PROPOSAL FOR AN UPPER DIVISION CLUSTER COURSE

Name of faculty member  Dr. Keith Hadley

Title of proposed course  Biogeography

When is the course to be offered?  Fall 1999

Name of Cluster/Cluster coordinator  Global Environmental Change/ Ansel G. Johnson

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

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION (100 words or less).

Geog 313 Biogeography (4)
The study of the distribution and characteristics of major plant/animal communities and soil types on a global scale. Interrelationships between organisms and their environment are stressed, as is the role of human populations in the maintenance and future of these environments. There is a full-day field trip across the Cascades to study changing vegetation types. Prerequisite: Geog 210.

B. COURSE DEVELOPMENT. Please indicate whether the course is based on an existing course (and if so, please 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).

Note: Please be aware that the new General Education requirement is based on different premises from the former "distribution" requirement, and therefore the academic role of upper division courses in General Education will necessarily be different from the previous role.

This course is an existing course. The course has many elements in it that are directly associated with Global Environmental Change. Added emphasis will be put on the connection to the change in the environment.

C. GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS. Please describe how your pedagogical goals for the course promote the University's goals of General Education as adopted by the Faculty Senate. Please review the relevant sections of the General Education Working Group Report (the document adopted by the Senate in 1993) or the September 16, 1994, report of the General Education Committee (both documents are available in the Office of University Studies, 245 CH). Applicants are reminded that the upper division courses are expected to focus on program goals related to Human Experience and Ethical Issues & Social Responsibility, while continuing to build on the 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 the report of the General Education Committee. 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.
Colleagues are also reminded that upper division UNST courses are a replacement of the former distribution requirement for coursework in the Arts and Letters, Sciences, and Social Sciences. The Committee therefore anticipates upper division courses with scholarly content of the highest standard, consistent with the content level of the "distribution" courses under the previous General Education requirement, and befitting the University's core undergraduate curriculum.

This course addresses Goal 1, Inquiry and Critical Thinking. Students are exposed to the ideas of the relationships of geography and biodiversity. They then have to relate the affects of changing environments on the biological systems. Goals 3 (Human Experience) is addressed by the interaction of human civilization on the spread of biological elements, as well as the elimination of many of the biological niches. Goal 4 also is addressed in that once one learns about the impact of the environment on biological matter, the changes in the environment become an ethical and social responsibility.

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) of instructor(s) committed to teaching the course during its first year.

Dr. Keith Hadley (Geography Department) will teach this course.

This course provides an introduction to biogeography, the study of the distributions of organisms. Biogeography is a broad subject that overlaps several academic disciplines including geography, biology and geology. It is often subdivided on the basis of organisms studied, regions, or the methods of scientific inquiry. This course combines historical and ecological perspectives in analyzing plant and animal distributions. Its goal is to foster student understanding of local, regional, and global biogeographic patterns and their underlying processes. Human impacts on biotic distributions will also be discussed.

Topical Outline

Nature and History of Biogeography
Patterns of Distributions: Environmental and Historical Factors
Patterns of Distribution: Species, Communities and Biomes
Paleo-Biogeography
Quaternary Biogeography
Patterns and Processes Underlying Biogeographic Distributions
Biodiversity
Island Biogeography
Applied and Conservation Biogeography