels
Executive Vice Chancellor and Campus Provost Simpson

Winter 2003 Freshman seminars			
Dept-No.	Title	Credits	Instructor
ANTH 88A	The Sounds of Social Life: Place, Person, and Popular Music	1	Brenneis, Don
BME 88A	Surfing Your Genome	1	Lowe, Todd
CHEM 88A	From Alzheimer's to Mad Cows: Research on Neurodegenerative Disease	1	Fink, Tony
CMPE 88A	Internet Working Technology	1	Garcia-Luna-Ace
ECON 88A	Asian Tigers and Dragons: Technology and International Trade	2	Fung, K.C.
HIS 88A	Latinos, Remaking America	2	Castillo, Pedro
LING 88A	Grammar as Science: The Discovery of Linguistic Structure	2	Pullum, Geoff
LIT 88A	The Communist Manifesto, Past and Future	1	Connery, Chris
LIT 88B	<i>Medea</i> in Performance	2	Gamel, Mary-Kay
LIT 88C	Introduction to Emergent Literature	1	Godzich, Wlad
MUSC 88A	Polyrhythms in Afro-American Music	1	Jones, David Evan
PHIL 88A	Applied Ethics from a Kantian Point of View	1	Tannenbaum, Julie
PHYS 88A	Relativity and Cosmology	2	Primack, Joel
POLI 88A	Just and Unjust Wars	2	Gruhn, I.V.
THEA 88A	Masks and Puppets of Southeast Asia	2	Foley, M.K.
THEA 88B	The Pain and Glory of Twentieth-First-Century Artists and Dance, Music, and Visual Arts	2	Wong, Mel

Spring 2003 Freshman seminars			
Dept-No.	Title	Credits	Instructor
ANTH088A	The Sounds of Social Life: Place, Person, and Popular Music	1	Brenneis, Don
ANTH088B	Power and Politics	2	Pandey, Loki
ART 088A	Curating Technologies: Designing Multimedia Exhibition of Student Computers, Video, and Electronic Art	2	Andersen, Elliot
BIOL088A	Exercise Physiology As If Your Life Depended on It	2	Davis, Jackson
CLNI088A	Traditional Life/Modern Life: The Case of the Maya	2	Wilson, Carter
CLTE088A	Communicating Gender	2	Leaper, Cam
CMPE088B	Technology Advances: Turning Science Fiction into Reality	1	Mantey, Patrick
ECON088B	Global Environmental Issues: International Trade and the Environment	2	Fung,K.C.
ENVS088A	Managing Fresh Water Resources: The Interdisciplinary Challenge	1	Haddad, Brent
HIS 088B	The Lessons of War	1	Christy, Alan
HIS 088C	Fieldwork in Historical Archives	2	Traugott, Mark
LING088B	Where Do Words Get Their Meanings?	2	Ladusaw, William
LIT 088D	Egyptian Hieroglyphs	2	Selden, Daniel
MERR088A	Ethical Problems	2	Isbister, John
PSYC088A	The History of Psychosurgery	1	Simpson, John

Winter 2004 Discovery Seminars

Dept-No.	Title	Credits	Instructor
ASTR-088A	Future of the Universe	1	Laughlin, Gregory
CMMU-088A	California Wine and Community	2	Friedland, William
FILM-088A	Women and Hong Kong Film	2	Hastie, Amelie
HIS-088D	War and International Law	1	Christy, Alan
	Crusade and Jihad: The Middle Ages		
HIS-088E	... and Today	1	Catlos, Brian
HISC-088A	Politics of Imprisonment	2	Davis, Angela
LING-088D	The Structure of Turkish	2	Hankamer, Jorge
	"Junk" Books: The Attraction of		
LIT-088G	Mystery, the Mystery of Attraction	2	Terdiman, Richard
MATH-088A	Mathematics and Politics	2	Cooperstein, Bruce
	Time in Art and Music: Philosophy,		
MUSC-088B	Psychology, Physics, and Society	2	Lieberman, Fredric
	In Deep Water: The World's Oceans		
OCEA-088A	Today	2	Delaney, Margaret
PHIL-088B	Philosophy in Film	2	Otte, Richard
PHYS-088A	Relativity and Cosmology	2	Primack, Joel
PSYC-088B	Children's Learning in Museums	1	Callanan, Maureen
WMST-088A	Women's Cultures of the Southwest	2	Aptheker, Bettina

