

**2004 Commitment to Excellence Proposal**

**NEW FOCUS IN AMERICAN STUDIES:  
DEMOCRACY AND AMERICA IN A GLOBAL AGE**

Submitted by

The College of Arts and Sciences

in partnership with

The School of Law

and

The Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis

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**Funds sought:**

**\$527,000 in base**

**\$170,000 one-time**

## Executive Summary

### **New Focus in American Studies: Democracy and America in a Global Age**

The fate and practice of democracy is an equally urgent issue for scholars and citizens alike. Yet at IUB, undergraduate instruction pertaining to democracy—its history, its achievements, its setbacks, and its future—now occurs in a piecemeal fashion. We propose to provide undergraduates with an opportunity to devote special attention to democracy studies, to explore the current status and future prospects for democratic governance in an era when American democracy continues to influence developments abroad, and practices and ideas from other regions continue to reshape democratic ideas and practices in America.

We propose to build on existing resources by investing new funds to recruit faculty with expertise in areas where we do not presently have a critical mass of scholars needed to sustain a new curricular focus in democracy studies, enhance IU's leadership over academic research in this area, and meet our responsibilities for outreach that directly impact the public.

To achieve these goals, we propose to:

- A. Create a new, interdisciplinary major in American Studies for IU undergraduates.
- B. Create new K-12 outreach programs for teachers in Indiana public schools
- C. Promote innovative research that enhances IU's leadership role in democracy studies
- D. Create a new graduate minor in Democracy Studies.
- E. Recruit four faculty with expertise in the following areas: Theory and Practice of Citizenship; State Formation and Political Development; Democracy and Social Movements; Democracy and Mass Culture.

The new undergraduate major is the centerpiece of this proposal. It and the other initiatives will enhance undergraduate education, faculty research, graduate training and outreach by leveraging existing strengths with an infusion of new funds.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of these activities, the American Studies Program is the appropriate site for developing these new educational ventures. These cut across many disciplines (e.g., English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, to name only a few examples), and intersect with activities in other schools (e.g., the Law School) and in non-College centers and institutes (e.g., The Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis). The most measurable impacts of these new ventures include growing national recognition of IU's American Studies Program and, more broadly, the leadership of IUB in research on democracy studies; the number and quality of undergraduates choosing this new major; and increased student civic engagement.

## Commitment to Excellence Program, 2004

**1. Title: New Focus in American Studies: Democracy and America in a Global Age**

**2. Strategic priority addressed: Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Approaches, International Programs and Curricula.**

**3. Broader themes responded to: Undergraduate education, graduate education, connecting already strong existing programs in a manner that advances them in a strategically significant way and creates an important, highly visible new program or initiative**

**4. Strategic Impact Anticipated:**

Democracy stands at the center of modern world history, but our knowledge of its future prospects is clouded by uncertainty. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, world wars defeated regimes that threatened democracy. But even at the century's end, after the demise of state socialism in the Soviet Union, democracy's future in developing nations remains unclear. At home, domestic struggles in the United States dramatically advanced equality and tolerance. But these achievements leave unanswered many important questions about an optimal relationship between traditional democratic ideals and the ascendance of multiculturalism and identity politics in American society.

These domestic and foreign issues for American democracy are not unrelated. American democracy has been a powerful influence on other regions of the world, and, in turn, it has been energized by ideas and practices of peoples in other nations. In the modern world the fate of democracy has always been tied to the fate of America. The American Revolution inaugurated what the historian R. R. Palmer called an "Age of Democratic Revolutions" throughout Europe and the Americas. American history can be read as a story of debates over democratic ideas enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. The abolitionist movement, the suffragette movement, the child welfare movement, the labor movement, the civil rights movement, and many subsequent social movements—all drew upon, challenged, and enriched a vocabulary of civic equality and democratic government that is deeply rooted in American politics, society, and culture.

But democracy is not simply something "domestic." There is also a trans-national dimension: the study of American democracy involves not only democratic cultures and institutions in the U.S., but also ideas about America and democracy that have been appropriated, adapted, and transformed as they circulate across national boundaries and geopolitical divides. The story of democracy and America is a story of America in the world. This story cannot be adequately told without according appropriate weight and value to the "views from the outside" – to the perspectives on democracy and America from abroad.

For our undergraduates, IUB should provide opportunities to think, systematically and critically, about these issues. Many are inherently interdisciplinary: for example, the

bearing of multiculturalism on electoral politics; the impact of virtual media on political communication; the current status and future prospects for civic engagement. We must provide opportunities to students to engage in democracy studies, in order to prepare them thereafter to participate as active, informed citizens of a democracy. This is one of the overarching missions of a liberal arts education: our commitment to impart knowledge, values, and skills that prepare students for active and effective participation in a democratic society. Equally important is our mission as a research university to promote cutting-edge scholarship that enhances scholarly understanding of democratic processes and issues, and to disseminate this knowledge via outreach activities so that there is a direct, public benefit.

