

To: All SCU Faculty
From: Diane Jonte-Pace, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies
Date: January 28, 2008
RE: Invitation to propose pilot courses in Critical Thinking and Writing for AY 08-09

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Core Curriculum Implementation Team and the Faculty Core Committee for Critical Thinking and Writing, I am delighted to announce that up to seven two-course sequences of Critical Thinking & Writing (CTW), capped at 19, will be offered in academic year 2008-09, as preparation for the new Core Curriculum. These pilot courses will be made possible through the generosity of the Dean's Office of the College of Arts & Sciences.

We are pleased to invite faculty from across the University to submit proposals to teach these pilot courses in Critical Thinking and Writing. These two-course sequences may be proposed by individual faculty or by pairs of faculty. Faculty teaching Critical Thinking & Writing pilots may also apply for Core Curriculum honoraria.

Critical Thinking & Writing pilot courses will be themed, two-course sequences. These courses should meet the Learning Goals for CTW described in the core revision proposal: Critical Thinking, Complexity, and Communication. In addition, the courses should address explicitly the Learning Objectives for CTW 1 and CTW 2 developed by the Faculty Core Committee for CTW. The Learning Objectives, which clarify and give greater specificity to the Learning Goals, are posted at www.scu.edu/core2009/goals.cfm.

Students' skills ("Habits of Mind and Heart") in Critical Thinking, Communication, and Complexity in the first course in the sequence should be deepened or enhanced substantially in the second course. See the website above for specific ways CTW 2 builds upon and develops the "Habits" introduced or practiced in CTW 1.

Please submit proposals for Critical Thinking & Writing pilot courses by February 15th to my assistant, Kristin Love Boscia, kboscia@scu.edu. Proposals should 1) briefly describe the planned course; 2) show how the course will cultivate the learning goals and objectives; and 3) provide a tentative plan for the assessment of student learning in relation to the goals and objectives.

Thank you for your support of the new Core Curriculum.

Diane Jonte-Pace, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies
The Core Curriculum Implementation Team
The Faculty Core Committee for Critical Thinking and Writing