TO ACCOMPANY PROPOSAL FOR ADDITION OF COURSE
TO AN EXISTING UNST CLUSTER

Name of proposing faculty member: Thomas Harvey
Title of proposed course: GEOG 4521/562 Sense of Place
From which department(s): Geography
For which cluster: Community Studies
Name of cluster coordinator: Nancy Chapman

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COURSE APPROVED FOR CLUSTER INCLUSION BY

DEPARTMENT CHAIR(S): Robert Smith DATE: 02/27/00

CLUSTER COORDINATOR: Nancy S. Chapman DATE: 3/8/00
CHAIR, CLUSTER COORDINATORS: (Signature) DATE: 4/1/00
CHAIR, UNST COMMITTEE: (Signature) DATE: 04/26/00

Copies of completed document are to be filed with appropriate cluster coordinator(s) as well as sent to appropriate department chair(s), UNST Scheduling, and Chair, Cluster Coordinators.

University Studies: March, 1999
Proposal to Add a Course to the Community Studies Cluster

Course Title: GEOG 462U/562 Sense of Place
Geography Department

A. Course Description [from proposed catalog copy for 2000-01]

Places are created by people, infused with meaning, and tied to personal experience. This course explores meaning in landscapes and identity in places, regions, and localities. It looks at places through three frameworks: place description and depiction (in media images, popular narratives, scholarly writings, photography, and art); the meanings and messages of places; and our personal experience and connections to places. Topics include: the distinctiveness of places, bioregional influences, personal memory and place, creating meaning in places, global-local tensions, territoriality, and contested places.

B. Course Development

Sense of Place is a course that is in the process of being added to the Geography Department curriculum beginning in 2000-01. It has been approved by the CLAS Curriculum Committee and forwarded to the Faculty Senate. Thomas Harvey, Associate Professor of Geography, will be responsible for the course. It has been taught in different versions at PSU in the summer of 1997 and the winter of 1999, and in Siena, Italy in spring, 1999. The course is designed to familiarize students with some major themes in geography; to connect them with places and their importance; to build citizenship through an emphasis on localities and regions; and to help students understand both the positive potential and conflicts that derive from a sense of place.

C. General Education Goals

Some of the ways in which Sense of Place meets General Education objectives include:

Inquiry and Critical Thinking

-range of modes of inquiry: course explores the creation and depiction of meaning in places through writing, photography, popular media
-interconnections among disciplines: “place” as treated by a range of disciplines; course looks at folklore, landscape architecture, geography, local history
-chosen fields of study: students will be encouraged to “map” their sense of place from the perspective of their disciplinary and personal interests and to explore sense of place in local settings
Communication

- graphic and visual communication: emphasizes photography and mental maps; students will be encouraged to supplement written and oral communication modes of communication in their own work
- current technologies: the world of the internet offers a means to explore sense of place, to present findings, and to examine global impact on localities

Human Experience

- societal diversity: approached through place diversity, contested locales, global impacts on regional and local cultures
- artistic expression: sense of place in art, photography, fiction, essays
- self-actualization: finding one's own "sense of place"

Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility

- social and environmental health: places and localities as socially and environmentally healthy or unhealthy places
- implications of creating neighborhoods and environments: how is "territoriality" a positive good? a source of conflict?
- role of diversity: diversity and conflict inherent in the control of places and the interpretation of place

D. Course Outline  [from curriculum change proposal submitted in 1999]

Part I: Place Concepts and Depictions

Week 1: All over the place: an introduction
      The study of localities, places, and regions
Week 2: Bioregion influences: nature, physical geography, and the settings for place
Week 3: History, cultural landscapes, and the character of place
      Photography and place
Week 4: Describing the local: essays on place
      Toponomy: place names and identity
      Maps and landscapes

Part 2: Meanings and Messages in Places

Week 5: Space and place: conceptual perspectives
      Highly imageable places
Week 6: Home/place and "out of place"
      Why a "sense of place" is not for everyone
Week 7: Special places: finding the elements of place identity
      Place images and iconography
Part 3: Creating a Sense of Place

Week 8: Restoring regional identity
         Public art
Week 9: The global and the local: distinctiveness in mass society?
       Contested places
       Placelessness: limits of place-bound identities
Week 10: Graduate student presentations

Readings: (from course description for Spring, 2000)