To achieve these goals, this proposal, if implemented, will:

- A. Create a new, interdisciplinary major in American Studies for IU undergraduates
- B. Create new K-12 outreach programs for teachers in Indiana public schools
- C. Promote innovative research that enhances IU's leadership role in democracy studies
- D. Create a new graduate minor in Democracy Studies.

The strategic impact of these steps will be to enhance undergraduate education, faculty research and graduate training by leveraging existing strengths with an infusion of new funds. We will also enhance continuing education for Indiana's public school teachers by offering new programs focused on the teaching of civics and citizenship. Although interdisciplinary in conception, this proposal builds upon many existing structures, most notably the American Studies Program, in order to provide a major new educational opportunity for undergraduates and to stimulate research in areas that are important to many academic departments, institutes and centers. Thus, the enhanced support we request for the American Studies Program is explicitly conceived in terms of broader goals. We envision American Studies as a critically important institutional space for the development of new educational programs of benefit to undergraduates, and for the development of new linkages among faculty and graduate students concerned with issues pertinent to democracy in both its national and international dimensions.

***Create a new, interdisciplinary major in American Studies for IU undergraduates***

Currently at IUB, undergraduate instruction pertaining to democracy—its history, its achievements, its setbacks, and its future—occurs in a piecemeal fashion. We propose to create a new undergraduate major that will provide IU students with an integrated set of course sequences, leading to a B.A. in American Studies. This will build, in part, on existing strong resources and organizational structures, enhanced with new funds to recruit faculty with expertise in areas where we do not presently have a critical mass of scholars needed to sustain a new undergraduate major.

The new undergraduate major will bring together intellectually adventurous undergraduates to explore the notion of nationalism; the nature of globalization; democracy and dissent; the past, present, and future role of the United States in world politics. While this course of study would certainly prepare students for the rigors of graduate study, it would also promote the kind of intellectual fluidity and flexibility that is increasingly demanded of our graduates in the workplace. Toward this end, we will create coherent sequences of core courses for the undergraduate study of democracy, focused especially on the freshman year. These will largely be interdisciplinary in nature, which makes the existing American Studies program an appropriate site for developing this new educational venture that cuts across many disciplines (e.g., English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, to name only a few examples.) Some new courses will have service-learning components, which will be developed in collaboration with LESA, the College's new program in Leadership in Ethics and Social Action.

Implementing this new undergraduate major will make a much needed addition to the curriculum by providing a program of scholarship and teaching suitable to a constituency of young people ready and able to take their place as leaders of civic institutions, non-profit organizations, and corporations at the local, state, national and international levels.

***Enhance K-12 outreach programs for teachers in Indiana public schools***

We must support and promote activities that enhance teaching related to democracy and citizenship in Indiana's public schools. This should occur through development of new programs or collaboration with existing programs across the campus that are designed to assist teachers with instruction related to citizenship in the twenty-first century. One obvious site for collaboration is the Twenty-First Century Teachers Program, which involves both the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education. We would also create new programs, for example, a week-long summer seminar for K-12 teachers, focused on the teaching of civics and citizenship. This forum would bring together IU faculty and public school teachers, who would discuss important substantive issues, with the goal of how these can be incorporated into the curriculum, e.g., How does globalization, especially the ever-accelerating movement of people across national borders (such as the dramatic increase in the Latino/a population in Indiana in the last decade), inform and inflect notions of civic duty? By investigating questions such as these in a week-long, intensive format, the seminar would encourage participants to pursue valuable and timely innovations in K-12 civics curricula. Another project that can yield immense benefits would be the creation of an IUB web site that is dedicated as a resource for teaching related to democracy, designed for teachers at home and abroad.

***Promote innovative research that enhances IU's leadership role in democracy studies***

We propose to draw upon and expand cutting-edge research at IUB on American studies, in order to enhance IU leadership in the broad and growing area of democracy studies. Currently, path-breaking work at IUB is part of a national trend that is reshaping humanistic and social scientific approaches to American Studies. In this development,

four themes are prominent: (1) the complexity and variability of human identities—ethnic, racial, class, gender, sexual, political—and the challenges these identities pose to representative government; (2) the ambiguous and contested character of even our most cherished values, such as “unalienable rights,” “liberty,” and “democracy,” which are continuously challenged by supporters and opponents alike; (3) the porousness of national boundaries in a modern, global world, in which goods, ideas, customs, and peoples travel with increasing ease, and (4) the importance of mass media and mass culture as means of circulating, shaping, and inhibiting democratic ideas and practices.

Work on these and related themes is scattered across many units. IUB is home to internationally-acclaimed, top-twenty departments in History, English, Political Science, and Sociology. It boasts a vibrant American Studies Program. And IUB is home to some of the top-ranked Area Studies centers in the nation—where many scholars pursue research related to emerging democracies in such areas as Central Asia, the Middle East, East Asia, Latin America, and Russia and Eastern Europe. With regard to policy and the application of scholarly knowledge, important constitutional design and constitution-writing projects are being undertaken by IU scholars affiliated with the Law School, SPEA, and the College of Arts and Sciences in Burma, the Ukraine, and elsewhere. At IUB’s Law School, the Law and Society Program is a major resource for continuing work in this area. Other important activities, such as the International Programs affiliation with American University in Kazakhstan, offer unique opportunities for scholarly and student exchanges centered around the themes of American Studies and democratization. In addition, IU is the home for major journals such as Journal of American History and Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies. Our proposal develops a vision and strategy of synergistic program development and faculty recruitment, which will enhance these widely-recognized assets and make IU one of the very top centers of American Studies scholarship, undergraduate teaching, and graduate training in the U.S.

