

Ventura College
Sabbatical Leave Proposal
November 1, 2017

Submitted by Ronald N Mules

- Chair of Behavioral Sciences & Modern Languages
- Philosophy Department

Instructor's Sabbatical Status

- Full-time hire date: August 2011
- Previous Sabbaticals: 0

Background of Sabbatical Project:

In the past Ventura College had an array of Learning Communities or Team Teaching courses. Today such course are no longer on the schedule. The benefit of these courses in the past was threefold: (1) they provided a cohort or community for students to connect with their fellow classmates, (2) they enabled students to connect subject matter from a variety of courses into one narrative, thereby increasing comprehension of material, and (3) they improved student retention and success.

Sabbatical Project:

The purpose of this sabbatical project is to create a Learning Community or Team Teaching relationship between Philosophy, Anthropology, English, and History departments. This project seeks to forge a link between: Philosophy V10 Mythology, Anthropology V07 Introduction to Magic, Witchcraft and Religion, English V30 and V31 Survey of World Literature I and II, and History V18A and B World History I and II. The goal of this project is to develop in students the awareness of how the world's mythic traditions connect. The realization of this world connection will provide students with a strong background through which their worldview will be expanded across the scope of their learning experience. It is hoped that this increased worldview will enable students to become more culturally aware global citizens.

Components of this Sabbatical Project:

The components necessary to complete this sabbatical project are as follows:

1. Study of the world's mythological traditions
2. Study of the various methods used to analyze the world mythic traditions
3. Reading, review, and analysis of the mythic literary traditions of the world

4. Review of theoretical techniques and practice/applications mythic themes and traditions across the world
5. Travel to various countries to explore, examine, and interact with various mythic traditions
6. Collaboration with Philosophy, Anthropology, English, and History departments in forging cohorts for collaborative study of mythic traditions
7. Creation of a 2 year rotational course structure to enhance student comprehension of mythic traditions worldwide, through a variety of subject matter
8. Adaptation and application of mythic traditions to what it means to be a global citizen
9. Examination of the impact of mythic traditions on global: religions, ideological and political positions
10. Study of current global issues and viewpoints based on the impact of mythic traditions in relation to the modern world

Value of this Sabbatical Project:

The value of this project is that it will provide guidance to students in the study of mythic traditions and their impact on philosophical, anthropological, literary, and historical views of the human experience. In addition, it will enhance student experience, tolerance, and understanding of various global viewpoints with the goal of assisting them to become more enlightened citizens of the world.

Personal Value of the Project:

On a personal level, this project is something that I have wanted to work on for several years. I designed Philosophy V10 Mythology two years ago to begin the process of assisting students to become better global citizens. I believe that if students know more about the mythic, philosophical, anthropological, literary, and historical traditions of the world they will develop greater awareness, tolerance, and understanding of the viewpoint of others. Our students are global citizens who must have the knowledge to understand and engage with viewpoints from diverse cultures and experiences.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronald N Mules