ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE
Request for Proposals 2010–2012

The Ethnography of the University Initiative (EUI, http://www.eui.uiuc.edu) invites proposals from faculty interested in teaching EUI-affiliated courses for the 2010–2011 or 2011-2012 academic year (EUI courses are capped at 25). Since its inception in 2003, EUI has provided an innovative approach to teaching and learning focused on promoting student research on universities and colleges. In EUI-affiliated courses students use a variety of ethnographic and archival methods to examine the university’s various institutional identities and commitments and to study higher education institutions in the context of social and political trends. Students in EUI-affiliated courses work through an online classroom environment (usually Moodle, although we are open to other formats) to record the research process and findings and at the end of the semester they have the opportunity to contribute their work to the growing digital archives of student research (IDEALS https://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/755). Today the EUI collection in IDEALS, the U of I’s digital repository, is approaching 1000 entries. Through sponsored coursework, workshops, customized web environments, IRB permissions, and a bi-annual student conference, EUI helps faculty from varying disciplinary and methodological backgrounds incorporate student research on the universities and colleges into their courses. Faculty may modify an existing course or develop a new course that will include an EUI component.

Funding

EUI no longer has the funds to reward faculty for teaching with the program. We will, however, ask each of your units to consider compensating you for your faculty development efforts in joining EUI.

Requirements

1. Participation in a 2-day workshop to be held Monday and Tuesday, May 17 and 18, 2010. In order to accomplish the goals of EUI across the various disciplines on our campus, this workshop will introduce faculty to:

   • Past EUI courses and teaching strategies;
   • Ethnographic and archival methodologies;
   • Web-based collaborative research tools to encourage and promote student inquiry (Moodle and IDEALS);
   • Library resources that have been developed specifically for EUI work (http://www.library.uiuc.edu/rex/instruction/eui/index.htm) and the Student Life and Cultures Archives (http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/slc/);
   • EUI’s approved Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol.
2. Meeting with an EUI coordinator prior to the beginning of the semester you teach your EUI to review IRB requirements and Moodle updates.

3. Participation in two EUI meetings during the semester you teach your EUI-affiliated course: a faculty meeting and the EUI Student Conference at which students present their research.

Application

Each applicant should submit the following:

1. A short (circa 1-2 paragraphs) narrative that describes your interest in EUI and the course to be linked to EUI (where applicable, feel free to include the existing course syllabus) (we might circulate this paragraph on our website);

2. A statement of commitment to (a) attend summer orientation meeting (May 17-18th, 2010) and EUI faculty and student presentation meetings during the semester of teaching, and (b) comply with the human subjects and intellectual property protocols approved for EUI (applicants from other colleges or universities will need IRB approval from their home institutions as well);

3. A letter of support (email is fine) from the executive officer of the applicant’s primary department that: (a) indicates the department’s agreement to have the EUI course or section(s) taught; (b) specifies the semester (Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, or Spring 2012) in which the course will be offered; and (c) affirms limiting the size of the course to 25 students or fewer. The letter can be very simple: stating only the designated course, semester, and size.

4. A brief academic biography (one paragraph will do).

Completed applications must be submitted, and letters of support should arrive, by Friday, March 18, 2010. Acceptance will be announced immediately. Please send all materials by e-mail attachment to eui-info@uiuc.edu.

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