Recruiting new faculty and developing academic programs with a focus on democracy studies will enhance the range and volume of scholarly research. We conceive this as an end in itself, which will extend IUB’s academic reputation. We also see this as a way to advance IU’s pedagogical and civic educational missions, which are at the heart of major public universities. With regard to democracy studies, intimate links exist among these three missions—the academic, pedagogical and civic. IUB must assume a leading role in addressing the contemporary challenges to democratic practices and institutions in the U.S. and beyond.

New faculty will be sought in the following areas of expertise: Theory and Practice of Citizenship (citizenship in the past, the practices and discourses of citizenship today); State Formation and Political Development (American political development; the political economy of the welfare state and its retrenchment; the history of tolerance and intolerance; and the legal construction of equality and difference); Democracy and Social Movements (the theory and history of democratic social movements and on the effects of social movements upon the development of democratic political institutions); and, Democracy and Mass Culture (e.g., representation of democratic ideas in film, in television news or on the internet).

To enhance research and learning, we will establish an external faculty fellowship program in "Democracy and America" within the American Studies program. Visiting faculty would teach one course during the one-semester term of their fellowship, as well as participate in an interdisciplinary faculty seminar. We anticipate having one fellow per academic year. This will augment the study of democracy through the addition of courses taught by leading scholars in their field; galvanize IU faculty research through critical exchange with colleagues from other institutions; and create a nationally visible focal point for the study of democracy at IU.

### *Create a new Graduate Minor in Democracy Studies*

We propose to create a new graduate minor, "Democracy Studies." This is needed to meet rising student interest, which cannot now be met with current degree options. We do not anticipate substantial incremental costs because the new graduate minor will largely build on existing courses, but yield important new opportunities for making connections across disciplines and facilitating new connections among faculty and graduate students in separate academic units. Over time, such a program could enhance the study of democratic ideas and practices through an annual forum on democratic issues. We also anticipate that interdisciplinary faculty seminars associated with the visiting faculty fellowship program (see above) will provide an important forum for intellectual exchanges which should be an integral feature of the new graduate minor.

**5. Ability to sustain activities:** If funded, the activities proposed here will be base-funded activities that are closely aligned with academic degree programs. Growth in the new undergraduate major will be supported by incremental tuition-fee revenues associated with rising enrollments.

**6. Participating units:** The proposals for a B.A. in American Studies with a concentration on democracy studies, the Graduate Minor, and for an external faculty fellowship were developed by College faculty from several departments and programs (American Studies, Communication and Culture, English, History, Political Science). These proposals were also developed in consultation with units outside the College, such as the School of Law, the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, and the Center for the Study of History and Memory.

### **7-12. Amount, purpose, and nature of funding request:**

Most of the requested base funds are for hiring four new faculty (3 junior; 1 senior). This recruitment is needed to build on existing strengths, foster new connections, and promote innovative teaching and scholarship related democracy studies. The new faculty will have expertise in one or more of the following themes: Theory and Practice of Citizenship; State Formation and Political Development; Democracy and Social Movements; and, Democracy and Mass Culture. Destination units for new hires remain to be determined. Smaller amounts of base funds are requested to meet staffing needs associated with new academic degrees, the visiting faculty fellowship, and program funds needed for

symposia and other academic operations, and for underwriting teacher workshops and other outreach activities.

**13. Measures of impact:** The impact of this CTE proposal will be assessed by the number of undergraduates who are attracted to the new B.A. degree as well as their overall accomplishments (e.g., GPA) and, when data become available, placement record in jobs and graduate or professional programs. For the graduate minor, we will monitor both progress and performance toward the doctoral degree. Annual reports from the Program in American Studies will document levels of programmatic activity, for example, publications by faculty and graduate associates who participate in American Studies courses and seminars. Success in obtaining extra-mural funding in support of K-12 initiatives are a good indicator of impact on outreach.

### **Budget Summary**

#### **Expected Base Expenditures**

Four new faculty (1 senior and 5 junior) 3 @ \$60,000; 1 @ 100,000 (plus benefits)	\$392,000
Support staff salary 1 FTE (advising/outreach/admin) @ \$32,000+ benefits	\$ 45,000
Visiting faculty fund 1 semester @ \$35,000 (plus benefits and travel)	\$ 50,000
Program funds (Symposia, teacher workshops, outreach):	\$ 40,000
<b>Total Base Expenditures</b>	<b>\$527,000</b>

#### **Expected One-Time Expenditures**

Recruitment and Start-up costs for faculty:	\$170,000
<b>Total One-Time Expenditures</b>	<b>\$170,000</b>