

Friday @ the Center: May 26, 2006

Teaching Tip: Final Exams

University policy states that final exams are not to be given in the last week of class; they should be given during the exam period, or—if take-home exams or projects—handed in during the scheduled exam period. Even if the final exam is not cumulative, it should be given during exam week rather than during the last regular class period, so as to give students the maximum amount of time for preparation. Ten week quarters move extremely rapidly as it is, so we should not shortchange our students by requiring them to work under an even tighter time frame. The goal of the final evaluation (whether exam, project, report, etc.) is to evaluate how well students have learned the themes, skills, and content that is the most important for the course as a whole. For optimum learning, comprehensive evaluations are the best, as they require students to repeat and recall material tested once before and to apply concepts to and make connections among all the major ideas covered in the course.

Course Evaluations Start on May 30

Remind your students next week that the on-line course evaluation system opens on May 30. Students will have until June 19 to complete their evaluations, as the Instructional Development Committee recently decided to extend the evaluation period. Please take the time in class to explain the value of the course evaluation process both for the university as a whole and for you as an instructor. It may also be useful to explain to the students how the ability to evaluate both themselves and others is a standard part of many professions and careers after college. Faculty will be able to access the evaluation data and comments on after final grades have been rolled.

Theology Mini-Courses Update

New stipend policy: **take all three courses, and receive a \$500 stipend.** June courses will be held in Otto Miller Hall 119; September courses will be held in Bertona 6. Contact Becky Crook (bcrook@spu.edu) to register. Each course will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All reading material, coffee and lunch, and a \$100 stipend will be provided. **Registration deadlines: June 5** (for June Courses), **August 7** (for September courses). Priority registration to full-time faculty, but adjunct faculty are welcome to register to attend if space allows.

Monday, June 19

UFDN 1000: Christian Formation, led by Jeff Keuss and Bob Drovdaahl

Tuesday, June 20

UFDN 2000: Christian Scriptures, led by Rob Wall and Dave Nienhuis

Wednesday, June 21

UFDN 3100: Christian Theology, led by Rick Steele and Doug Koskela

Tuesday, September 5

UFDN 1000: Christian Formation, led by Jeff Keuss and Sara Koenig

Wednesday, September 6

UFDN 2000: Christian Scriptures, led by Dave Nienhuis and Sara Koenig

Thursday, September 7

UFDN 3100: Christian Theology, led by Rick Steele and Priscilla Pope-Levison

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!



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