

Reform of Introductory Science Courses for Non-Majors

HIV/AIDS: Development of a thematic non-majors biology course

David R. Wessner
Department of Biology
Davidson College

Dates: June 1, 2004 – May 31, 2005

Introduction

With this grant, I have been developing a non-majors biology course that uses HIV/AIDS as a unifying theme to discuss various aspects of biology. Because of the long-term course planning in our department, the course has not yet been offered. It will be offered during the Fall 2007 semester. As of this time, then, a syllabus, assessment, etc. are not available.

In preparation for the course, though, I have developed a Web site that I will use extensively in the course. This site is freely available. My students and I have tested its effectiveness with several groups of students and presented it at national and international meetings. Additionally, we have some information on the popularity of the site, based on 'hit' data that I am collecting. Finally, I published a short book that I will use in the course. I will summarize this information and provide the meeting abstracts and posters.

Publications (*indicates undergraduate co-author)

*Marcil, L., *E. Wilson, *A. McDonald, and D. Wessner. HIV and pop culture: A Web-based educational resource. Manuscript in preparation.

Books

Wessner, D. R. HIV and AIDS. (2006) Benjamin Cummings, New York.

Presentations (*indicates undergraduate co-author)

Wessner, D. and *L. Marcil. HIV and pop culture: A Web-based educational resource. Presented at XVI International AIDS Conference. Toronto, Canada. August 13-18, 2006.

Wessner, D. Using HIV/AIDS as a Campus-wide Educational Focus. Invited speaker. Strategies for Success Workshop. Auburn University, Auburn, AL, November 12, 2005.

Wessner, D., *A. Harger, and *E. Wilson. HIV/AIDS and popular culture: A new Web-based educational tool. Presented at American Society for Microbiology General Meeting. Atlanta, GA. June 5–9, 2005.

Demonstrations of Web site

Ada Jenkins Community Center, Davidson, NC. March 29, 2006

Woodlawn Middle School, Davidson, NC. May 2, 2006

HHMI Bridge Program, Davidson College. July 25, 2006