

Altruistic Love & Science Course Competition

The Institute for Research on Unlimited Love – Altruism, Compassion, Service (IRUL) (www.unlimitedloveinstitute.org) encourages academic reflection on altruism and altruistic love in graduate schools, seminaries, universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning. As one form of encouragement, IRUL presents its *Altruistic Love & Science Course Competition* to promote the study of other-regarding love. In broad terms, love is an emotion-based affirmation of the well-being of others, and it is closely linked with actions of care and service on their behalf. Unlimited love extends this love to all others without exception. Often deemed a Creative Presence underlying and integral to all of reality, participation in unlimited love constitutes the fullest experience of spirituality. The competition is intended to encourage the integration of theology, religious studies, and scientific perspectives.

Winning Courses

Teaching faculty are invited to submit syllabi to be evaluated by *Altruistic Love & Science Course Competition* judges. While scholars of religion are encouraged to apply, faculty from all fields and disciplines will receive equal consideration. Ten to twelve prizes of \$6,000 each will be awarded directly to the winners unless they indicate otherwise.

Winning courses must address issues of altruistic love from religious and scientific perspectives. Contestants should design syllabi that guide their classes in the integration of *scientific topics*, such as:

- Neuroscience and biological substrates of empathy, compassion, and altruism
- Game theory
- Ethology and non-human primate behavior
- Altruism in evolutionary biology/psychology
- Behavioral genetics
- Cognitive science
- Altruism, epidemiology and health with regard to both the agent and recipient of love
- Sociology of volunteerism and faith-based “works of love”
- Positive psychology
- The impact of narratives and symbols on our capacity to help the needy
- Developmental processes that foster or hinder loving attitudes and behavior in various stages of life, from early childhood onwards to old age

With theological, religious and spiritual topics such as:

- The theologies of benevolent love in religious traditions
- Creation and cosmology
- Friendship: nonhuman, human, and divine

- Scriptural narratives and love commandments
- Saints and exemplars of generous behavior
- The problem of evil, & the response to evil
- The role of spiritual practices, such as prayer, meditation, and ritual
- The phenomenology of spiritual and religious experiences of divine love
- Spirituality and social activism
- The relation of love and justice
- The “order of love” (love of enemies, disabled, friends, family, nature, and self)

The syllabus must include a course description, a list of course objectives, and a course bibliography. Faculty are encouraged to include in their syllabi a grading rubric, course calendar, description of educational methodologies, and student research project/paper. A well-composed syllabus is vital to the success of the course proposal.

Award Winners Workshops

Award winners will also attend (expenses covered and a \$600.00 honorarium provided) a two-day pedagogy workshop to be held in early 2005. We will work together to develop an edited textbook of carefully selected readings to be published by a major press. The workshop will bring together award winners and a small number of selected scholars on love and science.

Application Process

Applications and attached syllabi must be submitted to IRUL by September 1, 2004. Award winning courses must be taught or scheduled to be taught before December 31, 2005. Award winners will be notified by November 1, 2004. Early application is encouraged.

To apply for the *Altruistic Love & Science Course Competition*, send a cover letter, and **three copies of the** completed application form, course syllabus, and *curriculum vitae* to:

Stephen G. Post, Ph.D.
 The Institute for Research on Unlimited Love – Altruism, Compassion, Service
 Located at Room 214A
 School of Medicine
 Case Western Reserve University
 10900 Euclid Avenue
 Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4976

Thanks For Your Interest,

Stephen G. Post, Ph.D., President of IRUL (sgp2@cwru.edu)
 Thomas Jay Oord, Ph.D. (tjoord@nnu.edu)
 (Competition Co-Chairs)

Altruistic Love & Science Course Competition

APPLICATION FORM

NAME:

INSTITUTION:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

FAX:

CONCISE COURSE DESCRIPTION (100-150 words):

DATES WHEN THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

