### Illinois-Logo-Full-Color-RGB Education Justice Project

**For-Credit Course Instructor Application for the Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 Semester**

**Due** **March 1, 2021**

by email to: Ellen Ritter, Academic Director

esritte2@illinois.edu

**Introduction**

Thank you for considering applying to teach a course with the Education Justice Project. Course instructors are part of the backbone of our program. We greatly value your interest. Higher education in prison is associated with many benefits for students, instructors, and the wider community. Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information about our work, or if you have questions as you complete this application.

Due to the pandemic and the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine there is both uncertainty and hope for EJP resuming in-person programming at the Danville Correctional Center in the fall of 2021. Accordingly, if you are interested in applying to the fall 2021 semester, we welcome applications for in-person courses that could be shifted to a print correspondence course, if needed. Content conducive to print correspondence courses includes subjects like math, or courses that can flourish within the context of written communication (e.g., English, literature, etc.).

If you would like to be an EJP instructor and your course content is best suited for in-person instruction only please apply now for the Spring 2022 semester. We welcome your application!

Instructors may apply to teach a full-semester course (3-credits) a 10-week course (2-credits) or an 8-week course. EJP’s schedule aligns with the Urbana-Champaign academic calendar. In-person classes are held in classrooms at Danville Correctional Center on Tuesday or Friday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. That is—each class meets once a week.

We especially seek applications for upper-division courses (300- and 400-level). However, we will also accept applications for lower-division courses, especially if they are in subjects unlikely to be covered by the standard community college curriculum.

EJP does not have a degree program, so there are no particular courses that we are seeking to offer as part of a curriculum. We are open to any subject, and enjoy being able to offer a wide range of disciplines and perspectives. At the same time, please bear in mind that some courses are better suited to the restrictive environment of the prison than others. For example, a chemistry lab will likely not receive approval from the Department of Corrections. Please consider the environment when considering what you’d like to teach at the prison.

Also, EJP offers certificates in the Humanities and in Educational Studies. We especially welcome courses that are likely to fulfill certificate requirements.

**Job Description**

Instructors are responsible for designing their own courses, including syllabi and assignments, choosing books, assembling readers and other materials, determining course reserve content, if any, and teaching and grading. You will not, in other words, be told what or how to teach—although we will offer plenty of feedback, as well as support for teaching in this special environment.

A crucial part of the course instructor’s work is teamwork. As part of the EJP community, you are asked to work closely with tutors, who provide support to your students between class meetings; the writing and math workshop coordinators, who provide workshops that support your students; the EJP community librarian; and the computer lab coordinator. The for-credit course coordinator and assistant course coordinator will support you throughout the semester.

In addition to teaching a weekly course, you are responsible for all grading, course prep, etc. T.A.s are not available. You will be required to attend an orientation for instructors at the start of the semester. If you are new to EJP, you must also attend the mandatory orientation at the prison as well as an EJP orientation. All EJP members are required to attend at least critical climate initiative each year.

**Print Correspondence Course Information**

If you are seeking to teach a course for the Fall 2021 semester and it turns out that we need to offer your course through print correspondence, there are some key differences to consider.

First, a print correspondence course would require prepping the course materials far in advance of the fall semester. It would be likely that all instructional materials including readers, books, and course packets including weekly assignments and instructions will be due in their entirety somewhere aroundJune 15.

Additionally, in a typical semester, you would be asked to work closely with tutors, the EJP community librarian, and the computer lab coordinator. However, due to COVID-19, these student support programs would not be available for students if in-person programming has not begun by the fall. Additionally, there will be no guarantee that students will have contact with one another because they are in quarantine. The EJP staff and assistant course coordinator will support you throughout the semester to help navigate these changes.

Typically, EJP caps courses at 15 students. For print correspondence courses, you can choose the minimum and maximum number of students that most appropriately fits your course. This change is in recognition that some instructors might feel that, given the amount of extra work they would have to put in to redesign a course, they'd like for their work to have maximal impact in the event that there is a large demand. That said, roster caps are still completely appropriate in cases where the format/subject matter is very grading intensive. Additionally, courses can be Credit/No Credit.

**Compensation**

We can offer course instructors a $3,000 for a 15-week course and $2,000 for a 10-week course or $1,000 for a 8-week course. Team-teaching is welcome. Because we understand that team teaching does not “half” the work load but, in some ways, multiplies it, each instructor receives the appropriate amount for a given course.

**Criteria**

We look for instructors who are expert in and passionate about their subject matter; who are mature and excited about this unique learning environment; and who are able to commit the time to fashion and enact a great course for our students. If you fit these criteria, and are eligible to teach for-credit University of Illinois courses, we hope you will apply.

**Application**

The deadline for applications is **March 1, 2021** to teach in the prison during the 2021-2022 academic year. Interviews will be as soon after receipt of application as possible.

Please submit the following to Ellen Ritter, Academic Director at esritte2@illinois.edu.

1. A **cover letter** that shares:
   1. Indicate whether you are applying to teach a course for Fall 2021, or Spring 2022;
   2. Your teaching background;
   3. A brief description (topics/themes) of one or two courses that you’d like to teach. No need for details at this point;
   4. Why you would like to teach for the Education Justice Project; and
   5. At least three references.
2. A **CV**.

We know that there are many opportunities for you to work for projects on campus and in the community, and we are grateful that you have expressed an interest in working with EJP. Thank you.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about EJP, please attend an EJP Info session on Zoom on Wed Jan 27 (5pm), Mon Feb 1 (2pm), Thurs Feb 11 (10am), Tues Feb 16 (6pm), or Fri Feb 26 (4pm).

Thank you.

**Education Justice Project**

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