



Chellgren Center for
Undergraduate Excellence

Date: November 11, 2009

To: Prospective Discovery Seminar Instructors

From: Joanna M. Badagliacco, Ph.D.
Director, Discovery Seminar Program

Discovery Seminar Program
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www.uky.edu/discovery

Re: Request for Course Proposals for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011

Attached you will find a request for proposals for teaching a Discovery Seminar for first-year, first-term students at the University of Kentucky. The program is entering its fifteenth year, and remains one of the most exciting first-year programs available to UK students. You are invited to submit a proposal electronically to discovery@uky.edu. We also encourage you to visit our website (www.uky.edu/discovery) to see a list of the current seminars. We anticipate at least 30 seminars for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.

From the moment a first-year student steps onto campus, we believe that her or his educational experience should include the most satisfying, exciting version of higher learning: small classes with engaging, challenging discussions with outstanding professors who are teaching about their work at the frontiers of knowledge.

Discovery Seminars are 3-hour courses with no more than 25 students in each. Each seminar satisfies one of the University Studies Program requirements in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, or the Humanities. Courses are open to all incoming students, and we have maintained a diverse student body in the past.

Seminar faculty are recruited from all sectors and colleges of the University. Faculty who teach in the program do so within their regular course load or as an overload, with departmental chairperson and Dean's approval. Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences may be eligible to "bank" their course to avail themselves of the three-quarters salary option for a sabbatical. Participation in the program is also open to graduate students who have won University of Kentucky Provost's Teaching Awards.

Having taught first-year students is not necessary, but faculty are expected to have excellent teaching records and to be willing to participate in a teaching workshop especially designed for the Discovery Seminar Program. Additional teaching forums are given at least monthly during the fall semester to enable faculty to share ideas and information, resolve problems, and learn of seminar teaching resources. Each semester we hold a DSP Showcase of

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seminars where students use a poster session to display some of the discoveries they have made during the semester. DSP faculty are expected to supervise their students in this venture.

A small fund for course enhancement is available to encourage instructors to: take students on field trips, conduct collaborative research, involve students in community service, or share some activities outside of the classroom. Some examples of seminar activities have included a trip to Harlan county (two seminars combined to work together), a visit to the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, the Citizen Kentucky project, community service in Lexington and in Eastern Kentucky, a visit with to the 6th Circuit Court in Cincinnati—just to mention a few. Please note that it is necessary for instructors to submit a request and suggested budget for these funds (see the application form).

A number of Discovery Seminars are cohort scheduled with UK 101 courses, and this proves to be a very effective pedagogy for creating a successful learning environment. The same group of students participates in an exciting discovery seminar and they also spend an extra hour per week on topics that assist them in becoming confident, well-informed undergraduates, such as note-taking skills or stress management. Undergraduate Teaching Assistants are available to assist you in the seminar and co-instruct UK 101. These students may receive course credit and a small stipend for their assistance. If you are interested in having your seminar linked with a UK 101 course, please note this on the electronic application. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you about your seminar ideas or to answer any questions. Please contact the DSP office at 257-6894 or discovery@uky.edu to make an appointment.

I encourage you to submit a course proposal and be part of this exciting teaching experience.