CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR HONORS SEMINARS FOR THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

The EKU Honors Program is seeking proposals for honors seminars to be offered at any time in the 2016-2017 academic year. Our hope is not only to offer the most innovative classes possible to our students, but also to encourage faculty to experiment in these classes – teaching topics and using methods they typically can’t or don’t in their ordinary teaching loads. All faculty members selected to teach an honors seminar will be strongly encouraged to attend our day-long Honors Faculty Workshop the Tuesday after spring commencement; further details will be forthcoming.

All proposals are due via email to the Interim Director of the Honors Program no later than October 23, 2015; please email all materials to david.coleman@eku.edu (please do not send hard copies).

All proposed courses should adhere to the following:

- It is preferred that all honors seminars be taught by two instructors in two different disciplines; while not required, proposals that utilize this inter-disciplinary team-teaching model will be privileged for selection.
- In order to maintain a high level of accessibility for non-majors, no proposed honors seminar should require a prerequisite other than those required by the program: Admission to the Honors Program and ENG 102 or 105(B) or HON 102.
- The following are our honors seminar course numbers:
  - HON 304W: Honors Seminar in the Mathematical Sciences
  - HON 307W: Honors Seminar in the Arts
  - HON 308W: Honors Seminar in the Humanities
  - HON 310W: Honors Seminar in History
  - HON 312W: Honors Seminar in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
  - HON 316W: Honors Seminar in the Natural Sciences
  - HON 320W: Honors Seminar in Diversity of Perspectives and Experiences
- Depending upon the disciplines explored in the course, most honors seminars will be listed by a minimum of two course numbers, reflecting the different areas explored in the course. For example, “The Culture and Civilization of Islam” could be listed as HON 308W/HON 310W/HON 320W while “Art and Science in the Renaissance” could be listed as HON 307W/HON 310W/HON 316W. (HON 316W is an honors science course but not a lab course and will not fulfill the 6 hours of General Education Laboratory Science; HON 216 does that.)
- All honors seminars are classified as writing intensive courses; all instructors teaching these courses accept the responsibility for complying with those assessment guidelines and practices.
- While no honors seminar should be a standing course that currently exists in another department’s catalog offerings, honors seminars may be cross-listed under that department’s relevant “Special Topics” course number. In the case of a course listed only in honors, the maximum number of students in the course will be 20; in the
case of a cross-listed course, the cap will still be 20 with at least 10 seats allotted to honors students.

- Faculty requesting to teach an honors seminar they have taught before may submit their existing syllabus, but generally no course should be taught in the same form for more than 3 consecutive times. Those faculty teams requesting to teach again an honors seminar that has already been offered in the Honors Program are expected to submit the syllabus as well as approval and permission from the relevant department chair(s) as described below.

A limited number of courses will be accepted for the coming year; the Honors Program Advisory Committee will make these selections and will ensure that a broad slate of academic offerings is offered each term. The Honors Program Advisory Committee reserves the right to inquire in greater detail about specific proposals before final selections are made.

**All faculty members proposing courses should be notified as to the status of their proposal no later than December 11, 2015.**

The Honors Advisory Committee will give priority to those proposals with the following features:

1. Evidence of innovative team-teaching strategies, methods, and activities including out-of-classroom experiences and experiential learning of all kinds
2. Use of a seminar approach as is common in honors courses to promote active learning strategies
3. Focus on a subject that transcends a specific academic discipline
4. Evidence of intellectual appeal to students from a variety of majors
5. Descriptions of assignments that promote critical thinking, independent research, creativity, and effective writing
6. Departmental permission via letters from relevant chairs to release all faculty members involved in an individual course to teach in honors and cross-list a relevant course in honors

Each proposal should include the following:

1. A sample syllabus draft that includes a complete title, a course description, the relevant HON course number(s) suggested for it, and the semester, time, and desired place it should be offered; and

2. A statement from the relevant department chair(s) indicating departmental approval for the faculty member(s) to teach in honors and, if relevant, the departmental special topic cross-listing required for it.

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