

Elmhurst College

Faculty Development Committee

To: All Full-time Faculty
From: Faculty Development Committee (FDC)
Date: November 21, 2000

Re: Midwest Faculty Seminar – Institutes for 2000-2001

Elmhurst College is continuing its affiliation with the Midwest Faculty Seminar (MFS) offered by the University of Chicago as an opportunity for faculty development. Our membership in the MFS Consortium entitles us to send one faculty member to each of the four institutes in this year's series.

The first institute in the series, "**Jane Austen**" is described in the attached material. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2001 and will conclude mid-day on Saturday, January 13, 2001.

If you would like to attend this three-day institute please apply by email to the Chairperson of the Faculty Development Committee, Earl Swallow (earls@elmhurst.edu) no later than noon, Friday, December 8. In your application, please indicate how you see participation in the seminar contributing to your development as a faculty member. Please note that because the FDC has prepaid for the participation of faculty members, the committee assumes that those who apply are able to attend all three days of the seminar to take full advantage of the entire program.

We have included the full MFS Institute schedule for the year. If you are interested in attending one of the **other institutes**, please send an email giving us a *tentative* indication of your interest to help with our planning.

Our prepaid subscription covers the cost of lodging on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights and some meals. Parking at the hotel is included, and a shuttle is provided to take participants to the meeting site. The Faculty Development Committee will reimburse up to \$75.00 for additional expenses such as meals that are not included and mileage for one round trip.

If you have any questions, please call Earl Swallow (ext. 3577 or earls@elmhurst.edu).

Please Note: This document, a link to the MFS web site, and others material related to the work of the *Faculty Development Committee* can be found at <http://www.elmhurst.edu:8000/~earls/fdc> . *Included on the MFS web site is information concerning their **Occasional Fellowships** and **Redfield Fellowships** programs.*

Midwest Faculty Seminar

Institute Topics 2000-2001

Jane Austen

January 11-13, 2001

Long the prize of literary historians and legions of other fervent admirers, Jane Austen is more recently the subject of exciting revisionist work that is changing our most commonplace opinions about the author and her work. No longer "merely" the comedian of domestic manners, Austen has been restored to a context that places her at the center of some of the period's most fervent debates about gender, sexuality, politics, and empire. Our seminar will call on literary, cultural, and film historians in order to explore the new developments in our understanding of Austen's life, work, and era.

Genetic Research and the Future of Medicine

February 1-3, 2001

The announcement that scientists have now successfully mapped the entire human genome both marks the end of many years of research and inaugurates a new era in genetic research. With this enormous and fundamental task now complete, the possibilities for the practical application of this data are seemingly endless. The time is clearly right for speculation and debate on the directions that gene research might or should take. What are the most immediate developments on the horizon, and what possibilities lie further ahead? What can our genes tell us about the relation of humans to other creatures? How, if at all, will ethical concerns affect the patenting of genetic information? Our seminar will call on biologists, chemists, philosophers, and others to discuss the issues that will determine the course of genetic research in years ahead.

Computer Cultures

March 1-3, 2001

Computer technology has transformed almost every aspect of modern life. Computers provide new means for creating, processing, communicating, and preserving information. For better or worse, computing technologies are ambassadors and advertisements mainly for American-or broadly speaking, Western-values and beliefs. Computers and computing networks convey ideologies about freedom of speech and censorship; rights to privacy and habits of hospitality; practices of intellectual property, labor, and entrepreneurship; and about technologies themselves. How has computer technology altered culture, and conversely, how do cultural values shape the development of computer technologies? What trends can we project into the future concerning the role of computers in science, the arts, the media, or education? Our program will address these and other questions central to computer scientists, social scientists, and humanists.

Capital Punishment and the Limits of Ethics

April 26-28, 2001

One of the most hotly debated issues in America today concerns the legal and ethical status of capital punishment. The question of whether it is just to execute a human being for crimes committed has long been a dividing-point between political parties. In recent years, however, the debate has grown even more urgent, marked by well-publicized shifts of sentence, claims that innocent people have been wrongly put to death, and increased political pressure by constituents and the national media. Our seminar will call upon voices from law, philosophy, psychology, history, and literary studies to explore the contested terrain of capital punishment and the implications of this debate for ethical thinking.