Spring 2004 Discovery Seminars

Dept-No.	Title	Credits	Instructor
ANTH-088C	Chicana Traditions	2	Najera Ramirez, Olga
ART-088B	Everyday Performance	2	Crichton, E.G.
BIOL-088A	Exercise Physiology As If Your Life Depended on It	2	Davis, W. Jackson
BIOL-088B	Diseases and Health Disparities	1	Talamantes, Frank
CLNI-088B	Peer Influences on School Performance	2	Gibson, Margaret
CLTE-088A	Communicating Gender	2	Leaper, Cam
CMPE-088C	Multimedia, the Web, and All That Morals and Markets in Evolutionary Perspective	1	Manduchi, Roberto
ECON-088C	Nanobiotechnology: The Exploration and Diagnostics of Inner Space	1	Friedman, Daniel
EE-088A		1	Isaacson, Michael
ENVS-088A	Environmental Toxicology: Real World Applications	1	Haddad, Brent
ETOX-088A	How to Interpret a Portrait	1	Flegal, A. Russell
HAVC-088A	Race and Ethnicity in America: Comparative Conceptions	2	Hunter, Donna
HIS-088F	San Francisco History	2	Castillo, Pedro
HIS-088G		2	Haas, Lisbeth
LING-088C	Symbolic Systems and Codes	2	Hankamer, Jorge
LIT-088E	<i>Dombey and Son</i>	1	Jordan, John
LIT-088F	Reading Holocaust Writing	1	Baumgarten, Murray
MATH-088B	Mathematics and Mathematicians in Hollywood	2	Mason, Geoff and Tromba, Tony
MERR-088A	Ethical Problems	2	Isbister, John
MUSC-088C	Sound Art	2	Jones, David Evan
MUSC-088D	Introduction to Music through Literature	2	Lieberman, Fredric
OCEA-088A	In Deep Water: The World's Oceans Today	2	Bruland, Ken
PHIL-088C	Science and Religion	1	Otte, Richard

This academic year was the first year of the Freshman Discovery Seminar. We assessed the program through two surveys – one of the faculty participating in the program and the other of students enrolled in the classes. In addition, Chancellor Greenwood hosted two dinners of all faculty who participated in the program both to thank them for their efforts and to open discussion of the program.

COMMENTS FROM THE FACULTY PARTICIPATING IN THE FRESHMAN DISCOVERY SEMINAR PROGRAM:

Question. The goals of the Freshman Discovery Seminars are to challenge students to think critically about the subject area, encourage discussion and to help them understand the role of faculty and students in research at the university. Please comment on the extent to which you feel your seminar achieved these goals.

Comment: “I think it has succeeded very well. I have 15 students. We have dealt with two pressing practical moral problems: Affirmative action and abortion. For each class we read an article and have quite intensive discussions. Most of the students have participated very actively”.

Comment: “It turned out to be a wonderful learning experience both for me as well as for my 18 students in the weekly seminar. They wrote first-rate papers and took vigorous part in the discussions. “

Question, Did the Freshman Discovery Seminar provide you the opportunity to provide career advice and mentoring to any of your students? Did they seek you out for advice during the course?

Comment: “Yes to both questions. Students were hesitant at first but the resistance broke down over a dinner I hosted for them”.

Comment. “The students did not seek mentoring but I did discuss the purpose of seeking an education at a research university.”

Comment. “Yes, I was able to mentor students about selecting a major and exploring various career options. I continue to be in touch with my students via e-mail and will continue to offer advice and counsel.”

Comment. “Yes, 4 out of 18 did come to see me during my office hours to discuss their work and seek my advice. I read draft papers of ten students and saw them individually to discuss their papers/projects.

Comment. “Absolutely. We spent a lot of time outside of class...and most of them have sought and received both career and personal advice.”

Question. Please include any additional comments that you think could help us improve this program:

“Personally speaking, this seminar redeemed for me what has been a very disappointing evolution away from educational innovation and toward big university homogeneity on the part of UCSC. I came here ... in large part because UCSC promised to break the conventional mold of outmoded curricular structure and implementation. Congratulations on its conception and implementation.”

COMMENTS FROM THE STUDENT EVALUATION OF THE FRESHMAN DISCOVERY SEMINAR PROGRAM:

A significant number of students commented that they took specific seminars:

- “to help me learn more about a discipline before I choose my major;”
- “to explore a new or unfamiliar discipline;”
- “to have more direct contact with a faculty member;”
- “to learn more about the research of the faculty member and research in general.”

A significant number of responders commented that the seminar:

- Helped them gain a better understanding of what faculty do as researchers and scholars;
- Helped them begin to think about becoming engaged in research as part of their education;
- Helped them think about possible careers;
- Increased their confidence about participating in class discussion at a college level.