

**Honors Interdisciplinary General Education Course Development Grants  
Round Two – Course Proposal Solicitation**

The Selection Committee for the Honors Interdisciplinary General Education Course Development Grants is pleased to announce that the selected theme for 2005-06 is:

**“Nature Transformed: Perspectives on Environment and Culture”.**

Robert Gross (History), Robert Thorson ( EEB and Geography), and Janet Prichard (Art and Art History) are also being named as “Honors Fellows” for three years beginning May, 2005 in connection with the proposal that they submitted on the selected theme, conditional on a letter of support from their department Heads. The selection committee anticipates awarding three additional three-year Honors Fellowships.

The Selection Committee (Betty Hanson, Hedley Freake, Anne Hiskes, Jonathan Hufstader, Andy Moiseff, Bede Ogacha, Eric Rice) thanks all those who submitted proposals for their creativity and interest, and hopes that in future years resources will permit course development on a number of the other proposed themes. Those who submitted proposals for Round One of the Honors Course Development Grants are encouraged to revise and resubmit their proposals for Round Two in accordance with the theme and criteria described below.

**Round Two:**

All University of Connecticut faculty are invited to submit proposals for a general education course that supports or complements the theme “Nature Transformed: Perspectives on Environment and Culture”. Proposed courses may be based on subject matter from a single discipline or be interdisciplinary.

- Faculty whose courses are selected for the new Honors General Education curriculum will be designated as “Honors Fellows” for a three-year term and will receive \$10,000 for the first year of course development.
- During the developmental Year One of the Fellowship Honors Fellows will be expected to teach a 1-credit Honors Seminar (19 student capacity) each semester related to some component of their proposed course.
- Honors Fellows should be committed to teaching one or two sections per year of their proposed course for Years Two and Three of the fellowship. In compensation for the time of the Honors Fellows, their academic programs will receive the equivalent of ½ TA per section taught, and the Fellows will receive a \$500.00 Honorarium.
- Fellows should be committed to planning a number of special events (speakers, forums, etc) for Years Two and Three based on the selected theme that will be open to all participating Honors students.
- Honors Fellows should be committed to engaging with Honors students both inside and outside of the classroom.

- A. The Theme [paraphrased from the proposal by Robert Gross (History), Robert Thorson (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Anthropology), and Janet Pritchard (Art and Art History)]**

The earth is an archive not just of natural processes, but of the “transformation of nature” through human interaction and literary and cultural artifacts. The theme “Nature Transformed” calls on all the disciplines of the arts and sciences to appraise contemporary debates over environmental public policy and to engage with the problems that face future generations.

The course, “Walden: A History”, envisioned by Gross, Thorson, and Pritchard would use Thoreau’s text *Walden* as a both a focus and a jumping-off point for exploring the relation between people and nature as a function of social, economic, and cultural contexts. The course would engage with some of the following themes: the geology of Walden Pond and New England that was supportive of the organic diversity of the region and hence of the later Native American and Puritan settlements; the context of capitalism, politics, and reform that gave rise to Thoreau’s political, moral, and philosophical views; the transformation of experience into “literature” as seen in Thoreau’s writings as well as writings of the classical Greeks and Romans, Goethe, Carlyle, and nineteenth century travel writing; the visual representations of Walden and New England by a variety of photographers; the role of Walden as a birthplace of modern environmentalism and later as a symbol of environmental mismanagement.

## **B. Proposal Guidelines**

- Proposals may be based on material and methods of a single discipline or be interdisciplinary.
- Proposed courses must complement or support the themes as describe above.
- Proposals may be submitted by individuals or teams
- Proposals should be no longer than eight single-spaced pages
- Proposals should include:
  - Course objectives
  - Course content
  - The General Education Content Area(s) for which the course will be proposed
  - Pedagogical methods appropriate for honors students to be used in the classes;
  - Potential innovative approaches, e.g., including a service learning component, or offering the course outside of the United States during an intersession or “May-term” period;
  - A statement of intent to engage in a year-long curriculum development effort and to teach a 1-credit Honors seminar each semester of the developmental year.
  - A statement of support from the program director/department head.

Electronic copies of the proposal should be sent to [honors@uconn.edu](mailto:honors@uconn.edu) with the subject line “Honors Course Proposal.” **no later than MAY 19, 2005. Awards will be announced no later than May 30 with an initial organizational meeting to be held shortly thereafter.**