

Elmhurst College

Faculty Development Committee

To: All Faculty
From: Faculty Development Committee (FDC)
Date: September 3, 2003

Re: Midwest Faculty Seminar – Institutes for 2003-2004

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, **“Richard Wright, Native Son”** is described in the included materials. The program begins at about 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2003 and concludes mid-day on Saturday, October 25, 2003.

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, Tuesday, September 23. 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 three institutes**, please send an email giving 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 contact 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/~fdc> .

Midwest Faculty Seminar

Institute Topics 2003-2004

Richard Wright, Native Son

October 23-25, 2003

Wright's powerful novel, set in Chicago, becomes a site for several modes of interpretation. This seminar will situate *Native Son* at the intersection of disciplines. We will discuss Wright's use of, and influence on, sociological methodology; the presence of race in discourses of modernism and modernity; and strategies of teaching *Native Son*. Other topics for discussion may include the significance of *Native Son* in the context of black migration, the role of the object world in the novel, and Wright's relationship to naturalism.

Human Rights

January 22-24, 2004

In most U.S. universities and colleges, teaching, research, and fostering of practice-related learning on human rights is the preserve of law schools. This seminar would present an interdisciplinary approach to the teaching of Human Rights in colleges, as the starting point for examining human rights curriculum and pedagogy more generally. The HR Program has encouraged University of Chicago faculty to develop courses which examine human rights from a variety of disciplinary, thematic, and regional perspectives - courses which are open to undergraduate, graduate and professional students. At a session of the Midwest Faculty seminar, University of Chicago faculty from the social sciences and humanities would present perspectives on human rights from the points of view of political science, anthropology, philosophy, history, and law. Regional perspectives represented in the program include East Asia, France and the Francophone countries, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Rhetorics of Religious Nationalism in the West

March 4-6, 2004

A great deal of attention has been paid in recent months and years to religious nationalism as it obtains in non-western, non-Christian contexts. This seminar will address the topic of religious nationalism as part of a western, Protestant, and peculiarly American phenomenon. Rhetorics imported from the religious to the political sphere have a long history in the west, extending from the earliest articulations of holy wars and crusades against evil to contemporary understandings of sacred nationalism and America's mission in the world. From John Winthrop's invocation in 1630 that America should be "as a City upon the Hill," to George Bush, Sr.'s declaration that we should be as "a thousand points of light," religious language has been mapped upon political discourse in a way that has almost become invisible in our public discourse. This seminar will probe these intersections.

World Hunger: Causes and Consequences

April 8-10, 2004

After a series of catastrophic African famines in the 80s and early 90s, it seemed that world hunger was a major international issue. While some saw the problem as one of over-population, others argued that the problem was not food supply but food distribution. In recent years, bioengineering firms have touted genetically modified foods as the solution to world hunger. All this comes as a grim parallel story to the news media's recent focus on American obesity and eating disorders. Are developing nations starving in the midst of plenty, or is there simply not enough food to go around? Is technology the answer to world hunger? What role does the over-consumption of developed nations play in this matter?