

**Application for Course Development and Enhancement Grant  
2008-2009**

**Course Development for HIST 309-A Crusades**  
Becca Livingstone, Assistant Professor, History

**Course Description:**

The Crusades have captured the imagination of filmmakers, novelists and historians for centuries, as they weave the tales of knights upon horseback with red crosses emblazoned on their chests setting out for the Holy Land to fight the 'infidels'. Starting in 1095AD, approximately a dozen Crusades were called and answered by hundreds of thousands European men (and even women and children). What was going on in the Middle East (as well as Muslim Spain) at the time that necessitated the Crusades? What motivated men to abandon their lives and families to embark on such an endeavor? What did they hope to achieve and were they victorious? This course will address many of these questions about the medieval and early modern contexts of what drove Europeans to set out on such an arduous and usually disastrous journey to the Middle East.

But the Crusades are not simply tales of European religious idealism and militarism. They also are stories of the people, the religion and culture that were the objects of such actions. Who exactly were these 'infidels' and what were they fighting to preserve and protect? How did they view the actions of these European 'invaders'? This course will incorporate the Muslim perspective into our consideration of the Crusades.

Finally, the course will conclude with an exploration of the resonance of this historical epoch to understand how the image and memory of the Crusades has been invoked by later generations, especially in the modern era, to inspire and motivate people to action.

**Frequency:**

This course will be offered every other year in the fall semester, beginning Fall 2008. It is one of the two courses offered that fulfills the History Major global requirement. This is one of the two courses that fulfill the global requirement for the history major. Further, it is one that not only appeals to our majors but also those in Religion.

**Learning Outcomes:**

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' critical thinking and analytical writings skills through the reading and discussion of primary source texts as well as historical monographs. Students will be evaluated on their class participation, their ability to lead assigned discussion sessions and the writing of analysis papers on the readings. The capstone to the class will be a term paper on a topic of their own devising that will require individual research.

By the end of the course, students will have an understanding about the European and Middle Eastern context for the Crusades; the origins of Islam and its initial conflicts with western civilization; the multiple motivations and misappropriations of the Crusades; the theme of 'crusade' and how it remains a cogent force to this day. This class provides students with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with a part of the globe and a major world religion that is crucial to understanding the modern world.

**Intended Use of Funding:**

While I have some knowledge of the Crusades, I have not taken a course on the topic. My intention for the funding is primarily to familiarize myself with the seminal as well as current historiography. The first purchase that I wish to make would be a lecture series on CD conducted by Dr. Thomas F. Madden from St. Louis University. He is one of the leading scholars in the field and this essentially is tantamount to taking a course without having to leave Des Moines. The remainder of the funds would go towards the purchase of books for the course's development that I have been unable to secure gratis from publishers. A preliminary list of titles is attached.

**Support of Simpson's Mission and Strategic Plan:**

This course fits in well with Simpson's mission and strategic plan. Students will enhance their intellectual skills as the course will be (in most cases) their first exposure to the subject matter. As the course will primarily be discussion, students will have to grapple with and analyze the material in a more self-directed manner prior to arriving to each class meeting. Through the sharing and challenging of their understanding, students will not only have a better understanding of the material itself, but will also have honed their critical thinking skills.

Particularly, this is a course that will promote responsible citizenship in a global context. In order for students to fully grasp the conflicts present in our world today, it is imperative that they have an understanding of the historical milieu in which the underlying principles, prejudices and animosities were forged. This is a course that is a historical microcosm of the problems of the modern era – the conflict of Christianity and Islam; western infiltration into the Middle East; religious and cultural warfare.

**See Attached:**

- **Budget Form**
- **Preliminary Breakdown of Intended Use of Funds**

**Budget:**

1) <i>God Wills It: Understanding the Crusades</i>	\$98.75
Lecture Series	
Prof. Thomas F. Madden, St. Louis University	
2) Books	
• <i>Children's Crusade: Medieval History, Modern Mythistory</i>	
Gary Dickson	\$32.70
• <i>The Contest of Christian and Muslim Spain: 1031-1157</i>	
Bernard F. Reilly	\$29.95
• <i>Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain</i>	
Joseph O'Callaghan	\$24.75
• <i>An Arab-Syrian Gentleman and Warrior in the Period of the Crusades</i>	
Richard W. Bulliot and Philip K. Hitti	\$21.60
• <i>The First Crusade: A New History: The Roots of Conflict between Christianity and Islam</i>	
Thomas Ashbridge	\$14.21
• <i>Crusades: A Reader</i>	
S. J. Allen (editor)	\$31.69
• <i>The Alexiad</i>	
Anna Comnena	\$11.56
• <i>First Crusade: The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres and Other Source Materials</i>	
Edward Peters	\$22.50
• <i>The Crusades Through Arab Eyes</i>	
Amin Maalouf	\$11.53
• <i>The New Concise History of the Crusades</i>	
Thomas Madden	\$21.56
• <i>The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain</i>	
Maria Rosa Menocal	\$10.19
• <i>Sea of Faith: Islam and Christianity in the Medieval Mediterranean World</i>	
Stephen O'Shea	\$11.96
• <i>Anatomy of a Crusade, 1213-1221</i>	
James M. Powell	\$24.95
• <i>God's Crucible</i>	
David Levering Lewis	\$19.77

This is a preliminary list of books that I am interested in purchasing for use in class as well as to prepare me for teaching this course.

