INSTRUCTIONAL INNOVATION SUMMIT

How the Quality Enhancement Plan is Changing Curricula at Carolina

PROGRAM

October 23, 2019
A Message from Kelly Hogan (Associate Dean of Instructional Innovation, QEP Director)

In the past few years, I’ve been fortunate to help lead two major projects affecting the undergraduate curriculum at UNC, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), and the IDEAs in Action general education curriculum. It’s exciting for me as these two projects begin to merge.

The accreditation process in 2017 through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) gave us an opportunity at UNC-Chapel Hill to think innovatively and experimentally about our curriculum. Through our own Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), with the theme of “Learning by Connecting, Doing, and Making,” we introduced four new programs for our undergraduates and built a strong team to assess learning. Halfway through our 5-year QEP project, we are beginning to see what has been less successful and what will be sustained in some manner through the general education curriculum.

The new IDEAs in Action general education curriculum was approved by faculty in May of 2019. It is innovative in its focus on capacities that support lifelong learning and success, such as collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills.

The QEP leadership team is proud to present examples of courses that will roll into the new curriculum or have helped pave the way for ideas being implemented in the new curriculum. Today, we highlight courses from the QEP and the IDEAs in Action curriculum that allow students to learn how to:

- solve problems by integrating multiple disciplinary perspectives
- produce knowledge through novel discoveries in a research-based course through an interdisciplinary team
- collaborate and communicate about research
- design novel objects through an iterative process in the BeAM makerspace to strengthen their understanding of disciplinary ideas

To find out more about the QEP, visit qep.unc.edu. To learn more about the new undergraduate general education curriculum, visit ideasinaction.unc.edu.

LEARNING BY CONNECTING, DOING, AND MAKING
SESSION I

3:00–3:20PM OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS
Kelly Hogan, Associate Dean of Instructional Innovation, QEP Director
Email: leek@email.unc.edu

TWO-MINUTE COURSE PRESENTATIONS

JENNIFER ARNOLD, Psychology and Neuroscience
Email: jarnold@email.unc.edu
PSYC 438: Research Topics in the Psychology of Language
Course Description: Students conduct research on how people process language, specifically around the topic of how prediction affects language and comprehension. Students propose an original research question and design an experiment to test it in the field of language processing. Students learn to use tools to collect and analyze data, as well as how to write, revise, and orally present academic research.
QEP Program: Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CURE)
Link to new General Education curriculum: Research and Discovery

SUSAN HARBAGE PAGE, Women’s and Gender Studies
Email: pages@email.unc.edu
IDST 190.007: Experiencing Latin America: Bodies, Belonging, Nature
Course Description: Three professors from three disciplines: visual arts, Spanish, and geography, ask students to examine linguistic, geopolitical, and socio-environmental boundaries to foster an intersectional understanding of identity and belonging in the Americas. Through Spanish language-based films and artwork, course topics include migration, justice, and environmental well-being. Students also use their understanding and own perspective to create objects utilizing the makerspace.
Course Faculty: Susan Harbage Page, Gabriela Valdivia, Gosia Lee
QEP Program: Makerspace
Link to new General Education curriculum: III (Triple-I); Creative Expression, Practice, and Production

SUZANNE LYE, Classics
Email: slye@email.unc.edu
CLAS 089: Ancient Magic and Religion
Course Description: Students examine descriptions of religious and magical practices in the multicultural contexts of ancient Greece and Rome. They create replicas of ancient objects as a way to investigate the materials and usability of objects related to ancient religious and magical practices. The sources include literary accounts, legal documents, and material objects, such as inscriptions, amulets, tablets, magical images, and papyri.
QEP Program: Makerspace
Link to new General Education curriculum: Creative Expression, Practice, and Production
COURTNEY RIVARD, English
Email: crivard@email.unc.edu
ENGL 482: Rhetoric and Digital Humanities: Becoming Digital Makers
Course Description: Students work on a collaborative research project between UNC, Yale University, and the University of Richmond to merge an archival collection held at UNC’s Southern Historical Collection into a public, internet-based, Digital Humanities Project. The website brings together all the photographs taken by the Farm Security Administration during the Great Depression. Students have to confront the role of rhetoric in data construction as they decide which terms to select as metadata categories and how to mark-up antiquated, racist, and sexist terms that pervade many of these texts.
QEP Program: Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CURE)
Link to new General Education curriculum: Research and Discovery

AMANDA THOMPSON, Anthropology
Email: althomps@email.unc.edu
IDST 195: The Dual Burden of Disease in Galapagos, Ecuador: An Interdisciplinary Study of Food and Water on Isabela Island (offered Spring 2019)
Course Description: Students will travel to Isabela, Galapagos, Ecuador, to conduct an interdisciplinary study of food and water quality, security, and accessibility on the island. This will be done through GIS and laboratory analysis of water samples, food frequency and diet surveys, and in-depth ethnographic interviews. Results will be shared with residents at an annual research symposium in the Galapagos and used to create a background for potential interventions.
Course Faculty: Amanda Thompson, Margaret Bentley, Jill Stewart
QEP Program: URCT (Undergraduate Research Consultant Team)
Link to new General Education curriculum: Research and Discovery, High Impact Practice

