

Sabbatical Leave Proposal

Submitted by Perry Bennett

Chair, Department of World Languages

Moorpark College

Sabbatical Semester Project

I propose to spend one semester, Fall, 2012, in Montreal, Quebec, in the pursuit of two projects: 1) an on-site research project addressing a lack in the curriculum of first-year college French courses, and 2) a project directed toward personal growth and enhanced competence in my capacity as instructor of French.

Project 1, Curriculum development — I propose to oversee and facilitate the production of a series of short, student-directed films and to develop a supporting, pedagogically informed website that will be employed in first-year college courses in French culture and language. In collaboration with instructors in cinema studies of the Cégep Saint-Laurent, an institution of higher education in Montreal comparable in scope and mission to our community colleges in California, I will advise film students there on the topics and language skills commonly addressed in first-year French courses in colleges and universities throughout North America. These films will be made by French-speaking college students for other college students learning French. The films will be assigned as possible topics within the context of the regular film production courses at Cégep Saint-Laurent and may be either of a fictional or of a documentary nature. They should present aspects of everyday student life in Montreal or elsewhere in Quebec “with an eye” toward showing this life to students elsewhere. The language of the films

should be authentic but also, when possible, readily accessible, with didactic support, to beginning students of the French language. The student filmmakers will hold all rights of authorship, but will agree to allow the films to be shared without charge on a website such as YouTube. Links to the films will be embedded within a supporting website containing aids to comprehension, topics for online discussion, and links to sites of cultural and educational interest. It is also conceivable that this supporting web site could facilitate communication with the filmmakers and the subjects of the film, if these students were willing to participate in the project at that level. I will create this supporting didactic website and make it available at no charge to instructors of French the world over. The website may be hosted at Moorpark College, or elsewhere, depending on the resources it would require. Because the project may be carried out as an extra-curricular project at Cégep Saint-Laurent, any expenses should be minimal. Should funding become necessary as the project develops, I have taken the first steps toward inquiring about the curriculum development grants available through the Collegial Centre for Educational Materials Development at Collège de Maisonneuve in Montreal and the Quebec Ministry of Education¹. The supporting didactic website will be completed and implemented in French courses at Moorpark College and elsewhere by Fall Semester, 2013.

I have contacted the chair of the department of film studies at Cégep Saint-Laurent, M. Georges Dagneau (please see attached email and translation) who writes that he is very intrigued with the project and eager to know more about

¹ Please see: <http://www.ccdmd.qc.ca/?lang=en>

how his department may participate. The project is of particular interest to M. Dagneau, as it would be to instructors of French throughout Canada and the United States, because of its focus on “le fait français” in North America: the often ignored fact that over twelve million people in Canada, the US, and the Caribbean, live out their daily lives in French.² It was already in the 1950s that Spanish departments in American colleges and universities began to accept North and South American Spanish language and culture as being of equal importance to their curricula as that of European Spanish. By comparison, the teaching of French in the U.S. remains deplorably Eurocentric, despite the best efforts of many in the field; this is nowhere more evident than in the materials commonly used to teach lower-division French courses. This video project would constitute a small effort to address this skewed state of affairs.

Project 2, Instructor Growth and Enhanced Competence — My second goal in spending a semester leave in Montreal will be to reinvigorate my spoken French. It has been some 24 years since I last truly lived in a French-speaking environment. Though I have had occasion to refresh my oral French skills during summer workshops and visits to Francophone countries, I have each time left after these short stays wishing I might have a longer time for true immersion and the chance to engage at length in more sophisticated dialogue in the language. In

² Please see:

