

## Friday at the Center: September 9, 2005

### Syllabi Suggestions

A good syllabus is a work of art, which makes it difficult to construct. It needs to perform a number of different functions simultaneously: provide information, dispel anxiety, establish procedures, and provoke interest. Distributing a syllabus on the first day of class is crucial, for it shows that you--as the instructor--are prepared and organized. Explaining course policies, especially the grading system, both establishes your expectations and helps quell students' anxieties. (Ah, she has a system, and it is fair!) But the syllabus should contain more than just a forbidding list of rules and assignment. It should convey a sense of your personality and your passion for the material, in a winsome and infectious manner. Let your students know that the material will be challenging but that you are dedicated to helping them succeed, if they are willing to do their part.

### Ryskamp Research Fellowships

These one-year fellowships support assistant professors and untenured associate professors in the humanities and related social sciences whose scholarly contributions have advanced their fields and who have well designed and carefully developed plans for new research. The project's objective should be a major piece of scholarly work in the form of a monograph; creative work, textbooks, pedagogical projects, and translations are not eligible for funding. Up to 12 Ryskamp Fellows will be appointed in the 2005-06 competition. Each fellowship carries a stipend of \$64,000, plus \$2,500 for research and travel, and an additional \$14,22 for one summer's support, if necessary. The program is open to tenure-track assistant professors and untenured associate professors who by Sept. 28, 2005, will have successfully completed their third-year review, and whose tenure review will not be complete before Feb. 1, 2006. Application deadline: **Sept. 28, 2005**. For more information see <http://www.acls.org/rysguide.htm>

### Service-Learning Course Workshop

Washington Campus Compact and Seattle University will be offering a Course Construction Workshop Friday, October 21, 2005. The workshop has been designed for faculty interested in integrating service-learning into a course. Partnering staff, students, and community partners are also welcome to attend. The workshop is scheduled 9:00 am to 2:30 pm on Seattle University's campus. SPU is a member of the Washington Campus Compact. For more information see <http://www.wacampuscompact.org/>

Remember, the Center is now located on the second floor of the library. Drop by and see us.

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