

SEMESTER SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSAL
NENAGH BROWN
History Department

Goal:

To be granted a sabbatical for the Fall semester, 2009, to carry out an on-site research project to update Moorpark College's World History II course completely by revising its academic content and by offering it on line for the first time in the Spring of 2010.

Background:

World History I and II are both comparatively new courses developed nationwide in the 1990s to reflect America's new position as the global superpower – requiring its citizens to be introduced to world history. At Moorpark College I wrote the initial Course Outlines of Record and was the first instructor to offer the courses to our students in 1997, and these two courses are considered the principal area of growth for the history department. Although offering both, initially our emphasis was on World History I as this was mandated by the State of California for all Liberal Arts students to enable teachers to offer world history in our schools. Since then two developments have occurred that emphasize the equal importance of World History II: there is a growing movement amongst universities to require history majors to take both courses (gradually replacing the traditional Western Civilization I and II); and the State of California has further mandated that World History II must also be taken by Liberal Arts students. On behalf of our students Moorpark College must update its World History II course in response to these two developments.

Rationale and Methodology:

1. Revising the academic content of World History II

Rationale:

The State guidelines have changed from “introducing students to the various societies and nations of the world” to “introducing students to the connections between the various societies and nations of the world”. There is some debate amongst world historians as to what this means for the content of university courses, and Moorpark College needs to ensure that what we offer is still transferable to all our feeder institutions, no matter what their interpretation.

Methodology:

To accomplish this I have permission from our area's leading world historian, Dr. Rainer Buschmann at CSUCI, to audit one of his World History II classes. I will also talk to and obtain syllabi from other world historians in our transfer area at CSUN, UCLA, UCSB, UCI and CLU. In response to what I learn I will then update Moorpark's Course Outline of Record to satisfy all our transfer institutions and rewrite my class content accordingly.

2. Offering World History II on line

Rationale:

Moorpark College's primary strategic direction is Alternative Instructional Delivery Methods. In the goal of updating the World History II course it is imperative we offer it on line. World History I was offered on line for the first time this year and the student response has been overwhelming. (The cap for our second offering was expanded from 40 to 75 in response to the demand, yet it still had 15 students on the wait list.) One of our goals in our new history program plan is that World History II should also be on line as soon as possible. Currently I am the sole historian teaching this course and yet I am untrained in on-line technology.

Methodology:

To implement this I would complete the required sequence of training classes at Moorpark so that I would be able technologically to offer this course through WebCT. I would also revisit and alter my lectures, readings, audio-visuals and assignments in light of this new medium. Without a break to forget these new tools I would then be ready to offer the course in the Spring semester, 2010.

Benefits to the Students, the History Faculty, the College and the District:

To the Students:

- Both in class and on line a course that is fully up-to-date in its content and will continue to transfer seamlessly to four-year schools.
- A new option of taking the course on-line.
- More technologically-advanced classes for all courses from this instructor.

To the History Faculty:

- Leadership for future instructors of World History II courses as the sections expand.
- Further guidance for on-line classes as they are increasingly offered in our discipline.

To the College:

- A faculty member who, despite being first hired over ten years ago, is fully -updated both technologically in alternative instructional delivery methods and academically in the main course she teaches.
- A rising FTES rate for the history department.

To the District:

- The sole on-line course in World History II provided throughout the district.
- A faculty member who is still equipped "to provide exceptional service to the students and the District in a era of constant change" (Article 8, Section 8.6.A.)