

Curriculum Development Proposal
ACS Environmental Initiative

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I propose to develop a course titled Environmental Literature in the US. Centre has never had a course in Environmental Literature. Since the approval of an Environmental Studies minor three years ago, there has been an increasing demand from students and faculty for courses in the Humanities that support this minor. My project will develop a brand new course at a school that has never offered such a course, and the field is one in which I am not a specialist: thus it falls within the consortium's top priority.

While I have been an off-and-on member of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE), and have occasionally written papers on environmental themes, I have never taught a course in this area before, and I have not studied the field as a broad specialization. I am seeking grant support to read primary theoretical works in the field as well as to prepare an actual course for Centre's English majors, Environmental Studies minors, and others interested in the material. Preparing this course will involve a survey of syllabi created by others who teach Environmental Literature—in the ACS and beyond—as well as a review of classic texts in the field, both those written in forms conventionally taught in English departments and those in forms less often addressed in period surveys. The course I design will be offered either in the 2007-8 or 2008-9 academic year, depending on English program needs. Since the course will be cross-listed as both an Environmental Studies course and as an English course, it will not compromise the offerings in my primary program.

I plan to develop this course during the summer of 2007: indeed, I am applying for this grant in lieu of my usual Centre College summer research grant. I will begin gathering such materials as texts and syllabi during the Spring term so that I will be able to begin work immediately during the summer. During the Spring I will also consult with members of the Environmental Studies program at Centre to determine what sort of emphasis would best support the other courses being offered. I should be able to devote at least eight weeks to course development during the summer months.

The only budget item I am requesting is \$200 for the purchase of books. Our library contains many of the classic texts that I need to review, but I will need to purchase teaching editions that might not be immediately available as review copies. I am also asking for a stipend of \$2000 to offset the loss of my usual summer research grant. Itemized, the budget thus looks like this:

Item	Amount
Book purchases	\$ 200
Stipend	\$2000

I cannot offer a syllabus, since a large part of the project will involve the preparation of a syllabus for the course. I will deem this project to have been a success when my course in Environmental Literature appears in Centre's course registration

materials within the next two and a half years. To predict that this course will become a model for use at other ACS colleges would be presumptuous, since I hope to consult with instructors of similar courses that already exist at these colleges in order to develop it. However, I will certainly make the course description and syllabus available to any instructor developing a new course in the field or making adjustments to an existing course.

Institutional approval for the project is not an obstacle. I am the current chair of English, and I see the lack of an Environmental Literature course as a gap in our offerings. Our dean is an ecologist eager to promote the Environmental Studies minor, and members of the minor program committee are among those urging me to develop this course. I have applied for no other support for this or any other summer research project.