

**CREATING A CANADIAN STUDIES ONLINE PROGRAM:
JAMES BOND, Q, AND A LICENSE TO MAKE IT UP AS YOU GO ALONG**

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Creating a Canadian Studies internet program requires the technological support of many Qs and the resourcefulness of a cadre of academic James Bonds who have had a license to make it up as they go along. Over the past four years, this is the image the participants have had of themselves as they used an inter-campus agreement as a license to make up the Canadian Studies Online Program which now offers a spectrum of humanities and social science courses to students on five Kentucky campuses.

The Origins. The Kentucky Canadian Studies Roundtable, which was created in 1995, served as the vehicle to bring together a group of Kentucky Canadianists in the Spring 2000 to create an inter-campus consortium, an online program, a program web site, and campus-based certificate and minor programs of study. Their efforts have been facilitated by the financial assistance provided by four Canadian Studies Program Enhancement Grants.

The Consortium. The Kentucky Canadian Studies Consortium is based on a agreement entered into by academic officers and distance learning directors at five Kentucky campuses: Morehead State University, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, and Georgetown College. The agreement grants a consortium board the authority to make and implement policy on Canadian Studies Online Program (CSOP) faculty, courses, and promotion. The consortium board members, who also serve as their campus program coordinators, are William Green at MSU (chair); John Petersen at WKU; Steven Savage at ECU; and Ernest Yanarella, at UK; and Harold Tallant at Georgetown.

The Program. In the Fall 2001, the board offered the first three CSOP courses, Comparative Civil Liberties, Politics of the North American Auto Industry, and the North American City, which were followed in the Spring 2002 with History of Canada, Government and Politics of Britain and Canada, and Native Peoples of North America. In the Fall 2002, they offered a six person team taught multidisciplinary portal course, Introduction to Canada. In the Fall 2002, they added a new advanced course on Political Economy and Environment in Canada; and in the Spring 2003, another advanced course: North American Marketplace. The Summer 2004, they added the first two Summer capstone courses taught from Canada: North American Politics and the Politics of the North American Auto Industry. In the Fall 2004, they approved the tenth CSOP course: Family Violence in the United States and Canada.

Looking ahead to 2005, the consortium board will add a third Summer seminar, Canadian Urban and Environmental Sustainability and in the Fall, Physical Geography of the United States and Canada. By then, the program's twelve courses will each enroll on average 25 to 30 students, an ideal size for internet courses, with course enrollment caps for each consortium campus: ten students for the campus of the faculty member teaching the course and five students on each of the other four campuses. As the CSOP faculty members and their courses grow, so will the program enrollments. In all, the CSOP provides Kentucky students on five campuses with a spectrum of courses on Canadian geography, history, politics, law, society, and economic life which would otherwise be unavailable to them on their home campuses.

The Web Site. In the Fall 2002, the consortium board created an umbrella organization, the Kentucky Canadian Studies Association and its web site, <http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/KCSA>, which houses the Canadian Studies Online Program and Kentucky Canadian Studies Roundtable. The web site provides information on the yearly roundtable meetings; and a common site for all Canadian Studies Online Program course information, because it is linked to the Distance Learning web sites on the five consortium campuses. The KCSA web site also provides a link to the Canadian Parliamentary Internship Program, a five week summer program in Ottawa, headquartered at Western Kentucky University and directed by James Baker, Professor of History at WKU. In sum, the KCSA site provides a common venue for Canadian Studies in Kentucky.

The Institutionalized Program. In 2003-04, the consortium board began the institutionalization of the Canadian Studies Online Program as a certificate or minor program of study on consortium campuses. In the Fall 2003, the existing on-site Canadian Studies Certificate at Western Kentucky University was enhanced by CSOP courses. At the same time, Morehead State University approved a new International Studies Minor in Canadian Studies which will allow its students to begin their study of Canada with Perspectives on Canada, take advanced CSOP courses, and conclude with a capstone summer course and Canadian Parliamentary Internship. By the end of 2004, there will also be in place a Canadian Studies Minor at Eastern Kentucky University and a Canadian Studies Certificate at the University of Kentucky.

The Future. This academic year, the consortium board will expand its Canadian Studies community beyond the bounds of its college and university faculty, directors of international programs, undergraduate interns, and graduate students in political science and international affairs to include middle and high school Social Studies and French teachers. They will be invited to attend the yearly roundtable meetings, participate in Canadian Studies workshops, and enroll in Canadian Studies courses and, thereby, satisfy their certification requirements, receive their master's degrees, and awaken in their students a Canadian Studies consciousness.

So the Kentucky Canadian Studies Consortium board, as a cadre of academic James Bonds, continues to use its consortium agreement license to make up its multidisciplinary, multi-campus internet program, as it goes along, by relying upon faculty, administrators, and distance learning staff who are willing to think outside the box of their campus-based programs to widen the intellectual horizons of their students and foster the growth of Canadian Studies. Has it taken a lot of time and work? Of course, but as Bond would say "you only live twice," once on-site and once online.