



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All faculty  
**From:** Patrick Thaddeus Jackson  
Director, General Education Program  
**Date:** August 22, 2007

We are inviting proposals for General Education Wild Card courses to be offered in upcoming semesters. The Wild Card concept is simple. We have reserved a number of General Education slots to allow original and timely courses to be offered on a one-time basis. Proposing a course as a Wild Card neither guarantees nor precludes approval of that course as a permanent new course, but they do afford an opportunity to try out new ideas—perhaps even as a prelude to a proposal for a permanent place in General Education.

We can offer Wild Card courses in all five curricular areas. Such courses must fulfill **all the expectations and learning objectives for their curricular area, as well as addressing the values and goals of the General Education Program overall.** Although all Wild Card courses are offered with a “GNED” course prefix, credits for teaching load and enrollments will, as usual, accrue to the teaching unit.

The proposal process will be somewhat different this year as compared to past years. To propose a Wild Card course, please fill out the Wild Card Course Proposal Form, which can be found online at <http://www.gened.american.edu>. (Follow the link for “faculty.”) Those proposals which the General Education Committee feels show great potential will be provisionally approved pending a final review of a draft syllabus; the Committee will work with authors of those selected proposals to develop course syllabi that meet General Education program goals.

Wild Card proposals for Fall 2008 or subsequent semesters must reach the General Education Office by **Monday, 15 October at 5:00 p.m.** The General Education Committee will also consider Wild Card proposals for Spring 2008, but they must reach the General Education Office, First Floor, Leonard Hall, by **Friday, 14 September at 5:00 p.m.** In addition, any faculty-member proposing a course should communicate with the General Education office by e-mail ([gened@american.edu](mailto:gened@american.edu)) or phone (x3879) as soon as work begins on the proposal. Please indicate the course topic, curricular area, and level.

Thank you, as always, for your important contributions to the General Education Program.