

Undergraduate Distance Education Course Approval Form

(Required for all courses taught by distance education
for more than one-third of teaching contract hours)

Existing Course Approval

Course: GS 481 /581 NASA & the Internet

Contact Person: Connie J. Sutton Phone 7-5626 E-mail cjsutton

Department: Geoscience

Approvals (signature and date)

John D. Ed
College Dean

Darlene Richards 3-2-00
Department Chair

Darlene Richard
Department Curriculum Committee

Send this form and the questionnaire to the Dean of the School of Continuing Education for distribution to other offices. No further approval is required

LSC Use Only
Number: _____
Submission Date: _____
Action Date: _____

UWCC Use Only
Number: _____
Submission Date: _____
Action Date: _____

New Course Approval

Course: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Department: _____

Approvals (signature and date)

Department Curriculum Committee

Department Chair

College Curriculum Committee

College Dean

Director of Liberal Studies
(where applicable)

Provost
(where applicable)

Distance Education Course Approval Questionnaire

Course: GS 481/581 NASA & the Internet 3 cr
(number) (title) (credit hours)

Instructor of Record: Connie J. Sutton
(print name)

Whenever distance education technologies (as defined in Article 42, Section A, 1 of CBA) are used for more than one-third of teaching contact hours of a course, the academic department must review the course format and indicate its approval. Criteria used are listed under Article 42, Section B, 2.

1. Will a qualified instructor teach the course? Mrs. Connie Sutton has been a member of the Geoscience Department since 1968. Her duties include teaching astronomy courses, advising education majors, and supervising science student teachers. Her undergraduate & graduate degrees are in science education.
2. Will the technology serve as a suitable substitute for the traditional classroom?
This course is ideal for distance education, in fact much more than for a traditional classroom.
3. Are there suitable opportunities for interaction between the instructor and student?
Students and instructor will communicate via phone, email and a WebCT chatroom centered around specific topics.
4. Will there be suitable methods used to evaluate student achievement?
Students will be evaluated on the material they prepare, specifically the lesson plans/modules. There will be no traditional quizzes or tests. Students will also self assess their involvement with other students and issues raised during chat sessions.
5. Describe the evaluation methods to be used.
The lessons will be evaluated using a rubric. For example, they must incorporate all the aspects of a lesson plan (objectives, closure, etc). They will be evaluated for their use of NASA material, appropriateness for the identified classroom demographics (age, subject matter), clarity of procedures, etc

**Proposal for Distance Education Course
GS 481
Summer 2000
Connie J. Sutton, Geoscience Department**

I. Overview

In Summer 1999, the IUP Teacher Education Center for Science, Mathematics, and Technology was awarded a grant from CAPE (A Community of Agile Partners in Education) as part of a larger grant it received from NASA. The purpose of the grant is as follows, "...to advance and expand the successful model of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral educational resources sharing strategies begun and continued under previous federal funding grants. We specifically propose to utilize the funding provided by NASA for two activities, the expansion of CAPE's existing technological infrastructure to encompass new member institutions and to support activities by all members which will utilize this infrastructure and NASA's inventory of educational resources." IUP's part is in the latter, establishing a means for the training of pre-service and in-service teachers in the use of NASA's web resources for lesson preparation. A pilot course will be offered this summer. In the Fall of 2000 IUP will use the videoconferencing facilities to train professors on other campuses to offer similar courses.

II. Curricular Questions

- 1) *What technology will be used?*
WebCT technology will be utilized for communication purposes between students and also the faculty, using both chat sessions and email. Students, using the World Wide Web, will develop a teaching module utilizing NASA's information and research. The modules will then be "published" on an IUP site.
- 2) *Will there be more than one section of this course offered using technology?*
No. This will be exclusively a distance ed course.
- 3) *How will the students in the course be evaluated? Indicate specific procedures for administering, grading, and the return of examinations.*
The off-campus students will not be taking examinations but will be graded on their final product, the teaching module. Sections of the final product will be given specific due dates throughout the session.
- 4) *How will the course and delivery method be evaluated?*
A survey of the students will be given using WebCT. Students will have the option of completing the survey on the web or sending a hard copy into the Geoscience Department.

- 5) *What is the rationale for using this technology to offer this course? Indicate how technology will a) improve access, b) solve problems, or c) provide advantages.*
CAPE's mission is to connect Pennsylvania universities technologically and to have them collaborate with one another. This grant is an example of their mission. This summer's course will enable science education majors who are not available for on-campus coursework to complete three credits while living and working elsewhere.
- 6) *Are the students who might be enrolling in this course anticipated to be: all on-campus students? all off-campus students? combination of both?*
I anticipate that most, if not all, of the students will be off-campus. However, there is a possibility that a few could also be enrolled in another course being offered on-campus only.
- 7) *What is the maximum enrollment for the course?*
I anticipate an enrollment of no more than ten students because the population of science education majors is not large. However, I would accept a maximum of twenty students. Trying to individually work with more would be difficult.
- 8) *Was the material developed by a faculty member or will it be licensed from an outside source?*
The material used for the basis of the course is being developed by the instructor but the students will be using NASA's internet sites for development of their lesson plan material.
- 9) *If telecourse, what activities will substitute for classroom time in order to achieve the objectives of the course? (Correspondence, office hours, assignments, exams?)*
This is not a telecourse.
- 10) *If telecourse, what is the schedule of broadcasts?*
This is not a telecourse.
- 11) *Will there be regular on-campus sections of this course offered during the same semester as this proposed course? How many sections?*
There are no corresponding regular sections being offered.
- 12) *Considering the students being served, how will your office hours accommodate their special needs?*
Students will be able to reach me via two email addresses, in case one of them is not working. They will also be given my phone numbers both at home and on campus.
- 13) *If the technology is site to site, how many sites have been selected?*
Technically, each student's location will be a site so it depends on the number enrolled. Because this is not a telecourse, however, there no actual sites.

- 14) *Will supplementary materials be reasonably available to students? How?*
The students who enroll will meet with me on the morning of Reading Day at the end of this semester. They will be given written instructions about NASA and its web sites, and directions concerning lesson development and construction of a web based lesson.
- 15) *How will students be able to make up lessons or broadcasts missed?*
Not applicable.