September 29, 2014: STEAM Working Group

Department of English

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Monday, September 29, 2014

STEAM Working Group

Announcement from the WMU Center for the Humanities STEAM Interdisciplinary Working Group

Fall 2014

During the Fall 2014 semester, the Western Michigan University Center for the Humanities will host a series of discussions on the integration of the humanities and arts into STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and research at Western Michigan University. Moderated by Dr. Maria Gigante (English), Dr. Steve Malcolm (Biological Sciences), Dr. Jocelyn Steinke (Communication), and Dr. Gwen Tarbox (English), this interdisciplinary working group will facilitate discussion among graduate students, staff and faculty related to a number of STEM to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) initiatives, including:

• developing or redesigning interdisciplinary courses according to STEAM values;

• promoting educational and professional opportunities in STEAM for students;

• broadening participation of women and other underrepresented groups in STEM through STEAM transformations;

• discussing and disseminating tools and techniques from the Arts to enhance the effective communication and understanding of STEM topics; and,

• showing how an understanding of STEAM enhances life--long learning in a world full of complex technologies.
The STEAM interdisciplinary working group will meet 4 times during the semester to assess opportunities for developing STEAM projects at WMU and to provide recommendations for supporting these efforts.

Session 1: Practical Applications of STEAM for Instructors and Students

Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

3025 Brown Hall

At our first meeting, participants will discuss selected readings on STEAM and explore the STEAM initiatives that are already underway at WMU. During the second half of the session, participants will engage in a brainstorming session to generate potential interdisciplinary STEAM projects (educational and research) and strategies for integrating writing and argumentation into the science classroom.
Session 2: “Science on the Campaign Trail: Climate Change in the Clements--Upton Congressional Race”

A Speech and Q&A with Paul Clements, WMU Political Science Professor

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

University Center for the Humanities, 2500 Knauss Hall

WMU professor Paul Clements will discuss the interconnectedness of humanities and STEM fields as he recounts the way that he has used rhetorical practices to convert economic theory and environmental science into information that he can use to communicate to area residents as he runs for the US Congress for the MI Sixth District.

Session 3: STEAM Funding Opportunities

October 28, 2014, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

University Center for the Humanities, 2500 Knauss Hall

The working group will discuss funding for STEAM initiatives at WMU. Guests from the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s office will provide participants with information on external and internal funding related to STEAM projects.

Session 4: STEAM Initiatives at WMU in 2015

Tuesday, November 11, 1:00–2:30 pm

University Center for the Humanities, 2500 Knauss Hall

For its final session the STEAM interdisciplinary working group discuss suggestions for STEAM initiatives that could be implemented in 2015. The group will also determine whether it should continue to meet during the Spring 2015 semester.

Faculty, staff, and graduate students are welcome to attend and participate. Questions and RSVP: maria.gigante@wmich.edu. As part of your message, please indicate which session(s) you wish to attend.

Posted by Joanne Beverage at 1:41 PM