



Cornell University  
College of Arts and Sciences

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Writing in the Disciplines**  
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To: Faculty Members  
From: Paul Sawyer, Director, John S. Knight Institute  
Subject: Faculty Seminar in Writing Instruction  
Date: 21 October 2008

Since 1986, the Faculty Seminar in Writing Instruction has given dozens of Cornell faculty the chance to explore the relationship between teaching and writing in their fields while developing and refining writing-intensive courses within their disciplines. Facilitated by Elliot Shapiro, a member of the Knight Institute faculty, the Seminar is held every summer before and during the six-week summer session. The seminar is generally capped at six.

In 2009, **an intensive two-day workshop will be held June 18–19**, to be followed by four two-hour meetings spread out over the next four weeks.

The purpose of the seminar is to explore the role of writing in courses taught at all levels of the University curriculum by giving faculty an opportunity to discuss teaching practices with a small group of colleagues from a range of disciplines. Departments represented by Faculty Seminar participants in the last three years include: History; English; Anthropology; Classics; Horticulture; Food Science; Theatre, Film, and Dance; Sociology; Philosophy; Landscape Architecture; Science and Technology Studies; and Molecular Biology.

Participants are typically faculty who are either planning a new course or revising an existing one. Some also teach First-Year Writing Seminars as part of the Summer Session, but this is not a requirement. We particularly encourage faculty who are new to Cornell to apply.

**Stipend:** Faculty Seminar participants receive a stipend of \$2500. Those who teach a six-week summer course receive this stipend in addition to the normal salary for summer teaching (paid for by Summer Sessions). Finally, those teaching a summer session FWS who are asked to mentor one or two graduate student interns will receive a stipend of \$500 for each intern.

**Applications:** Interested faculty should send a letter of application to Paul Sawyer by November 17. This letter should explain the nature of the faculty member's interest in the seminar; it should also indicate whether s/he plans to teach during Summer 2009. Applicants who are interested in teaching a First-Year Writing Seminar in conjunction with the Faculty Seminar should *also* contact Katy Gottschalk directly.

If you have questions about the seminar, please contact Elliot Shapiro at 607-255-6857 or by email at [elliott.shapiro@cornell.edu](mailto:elliott.shapiro@cornell.edu).