**SIMPSON COLLEGE**  
**BUDGET PROPOSAL FORM**  
**Course Development and Enhancement Grant**  
**2008-2009**

ITEM		AMOUNT
<b>Equipment</b>		<b>\$</b>
1:	<b>Cost:</b>	
2:	<b>Cost:</b>	
3:	<b>Cost:</b>	
<b>Materials</b>		<b>\$ 500.00</b>
1: Lecture CDs	<b>Cost: \$100</b>	
2: Books	<b>Cost: \$400</b>	
3:	<b>Cost:</b>	
<b>Travel Costs</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>Airfare:</b>		
<b>Mileage: Number of miles @ \$485/mile</b>		
<b>Lodging</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>Number of days @ \$ /day</b>		
<b>Other Expenses</b>		<b>\$</b>
1:	<b>Cost:</b>	
2:	<b>Cost:</b>	
3:	<b>Cost:</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>AMOUNT REQUEST</b> (not to exceed \$500)		<b>\$500.00</b>

## Course Development and Enhancement Grant Proposal 2008-2009

Please address your application to an interdisciplinary audience of your Simpson College colleagues, not to specialists in your field. Please submit your grant request to the faculty development office by noon Friday, April 11, 2008. The application should include the following items:

1. **Proposal Title:** Multimedia Journalism
2. **Name of the Proposer:** Brian Steffen
3. **A description of the proposed course for which funding is being sought if it is a new course, or the catalog description if it is an existing course:** The multimedia course will be offered beginning in Fall 2008. For the first year of the course, it will be titled Comm Studies 190: Journalism 2.0. For 2008-2009, the goals of the course will be for students to learn and practice advanced reporting methods for converged media, including lead writing, clean and clear storytelling and ethical convergence journalism practices; to expose students to some of the tools of convergence media – writing, visuals, audio, graphics and interactivity; to understand and practice non-linear storytelling and editing; to produce a multimedia journalism story package in a journalism lab setting; and to integrate blog technology and online writing techniques into the classroom
4. **Information about when and how often you intend to teach the course.** I will teach the course in Fall 2008, and our new faculty member, Dr. Tracy Lucht, will teach a second section in the fall. After a semester for evaluation of the course, we intend to offer the course on an each-semester basis beginning in Fall 2009. The multimedia course will be part of the new curriculum in both journalism and corporate communication.
5. **A description of the learning outcomes that will be met through the use of these funds and a description of how these learning outcomes will be assessed.** Learning outcomes are listing in No. 3 above. Assessment of the outcomes will be conducted through faculty evaluation of projects completed in print, video, audio and photographic projects that will be completed throughout the semester, utilizing rubrics to be developed by Dr. Lucht and me this summer. It is our hope that students will have portfolio-ready materials to include in their academic and professional-development packages by the end of the course.
6. **A description of how you intend to use the funding.** The funds will be used for purchasing one "backpack journalism" kit to be used by students and faculty in the course. The kit will include a digital video camera, a tripod, a wireless lavalier microphone system, a tripod, and a well-cushioned backpack to contain it all. Students, most of whom already have a digital camera in their possession, will be asked to provide their own digital still images in the course. All of the equipment I propose was in use at a Multimedia Skills Workshop that I attended at Vanderbilt University in early March and was more than adequate to accomplish the goals of the course. A complete kit can be purchased for under \$500. (Please see the attached cost estimate worksheet for details.) An example of a project completed with this kit can be found on my blog at <http://simpsonfaculty.blogspot.com/2008/03/finished-product.html>.
7. **Please clarify how your proposal supports the College's mission and strategic plan.** The proposal meets several of the College's mission and strategic goals. It reflects "an innovative teaching and learning process" in that it represents our program's next step into the cross-platform world of media education and will clearly set us apart from our comparison institutions, all of which are still wedded to the traditional journalism-education tracks of print and broadcast. Our intellectual and practical emphasis will be on storytelling rather

than on medium-specific skills, and that is the message we are consistently delivering now to our students. Further, the course will provide excellent integrative-learning opportunities in that students will spend much of their time out of the classroom working across disciplines with other students and faculty to tell stories that can be Webcast to the world via the Simpson Web site, YouTube and other forums. Examples include working with Nick Proctor's role-playing history courses, cooperating with the Simpson Urban Studies Institute in its programs, etc.

8. **A complete budget for the project.** The budget should be submitted using the standardized budget form available in hard copy from the Faculty Development Office. This form includes information about budget restrictions.

**SIMPSON COLLEGE  
BUDGET PROPOSAL FORM  
Course Development and Enhancement Grant  
2008-2009  
Journalism 2.0 Proposal, submitted by Brian Steffen**

ITEM		AMOUNT
<b>Equipment</b>		\$
1: Olympus WS-110 Digital Voice Recorder	Cost: \$64.68	\$348.63
2: Canon ZR800 MiniDV Camcorder with 35x Optical Zoom	Cost: \$149.00	
3: Azden WLX-PRO Lavalier System	Cost: \$134.95	
<b>Materials</b>		\$
1: Sunpak 9002DX Tripod with 3-Way Quick-Release Pan Head	Cost: \$24.99	\$137.25
2: Solutions Multimedia Backpack 5400-90NY	Cost: \$23.50	
3: JVC MDV60ME10P Mini DV Tape (10 Pack)	Cost: 4 @ \$22.19 ea = \$88.76	
<b>Travel Costs</b>		\$
<b>Airfare:</b>		
Mileage: Number of miles @ .505/mile		
<b>Lodging</b>		\$
Number of days @ \$ /day		
<b>Other Expenses</b>		\$
1:	Cost:	
2:	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		\$ 485.88
<b>AMOUNT REQUEST (not to exceed \$500)</b>		\$ 485.88