

Creating an Ignition Seminar: A guide for faculty.

Dear Faculty Member:

Thank you very much for your interest in offering an Ignition Seminar for University Honors. Your assistance will provide vital support to our first year students as they begin their time within University Honors as well as UCR.

What is an Ignition Seminar? An Ignition Seminar is designed to “ignite” the minds of our first-year Honors students by covering a variety of subjects from an interdisciplinary perspective. This course is only offered to first-year Honors students and is an incredible opportunity to engage in close discussion and learning with faculty and peers as an undergraduate student.

Addresses interdisciplinary topics drawn from the arts, business, engineering, humanities, natural sciences, or social sciences. Provides opportunities to explore what the university has to offer.

What can I teach? The general topic of each Ignition Seminar is in the discretion of each instructor. In the history of the course, Ignition Seminars have included topics such as:

Art History
Eugenics
Cultural Literary Studies
Leadership
Language
Famine
Cultural Protest
Environmentalism
History
Criminal Justice

Are there any requirements I should be aware of? Although the subject matter can vary, all ignition seminars are required to meet the following requirements to ensure compliance with the Committee on Courses:

- 1) All classes must hold three hours of in class activity each week.
 - a. Each Ignition Seminar must meet at least twice a week but can also meet three times a week.
- 2) In addition to normal individual activity, all Ignition Seminars should require three additional hours of outside activity each week to support the class.
 - a. One hour of individual activity each week should be committed towards the development of a term paper. As a seminar, a term paper is required in lieu of a final examination.
 - b. The remaining two hours of individual activity should support the course. The activity may include work such as additional reading, video viewing or additional writing.
- 3) As Ignition Seminars are interdisciplinary, each Ignition Seminar should incorporate disciplines within the Humanities and Social Sciences.
 - a. For example, a course on leadership may use history to discuss particular profiles in leadership profiles but also psychology and political science to discuss applications of leadership.

How many students are in each class? Ignition Seminars typically hold no more than 15 students each. However, if the Ignition Seminar instructor receives approval they may allow up to 17 students.

Is there any support available to teach the class? Ignition Seminar instructors may be eligible to submit a High Impact Proposal form to receive additional funding in order to teach the class. The High Impact Proposal Form is attached as a part of the original application, or may be completed separately. Funding has historically supported

efforts such as trips. Prospective Ignition Seminar instructors who believe they may need this should communicate with University Honors as soon as possible.

What will I receive in return for this Ignition Seminar? In addition to the opportunity to teach a group of motivated and intelligent University Honors students, departmental compensation of \$5,000 will be offered for each Ignition Seminar taught.