BRETT WHALEN, History
Email: bwhalen@email.unc.edu
HIST 050 / PHYS 050: Time and the Medieval Cosmos
Course Description: Two professors from different disciplines (medieval studies and astronomy) introduce first-year students to the basic motions of the solar system as viewed from the Earth and the mechanical and mathematical models used to reproduce them. Students learn how the reckoning of time connects to the motions of the celestial bodies. Generally speaking, the course immerses students in the world of medieval and early modern education, theology, and natural philosophy, challenging them to understand the historical conditions that shaped views of the cosmos in the European Middle Ages.
Course Faculty: Brett Whalen, Chris Clemens
QEP Program: Integrated Curricula
Link to new General Education curriculum: First Year Seminar; Interdisciplinary Co-Instruction

BRIGITTE ZIMMERMAN, Public Policy
Email: bseim@email.unc.edu
PLCY 110H-001: Global Policy Issues
Course Faculty: Brigitte Seim Zimmerman
Course Description: Students are introduced to several of the most pressing issues facing populations around the world and the challenges of designing and implementing policies to address these issues. Students learn about global policy issues through the critical evaluation of scholarly literature and through a semester-long research project. They will be encouraged to build the analytical and communication skills necessary to pursue research in the most salient policy arenas facing our world today, either in further study or in career paths.
QEP Program: Research Related Skills
Link to new General Education curriculum: Recurring Capacities

3:15–3:55PM  EXPLORE THE COURSES

3:55–4:00PM  Break Session (transition to Session II)

SESSON II

4:00–4:15PM  INTRODUCTIONS
Kelly Hogan, Associate Dean of Instructional Innovation, QEP Director
Email: leek@email.unc.edu

TWO-MINUTE COURSE PRESENTATIONS

CLAUDIO BATTAGLINI, Exercise and Sport Science
Email: claudio@email.unc.edu
IDST 190.005: Understanding Health and Happiness
Course Description: Three professors from three disciplines: physiology, positive psychology, and sociology, expose students to diverse approaches to studying topics related to happiness and subjective and physical well-being. An important aspect of the course is teaching students a variety of life skills, such as teamwork, developing social connections — including “belongingness” at UNC, being physically active, and becoming confident that they can obtain the skills to increase their happiness and health.
Course Faculty: Claudio Battaglini, Arne Kalleberg, Barbara Fredrickson
Link to new General Education curriculum: III (Triple-I)
STEPHEN GENT, Political Science
Email: gent@email.unc.edu
POLI 350: Peace Science Research
Course Description: Students conduct quantitative research on peace, conflict, and conflict resolution. Over the course of the semester, students work in teams to create original research projects that answer policy-relevant questions in the field of peace science. Through hands-on experience with data gathering and analysis, students learn how to develop and test novel hypotheses about the causes and consequences of conflict as well as the processes of conflict resolution and management.
Course Faculty: Mark Crescenzi, Stephen Gent
QEP Program: CURE (Course-based Undergraduate Research)
Link to new General Education curriculum: Research and Discovery

NICHOLAS LAW, Physics and Astronomy
Email: nlaw@email.unc.edu
ASTR 502: Astronomical Discovery in the Era of Big Data
Course Description: Students conduct a research-based exploration of UNC’s petabyte-scale dataset from the Evryscope telescope. The Evryscope monitors a huge part of the sky, taking images every two minutes and searching for changing objects, including exoplanets, superflares from active stars, supernovae, and gravitational-wave events. Students build software tools to dive into the Evryscope data and search for particular astronomical phenomena; with this dataset, students are likely to make novel discoveries, and already have.
QEP Program: CURE (Course-based Undergraduate Research)
Link to new General Education curriculum: Research and Discovery

LAURA MILLER, Biology and Mathematics
Email: lam9@email.unc.edu
MATH 060: FYS-Simulated Life
Course Description: First-year students in this course describe organisms living within moving fluids using both mathematical and physical models. The course is highly geared towards individual projects, focusing on numerical simulation or experimental fluid dynamics. Students take advantage of the makerspace, as well as 3D scanning and photogrammetry, to construct models of organs and organisms.
QEP Program: Makerspace
Link to new General Education curriculum: First Year Seminar; Creative Expression, Practice, and Production
VIJI SATHY, Psychology and Neuroscience  
Email: viji_sathy@unc.edu  
PSYC 089: FYS-Talking About Numbers  
Course Description: First-year students are introduced to the many ways that data are reported to the public in our everyday lives, through advertising and media as well as scientific journal articles. Students create models in the makerspaces on campus that help make abstract topics about numbers more concrete. They learn practical skills that will be useful in subsequent classes at Carolina and after graduation (e.g., in graduate school, in work, as a consumer, as a citizen).  
QEP Program: Makerspace  
Link to new General Education curriculum: First Year Seminar; Creative Expression, Practice, and Production  

4:15–4:55PM EXPLORE THE COURSES  

4:55–5:00PM CLOSING REMARKS