

Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal
Curriculum Development and Enhancement Project for Spring 2012
Submitted by Maria Teresa (Gigi) Fiumerodo
Anthropology Department
November 2010

Instructor's Sabbatical Leave Status

Full-time hire date: August 2004 **Part-time district hire date:** August 2001

Previous Sabbaticals: 0

Background of Sabbatical(s). While my special
fields. Both as undergraduate and graduate

Components of Sabbatical Project

x Curriculum Development

The first phase of my sabbatical leave project includes research and academic study for new course development for the Anthropology Department. This would include an Introduction to Linguistics course. I will review articulation guidelines, textbooks and related articles and teaching strategies. I will formulate PowerPoint presentations for class lectures and review appropriate videos and films for classroom use. I will then devise a course outline for the curriculum review process.

x Academic Study

In order to fulfill the first phase of the project, I will enroll in a linguistics course at California State University, Northridge (ANTH 319) in preparation for teaching the course in the future. Since Anthropology is a broad based discipline, my sabbatical leave will allow the opportunity to strengthen my knowledge in this subfield.

x Creation of Classroom Materials

The final phase of my sabbatical project will include creation of teaching aids and classroom materials for my culture based courses. In 2008, I completed my Ph.D. at UCLA. My dissertation, titled "Celebrating Community and Cuisine: Tradition and Change in the **Sagre**Festival in Italy" focused on a variety of socio-cultural topics including: festival, ritual, food traditions, globalization and tourism. My sabbatical

Value of Sabbatical Project to Ventura College Students

Overall, I believe my proposed project(s) will enhance my teaching skills benefitting the students at Ventura College. First, the linguistics course will provide for majors the preparation for transfer to many California universities and be better prepared for upper division studies in all four fields of anthropology. The course would essentially make our program complete and will eliminate the need to redirect students to Moorpark College or Santa Barbara City College to fulfill the requirement.

The course will also serve non majors interested in linguistic studies. The course will provide students an introduction linguistic anthropology but also to the fields of sociolinguistics. Some consideration will include the ways in which language is implicated in the social construction of gender, race, class, and cultural identity. The course will develop students' skills in the analysis of communication.

Secondly, the review of my own research materials will enrich the classroom experience for students. I currently have one class lecture I present in my ANTH V02 cultural anthropology course that is devoted to my own ethnographic fieldwork. While I bring my travel and ethnographic experiences to the classroom discussion, I do not use many of my own resources. This came to my attention recently when student in my ANTH V07 course asked about my own ethnographic work. We had spent time discussing various anthropologists and their work but when it came to my own fieldwork, I realized I had not specifically covered the topic. There is great potential for bringing anthropology alive by providing more of my own research into the classroom. While I have 15 years worth of valuable data including videos, photographs, field notes along with my master's thesis and dissertation, I have not had the time and opportunity to evaluate, update and include these various materials in all my courses. With an evaluation of my research and the production of an article, I can bring this additional layer of experience and knowledge to my students.

Value of Sabbatical Project to the Instructor

Completion of this project during my sabbatical leave would contribute to my teaching and be of benefit to my students. My goal is to become a more effective instructor and scholar. With this opportunity, I can broaden my contribution to the college and the discipline of anthropology. I believe this experience will greatly enhance my service to Ventura College.

I thank the committee for their time and consideration.
Respectfully yours,

Maria Teresa (Gigi) Fiumerodo Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Anthropology