

Technology for Teaching Project Proposal

Proposers: Grant Cornwell, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy
Eve Stoddard, Associate Professor of English, Director of the Center for
International and Intercultural Studies

Project Title: "Transnational Team-Teaching: Intercultural Dialogue via the WWW"

Project Type: Development

Project Goals: The primary goal of this project is to foster sustained, transnational, intercultural dialogue between students at St. Lawrence University, the University of the West Indies, and Trent University, Canada, using the World Wide Web. To accomplish this we also aim to develop an on-line system for transnational, collaborative teaching and course development with colleagues at Trent and UWI, to create the links between our courses necessary to foster substantive dialogue between students.

Narrative Description: As part of the Ford grant, "Crossing Borders: Revitalizing Area Studies," St. Lawrence, Trent, and UWI will be developing a series of collaborations in teaching and research around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and nation. In the spring semester of 2000, we will be offering our course "Comparative Studies in Racial and Cultural Identities" revised in collaboration with Ralph Premdas, Professor of Political Science at UWI, to be linked with his course "Ethnic Politics in Comparative Perspective." We will seek to link these courses, next spring or in the future, with a relevant offering at Trent. The plan is to have the syllabi of the courses offered on the different campuses overlap as much as is feasible. Students and faculty will use a dedicated web site to discuss the issues of the course. In addition, we will use the site as an on-line writing workshop, wherein students will have drafts of their essays read and commented on by their peers at the other institutions. We will also explore the possibility of transnational student teams who will work together on-line to produce a common project of some kind. We anticipate that the Ford grant will fund a student conference as part of the course, which will enable the students and faculty who have been working together on-line to meet and share their work in person.

Resources Needed:

- Computer upgrades for Stoddard and Cornwell as needed to support project (scanner, video cards, etc) \$1000
- Trained student assistant to construct and help maintain the web page, prepare and post materials as required (100 hrs @ \$6.00) \$600
- Trained student assistant at UWI to provide training and technical support (100 hrs @ \$6.00) \$600
- Summer support for Stoddard and Cornwell (\$1000 each) to learn what is necessary about web-page construction, acquiring and processing images and sound, monitoring discussions on the web, using the web in collaborative writing pedagogy \$2000
- Assigned technical support to provide summer training
- Travel allowance for project planning with collaborators at Trent and UWI (to be requested)
- Explore donating down-streamed computers to UWI