<http://www.tlfg.ulaval.ca/axl/francophonie/OEfrancophones-est2005.htm>

and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_in_the_United_States

addition to assisting Québécois students in the production of videos, as discussed above, I would also enroll in at least two graduate seminars in the literature departments of the Université de Montréal and/or the Université du Québec à Montréal. Enrollment at either institution as a visitor is open and may be done even on short notice; I would decide on the institution and which specific seminars to attend once the offerings are settled, but find of particular interest the course FRA 6262, *Littérature et culture québécoises* (The Culture and Literature of Quebec) at U de M, or any of the changing semiotics seminars offered at UQAM, since this important field in media and cultural theory is a rare specialty practiced there. I would, of course, participate fully in these courses and would especially look forward to the prospect of producing one or more papers under the supervision of a faculty member. Since enrollment in graduate programs in Quebec are generally more flexible than their counterparts in the US, it would also be possible for me eventually to apply the credits earned in these courses toward a graduate degree in literature. I have been an eager student of Québécois literature since I first began to teach French in 2003. The chance to apply this wide reading to current critical discussion and scholarship will strengthen my understanding of this unique North American culture and thus also strengthen the teaching of culture in my French and general humanities courses at Moorpark College. Most importantly, I believe that after attending these courses, I will return to teaching at Moorpark with the French corner of my brain fully reactivated.

Translation of Email Exchange between Prof. George Dagneau, CÉGEP St. Laurent, Montreal, Quebec, and Perry Bennett, Moorpark College

1) October 21, Georges Dagneau writes to Perry Bennett:

Dear Mr. Bennett,

My colleague Pilon is overwhelmed with local demands for help in production and has delegated to me the international aspect of our program!

I received your proposal with great interest. I am, initially, uncertain how this project is to be integrated into our teaching, but to turn down such an opportunity for collaboration is out of the question, especially since it involves the promotion of “le fait français” [the fact of French being spoken (see proposal document)] in North America. We can easily envision working with you in an extra-curricular activity, for example, it is entirely imaginable to form one or two teams who would work on the production of short films. I will personally attend to the formation of these teams and the process of production as well as serve as your contact at the college.

I am curious, as you may see, to know more about your project.

Cordially,

Georges Dagneau

Professor, Department of Film Studies

Cégep de Saint-Laurent

2) October 11, Perry Bennett writes to Georges Dagneau

Dear M. Dagneau,

I wrote the letter to your colleague, M. Pilo, several weeks ago, without having received a reply. Since I see that on your website, under the heading "Department Chair," his name is mentioned, but [the link] leads to your address, I am sending my letter again to you. As a reference, I would mention my friend Jacques Chamberland, who is a professor of philosophy at Maisonneuve College [address link].

I am an instructor of French as a foreign language and of German at Moorpark College, a "community college" in the suburbs of Los Angeles. I am writing to you because I am looking for an instructor of film in Quebec who might be interested in collaborating on a student film project (short clips or short video films) presenting various aspects of the life of Québécois students to their fellow students abroad. There is a deplorable lack of materials in French as a Second Language focusing on Quebec. I am considering requesting a sabbatical leave in Montreal in order to carry out this project. Since I do not possess expertise in film production, my role in the project would be limited to ensuring the language pedagogy aspect of the films. The films might be distributed with pedagogical support as free course ware.

Do you think it would be possible to integrate such a project into your production courses? Might you or one of your colleagues have any interest in collaborating in this way, or merely have any advice to offer?

A friend in Montreal working in the film industry recommended your program to me as the best in the country!

Sincerely,

Perry Bennett

Chair, Department of World Languages

Moorpark College

Dagneau Georges <gdagneau@cegep-st-laurent.qc.ca>

Re: Professeur californien cherche collaboration

October 21, 2011 9:11 AM

Cher M. Bennett,

Mon collègue Pilon est débordé par les demandes locales d'aide à la production, il me délègue donc au volet international de notre programme!

Je reçois votre proposition avec beaucoup d'intérêt. À prime abord, je ne vois pas comment intégrer ce projet dans notre pédagogie, mais il est hors de question de refuser une telle opportunité de collaboration; surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de mettre en valeur le fait français en Amérique du nord. Nous envisageons facilement de travailler avec vous en activité parascolaire. Il est, par exemple, tout à fait concevable de former une ou des équipes de tournages qui travailleraient à la réalisation de clips. Je m'occuperais personnellement de l'encadrement des équipes et du déroulement des tournages ainsi que de vous servir de contact au collègue.

