PROPOSAL FOR AN UPPER DIVISION CLUSTER COURSE

Name of faculty member ____________________________  Dr. Scott F. Burns

Title of proposed course ____________________________  Geology of National Parks

When is the course to be offered? _______________  Spring 2000

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).

G 399 Geology of National Parks (4)

This course covers the geology that one finds in our national park system. Parks are grouped by similar geology. Basic concepts of geology will be covered in each group, then each park of the group will be discussed. This course is part of the university studies general education program and is a part of the American Studies Cluster and the Global Environmental Change Cluster.

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 has been taught as a part of the American Studies Cluster. It is being incorporated into the Global Environmental Change Cluster as well. The environments of the parks will be added as a focus. Changes in the Global environment are adding stress to the natural systems in the parks.

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 includes two reports as well as the traditional examinations. Students have to do research on their own. Added credit is given for participation in field trips to national parks in our region. A variety of teaching techniques is used including the internet, video tapes field trips and research. Goal 2 is addressed with the written work on the two research papers. Goal 4 Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility is addressed by examining the natural environment of the parks, and looking at the degradation of the landscape due to increase in population and pressure for development. The fact that the Parks have been set aside does limit the amount of change allowed within the boundaries.

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. Scott Burns will teach this course annually.

Topic Outline:

National Park System
Geological Concepts
Plate Tectonics and Volcanoes
Igneous Rocks
Metamorphic Rocks
Mountain Building
U.S. Geological Provinces
Stratigraphy
Cultural National Parks

There are from 3 to 15 parks discussed in conjunction with each of items 3 - 9 above.