Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal
Projects for Fall 2013
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Instructor's Sabbatical Leave Status
·   **Full-time hire date: August 2007**
·   **Previous Sabbaticals: 0**

Purpose of Sabbatical Project

The purpose of my sabbatical is two projects: (1) converting Ventura College's (VC) DVD/VHS library to electronic format and (2) create classroom and online materials for SOC V07 – Sociological Analysis and SOC V24 – Sociology of Chicano Community.

Background of Sabbatical Project

Video Database

In a 2010 survey conducted by PBS of 1,401 full-time classroom teachers, 97% use digital media in classroom instruction. Of those, 62% say they frequently use digital media in classroom instruction and 24% of instructors report they use digital media *every day*. Of the perceived benefits of using video content in the classroom, 68% stated, "Stimulates student discussion." Sixty-six percent believe video content, "Increases student motivation" (PBS and Grunwald Associated LLC, 2010). Given these statistics, teachers have proven the wide-use and effectiveness of video in the classroom. This trend can be correlated with faculty members at Ventura College when a Fall 2012 Flex Day workshop on downloading electronic videos generated 25 faculty members in attendance and several others who sought further guidance.

Recently, Ventura College permanently eliminated the campus wide "Media Services" technician (Audio Video Specialist I) position. This specialist was responsible for the maintenance of all smart classrooms, transferred VHS to DVD, close captioned DVDs, maintained the college's video collection and facilitated faculty requests and acquisition of video media. With the dissolution of this position, the library has taken over Media Services and the ongoing budget for DVD acquisition is minimal if anything.

SOC V07 and SOC V24

SOC V07 - Sociological Analysis: With the 2011 creation of the AA in Sociology degree, the number one non-funding finding for the 2012 Sociology Program Review was, "The ability to take all AA sociology and AA Human Service degree courses in a Distance Education capacity." The corresponding top initiative states, "Students need more accessibility to the department via online and distance education course offerings." SOC V07 is currently a mandatory class for an AA Sociology Degree but is currently not offered online.

As of the Fall 2012 semester, I am the only full-time instructor in the Sociology Department that teaches online. With seven years of online teaching experience, I have taught SOC V01 - Introduction

to Sociology, SOC V02 - Social Problems and SOC V03 - Racial & Ethnic Group Relations at Ventura College. In addition, I have taught two years of upper division Research Methods (SOC 302) and Social Science Statistics (SOC 303) at California State University, Fullerton in both the classroom and fully online. I would like time to prepare an online version of the SOC V07 course.

SOC V24 - Sociology of the Chicano Community: Given that Ventura College is a Hispanic Serving Institution, SOC V24 should be a cornerstone course within the Sociology Department. Unfortunately, due to the retirement of the part-time instructor, SOC V24 has not been offered since Spring 2012.

Multiple peer reviewed articles from Psychologists, Sociologists and Educators on Racial and Ethnic Identity Development find that students prefer and learn best on topics and subject matters that relate to their own race and ethnicity (Helms, 1990; Phinney, 1989, 1990, 1992; Tatum, 1992).

Having taken the lead for SOC V03 - Racial & Ethnic Group Relations in 2008, I took a historically low enrollment course (70 students in Fall 2007) to a peak of enrollment of 228 in Fall 2010. This jump in enrollment represents the demand and need of courses that focus on diversity or minority perspectives.

Currently, there are limited part-time or full-time faculty members that have taught SOC V24. There are very few qualified and/or available sociologists to hire with experience in teaching Chicano Community. In addition, there is the pending retirement of the only full-time historian specializing in Chicano Studies. During the past 15 years, SOC V24 has not been taught by a full-time sociology instructor. *There are currently no plans to offer SOC V24 moving forward.*

Components of Sabbatical Project

Video Database Development

For the first phase of my sabbatical, I would like to convert the majority of Ventura College's DVD/media holdings to electronic, downloadable format.

To address any copyright concerns, U.S. Copyright Law title 17 section 107 states, "The fair use of copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies of phonorecords or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright."

In October 28, 2012, the United States Copyright Office ruled that:

Motion pictures on DVDs that are lawfully made and acquired and that are protected by the Content Scrambling System, where the person engaging in circumvention believes and has reasonable grounds for believing that circumvention is necessary because reasonably available alternatives, such as noncirumventing methods or using screen capture software as provided for in alternative exemptions, are not able to produce the level of high-quality content required to achieve the desired criticism or comment on such motion pictures, and where circumvention is undertaken solely in order to make us or short portions of the motion pictures for the purpose of criticism or comment in the following instances:
- (i) In noncommercial videos;
- (ii) In documentary films;
- (iii) In nonfiction multimedia ebooks offering film analysis; and

(iv)   For educational purposes in film studies or other courses requiring close analysis of film and media excerpts, by college and university faculty, college and university students, and kindergarten through twelfth grade educators.

