

**Addendum to call: As of July, 2009, there will not be any faculty stipends or expense supplements for teaching DUE freshman and transfer seminars.**

February 6, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

In order to enhance the first-year experience of all University of California undergraduates, all of the UC campuses have committed to make Freshman Seminars available to all interested Freshmen. In addition, UC Irvine has a similar series of seminars for new transfer students, that has been enormously successful and popular. I am writing to urge you to support this commitment by leading either a Freshman or a Transfer Seminar in your area of expertise during the 2009-10 academic year. I am also pleased to remind you that each Academic Senate member who teaches a Freshman or Transfer Seminar will receive a \$1,500 Division of Undergraduate Education Seminar Award that gets deposited in the faculty member's research account towards the end of the quarter when they teach their seminar.

Because Freshman and Transfer Seminars give faculty and students a chance to explore academic topics and new lines of inquiry in an interactive and congenial setting, they can support a range of intellectual interests. Consider introducing UCI students to a major problem in your research field, to a book or idea in your area that changed your way of thinking, or to a contemporary social or political dilemma linked to your expertise. Perhaps include a cultural or field experience outside the classroom. The seminars should engage students, foster discussion, and promote critical thinking. Comments from instructors and students alike continue to demonstrate the benefits of the program and the enthusiasm of those who choose to participate. Remember, most students will choose your seminar based on its title, so be sure to make it short, informative and catchy. For the Schedule of Classes, titles get abbreviated to 19 characters, so pick one that is still clear when it's shortened!

A short list of information concerning the UCI Freshman and Transfer Seminar Programs is given below. Links to further details on the programs and online proposal submission forms may be found at <http://www.freshmanseminar.uci.edu> and <http://www.due.uci.edu/tsp>. For Frequently Asked Questions (and answers) concerning Freshman Seminars, as well as links to Freshman Seminar programs at other UC campuses, go directly to <http://www.freshmanseminar.uci.edu/faculty.html>. Similar Transfer Seminar information is available online at <http://www.due.uci.edu/tsp/faculty.html>.

Please apply using the appropriate application form for the program that most interests you. Please do not fill out both forms unless you actually wish to teach in both programs during the same academic year. Both forms do allow you to indicate if you would be willing to switch your offering to the other program if it is not accepted for your first choice program. You may also wish to provide more information about your preferences in the comments section of your application, including if you have a strong preference for one seminar format over the other. Since our new student enrollment targets for fall 2009 include a decrease in the number of new freshmen and an increase in the number of new transfers, we might shift some applications from the freshman to the transfer pool if that is acceptable to the faculty member.

**FRESHMAN AND TRANSFER SEMINARS:**

- Are conducted in a small group setting, limited to 15 students.
- Typically meet for one hour a week as one-unit courses.
- Focus on academic topics of interest to the faculty member.

- Center on class discussions of selected readings.
- Expose students to new and unfamiliar fields of study.
- Attract students to schools, majors and minors.
- Offer priority enrollment to students new to UCI the quarter or year they are given.

#### FACULTY:

- Share their research and scholarly work with undergraduates in a group setting.
- Explore new lines of inquiry with students as active participants.
- Help students understand the culture of the research university.
- Receive a \$1,500 Freshman/Transfer Seminar Research Award for individual academic use.
- Participate over and above their regular teaching assignments.

#### STUDENTS:

- Broaden their academic horizons.
- Explore possible majors.
- Are introduced to the culture of the research university.
- Learn in a supportive and congenial atmosphere.
- Have close contact with professors and future mentors.
- Are given the opportunity to meet a group of new students with similar interests to their own.
- Develop communication skills through class give-and-take.
- Can receive a letter grade or elect the P/NP option.

If you would like to share your scholarship and expertise with new students in this special learning environment, please complete the appropriate web-based form available at <http://www.freshmanseminar.uci.edu/freshmanform.html> or <http://www.due.uci.edu/tsp/transferform.html>.

Please feel free to call on us if you need assistance or if you are unable to fill out the form at this time but are nevertheless interested in offering a freshman or transfer seminar in 2009-10.

Associate Dean Rudi Berkelhamer heads these programs within the Division of Undergraduate Education and has had extensive experience with Freshman and Transfer Seminars on our campus. Please don't hesitate to ask us questions to assist you in developing the best possible seminar experience for you and our UCI students. We can be reached at [freshmanseminar@uci.edu](mailto:freshmanseminar@uci.edu) or at the Division of Undergraduate Education, 611C Aldrich Hall, (949) 824-3291. Or, you may contact Rudi directly (x41955, [rcberkel@uci.edu](mailto:rcberkel@uci.edu)).

We look forward to hearing from you by May 1st if you wish to teach a fall seminar. Deadlines for winter and spring quarter applications are August 31 and November 30, respectively. *If at all possible, please submit your applications for a fall seminar early (preferably by March 1) to have priority for a room at your preferred time/day.*

Cordially,

Sharon V. Salinger, Dean  
Division of Undergraduate Education