



Friday at the Center: January 7, 2005

Planning for Exams

During the two weeks of the quarter is a good time to emphasize to students that they should not schedule travel plans that will conflict with scheduled final exam periods. According to the *Academic Policy Manual* (which can be consulted on line), instructors are free to refuse to reschedule a final. Early final exams may be scheduled only under the following conditions: 1) The student is able to demonstrate appropriate mitigating circumstances (I'd be tough, here, though!), 2) The rescheduled final exam is given no earlier than four working days before the last day of finals, and 3) The student asks to reschedule the final at least two weeks before it is scheduled.

Similarly, faculty should remember that final assessments, whether they take the form of comprehensive exams, unit tests, or major papers/projects, should be given or be turned in during the scheduled exam time **rather than during the last week of class**. The scheduled exam time is considered an instructional period, and classes are expected to meet. These policies have been designed and approved by the faculty to insure the optimal learning conditions for our students. By following the policies, we assure that the full amount of learning time allotted for each quarter is available and that students will not have three or four major assessment items due on the same day at the conclusion of the quarter.

Next Lilly Fellows National Conference

Proposals from across the disciplines are invited for the 5th Annual Lilly Fellows Program National Research Conference, hosted at Calvin College, Nov.10-12, 2005, on the theme "Globalization & Secularity: What Comes after Modernity?" Plenary speakers include Peter Berger (sociology), Graham Ward (theology), and Iain Wallace (geography). Papers could address topics such as, What resources do our religious traditions offer for critical reflection on globalization? Would the "end" of modernity mean the end of "the secular?" How helpful is the concept of "empire?" How would a theological account of globalization affect given paradigms in the social sciences? How do the arts resist the globalization of the market? In what way is the Church, as a transnational Body, a resource for thinking global community? And do our colleges and universities reflect these global concerns and shifts?

Proposals of 500-750 words are due by **March 15, 2005**. Submit proposals by email attachment to seminars@calvin.edu. An honorarium of \$500 and travel subsidies are available for presenters from LFP institutions. (SPU is an LFP institution.) See www.calvin.edu/scs/lfp for more details.

New Publications Available

The January edition of *The Teaching Professor*, which summarizes the latest research into teaching and learning, has recently been distributed to departmental contacts. This month's

articles include strategies for responding to student writing, using popular game show formats to review for exams, and an inspirational “Why I Like Freshmen,” written by a professor from Hope College. Ask around in your department to locate an issue.

Also, the January edition of *The Grant Advisor* can now be accessed through on-campus computers at <http://www.grantadvisor.com/tgaplus>. This service includes a monthly grant advisor newsletter, containing 20-25 full program reviews and over 300 listings of grant and fellowship programs, organized into eight academic divisions (fine arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, education, international, health related, unrestricted/other).

Blessed Epiphany!



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