Je serais curieux, évidemment, d'en savoir plus sur votre projet.

Cordialement

Georges Dagneau
Professeur, département de cinéma
Cégep de Saint-Laurent.

Le 11-10-20 11:29 PM, « Perry Bennett » <perrybennett@earthlink.net> a écrit :

Cher M. Dagneau,

J'ai écrit la lettre ci-dessous à votre collègue, M. Pilon, il y a déjà quelques semaines, sans avoir reçu une réponse. Comme je vois que sur votre site, le rubrique "Responsable de la coordination départementale" mentionne son nom, mais mène à votre adresse électronique, j'envoie de nouveau ma lettre à vous aussi.

Comme référence, je peut mentionner mon ami Jacques Chamberland, qui est professeur de philosophie au Collège de Maisonneuve

(jchamberland@cmaisonneuve.qc.ca <<http://cmaisonneuve.qc.ca>>).

Je suis professeur de français langue étrangère et d'allemand à Moorpark College, un "community college" de la banlieue de Los Angeles. Je vous écris parce que je cherche un professeur en cinéma au Québec qui aurait intérêt à collaborer sur un projet de films étudiants (des clips ou des court métrages vidéo) qui présenterait des aspects variés de la vie des étudiants québécois à leurs confrères à l'étranger.

Il y a une manque déplorables de matériaux en FLE centrés sur le Québec. Je pense à faire demande d'une année sabbatique à Montréal afin de réaliser ce projet. Comme je n'ai pas d'expertise en production cinématographique, mon rôle dans le projet serait limité à assurer le côté "didactique de langue" des films. Les films pourraient être distribués avec soutien didactique comme "course ware" gratuit.

Croyez-vous il serait possible d'intégrer un tel projet dans un de vos cours de production? Auriez-vous, ou peut-être un de vos collègues, intérêt dans une collaboration de ce genre ou même juste des conseils à me rendre?

Un ami montréalais qui travaille dans le cinéma m'a recommandé votre programme comme le meilleur au pays!

Cordialement,

Perry Bennett
Chair, Department of World Languages
Moorpark College
Moorpark, California

474 Coronado Street
Ventura, California, 93001

perrybennett@earthlink.net
(805) 653-5466

Perry Bennett

Educator, Online Learning Specialist

Curriculum vitae

Employment

Department Chair, Department of Modern Languages, Moorpark College, Moorpark,
California, fall, 2009 – present

Instructor of Humanities, Department of Humanities, Moorpark College, Moorpark,
California, fall, 2009 – present

Instructor of German, French, and Latin, Department of Modern Languages,
Moorpark College, Moorpark, California, fall, 2004 - present

Instructor of German and French, Santa Barbara City College, Spring, 2004

Instructor of German Literature, California State University, Long Beach, Fall, 2003

Instructor and Education Technology Specialist, Department of German, Scandinavian
and Dutch, University of Minnesota, 1999 - 2003

Teacher of Latin and French, Santa Barbara High School District, 1998 -1999

Instructor, English as a Second Language, University of California, Riverside, 1997

Teaching Assistant, German Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1992-1995

Teaching Assistant, Classics, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1987-1990

Education

Stage de Perfectionnement des Enseignants de Français, Langue Étrangère, Université

Laval, Quebec. Successfully completed this intensive pedagogy workshop for instructors
of French as a Second or Foreign Language, 2006

Konstanzer Internationale Sommerschule, Poetics and Money, Universität Konstanz, Germany

Successfully completed this international literature seminar, 2008

ABD, German Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

Dissertation title: Nietzsche, Helmholtz, and Vision: the Stereoscopic Effect

MA, Classics, University of California, Santa Barbara 1990

Studies at *Licence*-level, *Lettres classiques* (Greek, Latin and French literature)

