Teaching and Learning Strategies Seminar

Name: Heather Perry

Department: Library

Typically, participants are awarded a course release in order to make time for their participation in the seminar. However, in select cases, we will consider awarding a stipend instead of a course release if the applicant's department can't cover the course release.

Please indicate whether you will be requesting a course release or stipend if you're chosen to participate in the seminar:

- Stipend

Has your chair sent an email to the Director of the CTL indicating his or her support of your application and willingness to find coverage for your course reduction (if you are requesting one)?

- No

In which semester would you prefer to participate in the seminar?

- Spring

Project Title: Enhancing student engagement through Digital Course Content

Project Proposal (500–750 words, including a rationale, project description, a discussion of the benefit to the Stonehill community, and your "community outreach plan") -- see full requirements on the CTL website.

Rationale: I would like to participate in the TLSS at this time to further improve my teaching, and improve the library’s support of the teaching faculty. The library is working very hard to try to support the faculty, and having greater opportunities to work with faculty, and listen to them will help me in this endeavor. I am currently pursuing a PhD and I think that this program would be a complement to the things I am learning, enabling me to put theory into practice.

This past semester in my CSC 101 course I completely revamped my syllabus and had a very engaged semester. Students spent more time in active discussion, and seemed to more deeply understand the issues at the core of technological progress. I would like to replicate this for future semesters, continuing to use digital content, but ensuring that my practice is grounded in sound pedagogy.

Project Description: In this project I would like to explore promising digital pedagogies and new technologies that have the potential to enhance student learning, and stimulate active classroom discussion. I would like to move lectures away from class time, and encourage better utilization of face to face time. As the goals of the class are to stimulate problem solving and critical thinking skills, I would like to focus on pedagogies that encourage the development of these skills. I would especially like to research techniques for effectively using film, especially lectures by researchers, in class. I use many short films in class to demonstrate and emphasize points, but I would like to make sure that I am using them to their full extent. I would like the students to conclude the semester by creating their own TED type Talk. As Stonehill is actively pursuing a Streaming Content collection, knowing more about this will be beneficial not just in my class, but in my role as Streaming Media Librarian.
Benefit: As a librarian anything I learn will benefit not only the students in my class, but the wider faculty as it will influence the library's collection plans, and the services we provide. Focusing more deeply on digital course materials will address a new pedagogical need on campus. Using My course as a sandbox for integrating some of these materials will enable me to get a better sense of the pros and cons of using different technologies, and teaching methods.

Community Outreach Plans: This project will dovetail with two projects I am currently working on in the library: creating a Digital Course Materials e-Course eLearn site, and creating a streaming media program at Stonehill. Everything I learn in the seminar will be shared with the campus community through these two resources. I will present on these resources at the Faculty Technology Showcase. Additionally the things I learn in the seminar will benefit the community through FLPP (Faculty Librarian Partnership Program), and will be shared with the library team at our weekly meetings. I will use additional opportunities on campus to share what I learn, either individually as I meet with faculty, or in group settings.

Syllabus (optional) -- can also be emailed as an attachment to Patricia Neagle (pneagle@stonehill.edu)

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