

**Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning**

**Building Interdisciplinary Connections: Paired Courses**

**Goal**

Enhancing interdisciplinary programs and activities advances *Strategic Action Item 2*. **Paired courses** provide an opportunity for faculty to build interdisciplinary connections and network with colleagues while also advancing students’ integrative learning. The development of paired courses will enhance curricular connections within interdisciplinary majors and minors and create opportunities for exploring new interdisciplinary programs and activities.

In collaboration with the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning (CTEL), the Division of Strategy and Innovation is supporting this strategic initiative by funding the development of new paired courses for the 2022-2023 academic year.

**Description**

Paired courses are two courses with separate cohorts of students that link up at a few points in the semester. Usually, the link occurs at key intersections in which there are shared readings and joint activities.

The instructors collaboratively prepare their courses in order to intentionally highlight points where two disciplinary perspectives intersect on a common concept, theory, method, or other key feature. A common, joint discussion, project, activity, or event allows for reflection on the interdisciplinary nature of the course topics. In short, students engage in integrative thinking through the collaborative efforts of both instructors.

Pairing courses within an interdisciplinary major or minor is an excellent way to connect with colleagues, build curricular coherence, and reinforce the interdisciplinary nature of those programs.

For prospective interdisciplinary programs or activities, paired courses provide an opportunity to pilot and explore new ideas and build faculty connections.

**Opportunity**

Funds (up to $1,000 for each award) are available to support the development of new paired courses. The brief proposal process and the evaluative criteria for making award decisions are described below.

**Deadline: April 1, 2022.**

**Application**

**Eligibility**:

* Any full-time faculty member who will be teaching an undergraduate course during the 2022-23 academic year.
* Any two courses offered in the same semester during the 2022-23 academic year.
* The courses must be from different departments. Creating new partnerships and stimulating interdisciplinary thinking are key goals for this program. These objectives are best met by encouraging collaboration across departmental and college boundaries.
* The courses should be offered at the same time and day if at all possible, but this is not a requirement.
* If offered at different times, the joint activities would take place at a time that accommodates the greatest number of students (e.g., an evening event) without penalizing those who are unable to attend.

**Expectations:**

* The expectation is that modest changes to syllabi along with the development of a small number (at least two) of joint activities will satisfy the pedagogical goals of this program: (a) advance course learning objectives and (b) foster intergrative thinking.
* There should be faculty discussion and collaboration so that there is intentional overlap in readings or assignments in the syllabi.
* Joint activities could include combined discussions/meetings around a central problem or concept, a group project that brings together students from both courses (research, service and/or academic), events (guest speaker, film), a field experience (museum, lab, etc.), and so forth. Faculty may choose to give a guest presentation in each other’s class or may choose to jointly teach on a particular topic during the semester.
* At the conclusion of the semester, a brief reflection on the experience along with the syllabi of the paired courses will be shared with CTEL ctel@bradley.edu. The information and feedback will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative.

**Evaluative criteria:**

* Will the paired design have a positive impact on the learning goals and objectives for each class?
* Will the courses be substantively linked by actively engaging students with different perspectives on questions, concepts, methods, problems, or other features that animate the interdisciplinary theme connecting the courses?
* Priority is given for courses that satisfy requirements for an interdisciplinary major or minor at Bradley. Priority is also given to links that support exploration toward a new interdisciplinary program or activity.
* Priority is given for courses that meet at the same date/time or have a clear plan for convening the joint activities.

**Deadline**: April 1, 2022. See next page for application form.



**Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning Application Form**

**Building Interdisciplinary Connections: Paired Courses**

**Instructions**: Please type in the requested information. Please use 12 point font size. The boxes below are expandable. Email the completed form to: ctel@bradley.edu. Deadline is April 1, 2022.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name(s) | Department/Unit |   | e-mail addresses |
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| **Course titles, descriptions, and semester offered** |
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| **Rationale –** **How will the paired design have a positive impact on the learning goals/objectives for each class? No more than 250 words.** |
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| **A brief statement about how you plan to engage students jointly in common sessions or events. No more than 250 words.** |
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| **Please indicate if the two courses satisfy requirements for an interdisciplinary major or minor or if the proposed pairing is intended to facilitate discussion and exploration toward a new interdisciplinary program or activity.**  |
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| **Indicate if the courses are offered at the same date/time. If not, how would the joint class meetings be arranged?** |
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**Budget request**

Applicants prepare a brief budget request (up to $1000). The budget request form is on the next page. Categories of allowable costs:

* Professional development – (e.g., books or other background material for course preparation; registration for a professional development opportunity such as a webinar).
* Course-related – (e.g., supplies or materials for a joint course project; honoraria for guest speakers).
* Community-building – costs associated with student participation in community-building events (e.g., small field trips, food associated with a shared event, participation in a service learning or community activity, etc.).

**Budget Form**

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| **Cost Category/Item** **(n/a if category is not applicable)** | **Amount Requested** | **Notes** |
| **Professional Development** |
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| **Course-related** |
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| **Community-building** |
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| **TOTAL Request** |  |  |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Faculty and Department Chair electronic signatures (typed or uploaded image) |  |   | e-mail addresses |
| Faculty Name: Department Chair:Faculty Name:Department Chair:  |  |  |  |

Email the completed application form and budget request to ctel@bradley.edu.

Inquiries, please contact Derek Montgomery at montg@fsmail.bradley.edu

**Deadline is April 1, 2022**