Université de Paris, IV 1985-87, no degree taken

BA, Classics, McGill University 1985

Courses taught

German Civilization, California State University, Long Beach, Fall, 2003

Introduction to German Literature, University of Minnesota, Fall, 2002

German Media and Media Theory, University of Minnesota, Spring, 2000, 2001, 2002,
2003

Advanced German, University of Minnesota, Fall 2000, 2001, 2003

Beginning German, University of Minnesota, Santa Barbara City College, Moorpark

College, University of California, Santa Barbara 1992 - present

Intermediate German, University of Minnesota, 1999-2000

Beginning French, Santa Barbara City College, Moorpark College 2004 - 2009

Intermediate French, Santa Barbara City College, Moorpark College, 2004 - 2006

Beginning College Latin, Moorpark College, 2006 - present

Vampirism in German Literature and Beyond, University of California, Santa Barbara,

Teaching Assistant, Laurence A Rickels, Professor, 1992, 1993, 1994

Classic and Romantic in German Literature, University of California, Santa

Barbara, Teaching Assistant, Susan Derwin, Professor, 1994

Genius and Madness in German Literature, University of California, Santa Barbara,

Teaching Assistant, Elisabeth Weber, Professor, 1995

Classical Mythology and Literature, Teaching Assistant, 1987-1990

Conference Papers, Translations and Publications

“Harry and the Word” Translation of a story/chapter in Harry Mulisch, *Voer voor Psychologen*,
(Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij, 1993). Awaiting publisher’s permission

“LanguagePartner” Review of Multimedia Language Learning Software *Calico*, Winter 2002

“Wende Online: Anatomy of a Large Scale, Internet-Based Instructional Software Development” Paper
presented at the annual conference of MWALLT, Concordia College, Moorhead,
Minnesota, 2002

"Slips: The Silk Road to the Unconscious" Paper presented at *Interpretation of Dreams/ Dreams of Interpretation*, a conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of Sigmund Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*, Humanities Institute, University of Minnesota, 2001

"Using Computer Language Laboratories to Improve Foreign Language Writing," and "Putting a Friendly Face on Technology: Using Departmental Liaisons," papers presented at the bi-annual conference of the Mid-Western Association of Learning Laboratories (MWALL), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2000

Translation of "Before the Law, After the Law: An Interview with Jean-François Lyotard"
conducted by Elisabeth Weber, *Qui Parle*, Winter, 1999

“The Magic Words are Squeamish Ossifrage, Interview with Wolf Kittler”, *Thresholds: Viewing Culture*, vol.8,
1996

Awards and Fellowships

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD,
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 2002

ATKINS FELLOWSHIP, DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA, 1992-1996
PRE-DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP, CENTER FOR GERMAN AND
EUROPEAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY.

Provided for research travel to the medical libraries of the
Humboldt Universität and the Charité Hospital of Berlin, 1993

Grants

Primary investigator, "Online workbook project for *Wende*, a first-year German textbook"
College of Liberal Arts Technology Enhancement Committee, University of Minnesota, 2002

Primary investigator, "Project for the creation of instructional video for first-year
German" Faculty Travel Grant Committee, University of Minnesota, 2001

Primary investigator, "WebCT-based course enhancement for first-year German, College
of Liberal Arts Technology Enhancement Committee, University of Minnesota, 2001

Primary investigator, "WebCT-based course enhancement for first and second-year
Dutch, College of Liberal Arts Technology Enhancement Committee, University of
Minnesota, 2001

Languages

Near-native fluency in French and German

Advanced reading and speaking knowledge of Dutch and Italian

Advanced reading knowledge of Latin and Ancient Greek

Research Interests

Modern European literature, philosophy and science studies,
psychoanalysis, postmodern theory and cultural studies, film and new media studies; "Minor
Literatures," literature of the Netherlands and Quebec