PROPOSAL FOR A JUNIOR-SENIOR CLUSTER COURSE
(cover sheet)
(the proposal coordinator may duplicate this sheet and distribute to faculty participants)
Please type:
Title of proposed course: Geology and American National Parks

When will this course be offered? __________

Title of cluster: American Studies

Name of cluster proposal coordinator: _________

Please address the following matters in your narrative, keying your text to the corresponding item below:

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION (100 words or less).

B. COURSE DEVELOPMENT. Please indicate whether the course is based on an existing course (and if so, specify), or is a new course in development. If the course is a revision of an existing course, please explain what form the revision will take (this may be addressed under item C).

C. GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS. Please describe how your pedagogical goals for the course promote the goals of General Education as adopted by the Faculty Senate. Please review the relevant sections of the General Education Working Group Report, or the September 16, 1994, report of the General Education Committee (both documents are available in the Office of University Studies, 445 NH). Applicants are reminded that the junior-senior cluster courses are expected to focus on program goals related to Human Experience and to Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility, while continuing to build on Inquiry and Communication program goals. Course instructors should use active learning strategies and challenge students to display increasingly sophisticated research and communication abilities. Examples of strategies for each of the General Education program goals are listed in the General Education Working Group Report and in the General Education Committee report (also, please be advised that faculty development events bearing on these strategies will take place in the Winter and Spring, 1995 terms). Attention should also be given to how this course functions in tandem with other courses in the cluster in working toward curricular integration within the cluster.

D. COURSE OUTLINE. Please provide a detailed outline of the proposed course. This need not be a completed syllabus, but should include an outline of topics, a preliminary reading list, and the name(s) or instructor(s) committed to teaching the course during its first year.
Proposal for Junior-Senior Level Cluster Course

Course Title: Geology and America’s National Parks (G340)
To be offered: Annually
Title of cluster: American Studies
Coordinator: Sue Danielson

Course Description
America’s National Parks, Monuments, and Scenic Areas provide spectacular examples of a wide array of geologic features and are therefore an excellent focus for studying the earth and its history. Relating geologic concepts to places that many students have visited or plan to visit helps make the subject more understandable and relevant. A basic geologic knowledge aids in the appreciation of the natural wonders and develops a respect for the environment. The National Parks are diverse in their geology and in their histories and provide a basis for examining related topics such as the evolution of scientific theory, geologic hazards, land use planning, historic preservation, earth resources, and mining.

Course Development
This is a new course at Portland State University, but it is taught at many other universities and colleges. Excellent text books are available and many web sites are devoted to National Parks. Portland State University is uniquely located near the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Mount St. Helens National Volcano Monument for easy one-day field trips. Crater Lake National Park and Mt. Rainier National Park are also accessible for week-end field trips.

Course Goals
The primary goal of this class is to introduce students to the science of the earth in a context that is interesting and non-threatening to those who may fear science courses. Geology provides a unique perspective on our world and our place in time, space, and organic evolution. Geologic knowledge tends to open ones eyes to a new appreciation of old vistas and makes all travel more interesting. The study of geologic concepts, many of which were developed or influenced by historic studies of National Parks, provides insights into the development of scientific theory and the human factors involved. The goal of this course is to introduce students to their physical environment in a way that will make them much more aware of the world in which they live.

Course Outline
A detailed outline of this course is yet to be developed, but the course will be organized around a selection of National Parks that provide a diversity of geologic features and represent all major regions of the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska. The course will be taught by a combination of lectures and assignments that involve group projects, library and internet research, writing, and class presentations. At least one field trip will be required each term. The following topics will be included:
1. Introduction to the National Park System
2. Introduction to Geology
3. Dating the Earth
4. Plate Tectonics
5. Rocks of the Earth
6. Earth Structures and Mountain Building
7. Geologic Provinces
8. Streams and Underground Water
9. Glaciation
10. Stratigraphic Concepts and Fossils

Proposal Coordinator  Date  Phone  Dept. Chair  Date

Faculty Participant  Date  Phone  Dept. Chair  Date