I will work with Ventura College reference librarians on converting our current catalog. The Ventura College Foundation through its Faculty Development Grant has committed $1,000 to this project. Funds will be used to purchase hard drives that will be given back to VC. I will provide the computer hardware and software necessary to convert the content. No VC funds or resources will be used for computing. I will provide the college converted video in .mp4/.avi* format.

*Physical DVD, BluRay, VHS and television content can be converted to electronic .mp4/.avi format. The .mp4/.avi format is to video as .mp3 is to music. 90 minutes of DVD quality video can be converted to a single 700 megabyte electronic file.

SOC V07 and SOC V24 Course Preparation
For the second phase of my sabbatical, I would like time to develop two courses. I would like to bring SOC V07 - Sociological Analysis online and I would like time to prepare SOC V24 - Sociology of the Chicano Community for both the classroom and as an online course. This will give students greater access to the department and enhanced ability to complete a Sociology Degree.

Over the past two years, I have been in touch with an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Chicana/o Studies Program at California State University, Channel Islands in preparing this course and bridging our two programs. I will also do a thorough review of similar courses at USC, UCLA, UCSB, CSUN, CSULA and local Community Colleges for best practices. In addition, I would like to serve as a liaison with the Ventura College Chicano studies historian to retain as much institutional knowledge on the community and the college before his retirement.

As there is no corresponding sociological-based introductory textbook addressing Chicano Community, original readings and source materials will need to be sourced. This makes the preparation of this course especially difficult and time consuming.

Value of Sabbatical Project to VCCCD and Ventura College
Video Database
In reference to the PBS survey, 59% of the teachers surveyed valued digital resources as, "Information for own professional development" (PBS and Grunwald Associated LLC, 2010). This is especially relevant given the district and college's high emphasis on faculty professional development.

The video material can be accessed by any staff, manager or faculty member via a central server and saved onto a thumb drive to be played on any PC or MAC. All that is required is a free shareware player (VLC Player) and does not require Internet access to play. During the sabbatical and after, I will take any requests for films or shows from faculty members.

The same PBS survey found that when teachers streamed video via the Internet, 21% experienced problems "often" and 54% experienced problems "sometimes." The Video Database eliminates the need to stream video.

Acquiring up to date videos has been and will always be a priority. The 2012 Psychology Department Program Review requested a budget of $1500 and $400 thereafter annually to update their DVD

Media Library. In addition, many of the films shown during the recent campus film festivals were also available electronically.

The electronic library may become a model for other Community Colleges and Universities to follow.

SOC V07 and SOC V24

The ability to take a core sociology class as well as Sociology of Chicano Community (classroom and distance education) as part of an AA Sociology Degree is an important options for students in this community and addressing the Ventura College Mission. In looking at the first day snapshot of students by Ethnicity (Fall 2012) for the entire VCCCD district reported a 45.21% Hispanic population. The fourth week snapshot by Ethnicity for the entire VCCCD district reported a 45.46% Hispanic population.

Sociology V24 is cross-listed as American Ethnic Studies V24 and Chicano Studies V24.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Ventura College Students

Video

A report from the Kaiser Family Foundation surveying over 2,000 people from across the country found that young people use multimedia so much, it is dubbed the "M-Generation." In 2010, the survey found that 8-18 year-olds devote an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes (7:38) to "using entertainment media across a typical day." This represented a dramatic increase, particularly among minority youth. Multi-media usage in 2005 was 6 hours and 21 minutes (6:21) (Kaiser, 2005, 2010).

As multimedia is so prevalent in student's lives, educators must meet them where they are. If the video database is completed, students can easily access a wide-range of educational electronic content from a centralized location in the library or via a college server.

SOC V07 and SOC V24

In referencing Racial and Ethnic Identity Development, research has shown that students are interested in and excel in subject matters that relate to their own racial background (Helms, 1990; Phinney, 1989, 1990, 1992; Tatum, 1992).

In the first day snapshot of students by Ethnicity at Ventura College reported a 53.77% Hispanic population. The fourth week snapshot by Ethnicity at Ventura College reported a 53.59% Hispanic population. VC should offer courses that properly reflect the student population.

Value of Sabbatical to the Instructor

I believe that lifelong learning, diversity, the ability to communicate knowledge and instilling a passion for education are key components of teaching. Things that I have always strived to do. Having participated in as many professional development trainings as possible, I was an inaugural graduate of the Summer Institute for Teaching Excellence, as well as the recent four week Distance Education Faculty Training. I have expended tremendous amounts of personal time and personal resources to attend various educational and sociological conferences.

Maintaining a keen interest in technology, I continue to seek ways to connect multi-media technologies both in the classroom and Distance Education for increased teaching effectiveness.

Citations

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