**14 February 2019 UCSC**

**Request for the Submission of Proposals for One- and Two-Credit, 300-Level Courses**

Members of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee invite departments to develop and submit proposals for one- and two-credit, 300-level courses.

**Rationale**

The School of Liberal Arts needs increased visibility among students from other schools on the IUPUI campus. We also need to motivate students majoring or minoring in SLA disciplines to select some of their electives from the 12 departments and 12 academic programs offered by our school.

These school-related needs coincide with a critical need that students have at the 300-level for one- and two-credit courses. Transfer students, particularly those arriving from Ivy Tech and other universities in their third-year, often need courses offering one or two credits to fulfill graduation requirements. While there will be a limit to the number of such courses that will fill, and while we do not have an estimate of the optimal number that should be offered each term, we do feel that select courses of this type will fill a vital niche, and we urge interested departments to design and propose such courses.

**The UCSC recommends that these courses be:**

* Tailored to the 300-level
* Designed to emphasize critical liberal arts and discipline-based concepts
* Named to appeal to students across the campus
* Designed around “hot current topics” or real needs, now or in the future
* Structured as five-week (1 credit) or 10-week (2 credit) courses

**Examples of courses that have elicited student interest:**

*Approved in the fall of 2018*

B311: Sex and Gender in the Ancient World (1 credit)

*Informal student, alumni, and faculty suggestions:*

* Changing Healthcare (how to talk to your doctor) (1 credit)
* Working through difficult conversations (1 credit)
* Health benefits of meditation for stress relief (1 credit)
* Probability and statistics based on fantasy football (1 or 2 credits)
* Financial literacy or applying critical thinking to life decisions (covering taxes, loans, getting credit, using credit cards, house purchase) (1 credit) \*\*\* (most requested)
* Essentials of peacemaking (1 credit)
* Violent weather (1 credit)
* Hoosier writer highlighted (1 credit)
* Norse mythology (1 credit)
* Immigration in perspective (overview of US rules and guidelines (1 credit)
* How not to be racist (1 or 2 credits)

**Procedures**

The approval process will conform to the guidelines for new courses in the School of Liberal Arts.

If a department decides to use a variable topic course number for these courses, please complete the [Variable Subtitle Course Request Form (Word)](https://liberalarts.iupui.edu/doc/faculty-portal/Variable_Subtitle_request.docx) and submit this to the UCSC. Variable topic courses do not need approval, but rather come to us as informational items (for administrative purposes), so we can add new titles to the registrar's site so they will be ready when we need to schedule them.

Note that variable topic courses are hard for students to find and do not show well on their transcript-they are harder to sell than an established number; on the other hand, they are easier to schedule quickly.  Either way, the SLA can track them with enrollment reports fairly easily, and will be doing so to see if we are accomplishing what we need from them.