Redesign Your Course for Civic Engagement
2013 American Democracy Project and State Farm Course Development Grant
(Civic Engagement and Responsibility Minor Course Redesign Project)

Overview:

This past year, work continued on the implementation and growing of the interdisciplinary minor in Civic Engagement and Responsibility reflecting Illinois State University’s core value of civic engagement. This educational opportunity complements students’ areas of study and advances their capabilities, motivation, and knowledge of their role in society to further the educational goal of creating engaged citizens. One of the desired outcomes with this effort is to centralize Illinois State University’s current work with service-learning. This minor allows Illinois State University to coordinate multiple initiatives at various levels while systematically affording students a way to see the relevance and value of civic engagement in their studies. The Course Redesign Project will 1) afford faculty the opportunity to enhance their curricular interests through integration with civic engagement components, 2) broaden the interdisciplinary collection of available electives relevant to students’ areas of study, and 3) further broaden ISU’s commitment to the values of citizenship and institutionalization of civic engagement across the curriculum. Courses considered for inclusion into the collection of elective courses in the minor should include some elements generally associated with civic engagement values and skills. A civically educated individual 1) gains a sense of self-awareness as a citizen, 2) actively participates in community service, 3) develops an appreciation of diversity, 4) comprehends the interdependence within communities, societies, and the world, 5) grows an understanding of the democratic process, 6) displays critical thinking within the arena of democratic conversations and social issues, 7) becomes effective at problem-solving and change, and 8) is able to personally integrate reflection on service, social issues, and course content.

In teaching civic engagement at Illinois State University, we strive to develop civically responsible individuals who embrace their membership in communities and society by owning social issues and working to be a part of the solution; this requires ethical and civic judgments and interventions when appropriate. Illinois State University’s values are at the core of this minor as students will prepare to participate in social change as well as develop an awareness of personal social responsibility. This minor is intended to prepare students to actively engage in citizenship. The interdisciplinary minor is open to all students of any ideological viewpoint and can be positively matched with any major as a way to broaden the student’s learning experience and career perspectives. This minor will provide students with opportunities to sharpen critical analysis, skill development, and personal reflection as well as substantive opportunities to study and perform civic engagement in their communities.

Course Redesign Project Application:

Eligibility: This is a University wide initiative. All tenured, tenure-track, and full-time non-tenure track faculty as well as staff with teaching responsibilities are eligible to apply. Based upon learning outcomes, the initiative allows faculty to integrate service learning opportunities and civic engagement components into existing courses (including on-line and hybrid courses) which will be considered for inclusion into the collection of courses for the minor as well as
across the curriculum. Teachers with new course ideas (with departmental commitment) are also encouraged to apply. Five to seven faculty fellows will be chosen to redesign one 100-level, 200-level or 300-level course. The effort will begin with proposal submissions and approval process this spring.

**Amount of Awards:** Faculty awards will include a stipend of $4000 payable to the faculty member for redesign work to be conducted May through August 2013 with the redesigned course to be taught in 2013/2014 and beyond.

**Application Materials and Procedures for Proposals:**

**Cover Page:** The cover page should include: 1) the applicants name, rank, department, and campus contact information, 2) the title of the proposed course, anticipated delivery of redesigned course, and approximate number of students, 3) the signature of applicant, 4) signature of applicant’s department chairperson indicating approval of selected course and/or department’s commitment for possible consideration of inclusion in minor’s list of electives.

**Existing Syllabus of Proposed Course:** Include at least one sample of a syllabus from the course you propose to redesign.

**Narrative:** Please provide an approximately 500 word narrative explaining your interest in this redesign project that will assist you in integrating civic engagement into an existing course or develop a course new to you. In your essay please describe the course you wish to redesign, how you propose to redesign or develop the course, and why you believe the course would be a good candidate for this project including your knowledge and interest in civic engagement, the relationship of the course content to civic engagement, the potential advantage of integrating civic engagement and service learning components, and the potential learning outcomes for the students. Basically, explain why you think this course would be a viable course for this project based upon your teaching observations and experience. Explain what you hope to accomplish through the redesign process and how the professional development will benefit you and your students.

**Application Deadline:** Monday, April 22, 2013. Please send your application materials electronically to Lance Lippert at llipper@ilstu.edu. AND, send three hard copies to: Dr. Lance Lippert, 4480, School of Communication. Applicants will be notified of the results by Monday, April 29, 2013.

**Application Evaluation:** A civic engagement work team will work with the project director to evaluate the proposals. Applications will be selected competitively on: 1) the comprehensiveness of the proposal [including the rationale, connection between civic engagement and the course content, and projected learning outcomes], 2) clarity and presentation of the proposal, 3) the relevance of the proposal to the “Civic Engagement Redesign Project” initiative and/or how it furthers ISU’s commitment civic engagement across the curriculum, 4) the ability/willingness of the applicant to commit to the series of summer workshops, 5) the ability/willingness of the applicant to include the redesigned course for review as a potential elective for the CER Minor, 6) the ability/willingness of the applicant to participate in CTLT’s Teaching and Learning
Symposium, and 7) the ability/willingness to deliver the redesigned course within the upcoming calendar school year.

**Final Report:** When completed, applicants are required to submit a final report which includes a redesigned course syllabus (along with any other relevant artifacts) and a narrative (no more than 1000 words) describing the course redesign process/development and demonstrating the incorporation of the reinvent principles, instructional strategies related to civic engagement outcomes, and possible assessment strategies. Conclude the report by reflecting on what you learned by participating in the course redesign process, and how it will inform your teaching as well as contribute to the growth of your department.

**Redesign Process:** This Year, in partnership with the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT), grantees will be required to take part in the “Reinvent Your Course” summer workshops. This is an extensive, research-informed workshop series that provides guidance for comprehensive reinvention of an existing course based on an integrated curriculum design model. The reinvention model focuses participants on core principles of exemplary course design and is thus applicable to any discipline and student population. Working with facilitators and peers, participants will use the proven model to apply recent scholarship on effective instructional strategies and techniques that result in transformational and enduring learning among students. The series of workshops consists of an initial all-day session followed by three half day sessions several weeks apart to allow adequate time for implementation of workshop material and course development for each participant’s targeted course. When you are completed with the workshop, you will have a detailed course syllabus and a specific action plan for teaching your reinvented course. Grantees will also be required to participate in two other workshops (facilitated by Dr. Steve Hunt, ADP Leadership Team, and Dr. Lance Lippert, Coordinator of the CER minor) specifically focused on civic engagement and service learning pedagogy to facilitate redesign outcomes. There will be some flexibility in terms of individual scheduling due to personal commitments throughout the sessions. The Workshop facilitator is: Dr. Tim Fredstrom, Associate Professor at Illinois State University. Dr. Fredstrom is currently Assistant Director of the School of Music at ISU and specializes in music education and curriculum design. He has served as Faculty-In-Residence for the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology at ISU where he developed several successful faculty development programs and has consulted on educational design at several universities.

**Dates of Workshops (Participation Required):**

- Tuesday, May 14, 12:30-3:30pm, Reinvent Foundations Session 1 & Cohort Lab Work
- Thursday, May 16, 9:00am-4:00pm, Reinvent Foundations Session 2 & Cohort Lab Work
- Thursday, May 23, 9:00am-4:00pm, Civic Engagement Cohort Workshop
- Thursday, June 6, 9:00am-4:00pm, Civic Engagement Cohort Workshop
- Thursday, June 13, 9:00am-4:00pm, Reinvent Foundations Session 3 & Cohort Lab Work
- Thursday, June 20, Final Wrap-Up & Presentations

For further information or questions:
You may contact Lance Lippert at lhipper@ilstu.edu, 438-7329, or Steve Hunt at skhunt2@ilstu.edu, 438-7279.