

# Concerns Over 'Split' Classes

Graduate Student Senate  
OHIO UNIVERSITY

# The Graduate Link

OHIO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

By browsing through the Graduate Course Catalog, one can find many "graduate courses". In fact, by searching through the online Course Offerings, one can exclusively find "graduate level" courses. Therefore it comes to much surprise that once enrolling in a graduate course, a grad student is surprisingly outnumbered by undergrads.

This type of course is called a "split" course, which is a dual-level course consisting of grads and undergrads, such as Philosophy 430/530. While not all departments offer split courses, they are still widespread. A significant problem arises when split

course requirements for undergrad and grad students are virtually the same, which some claim devalues graduate education.

The University Curriculum Council (UCC) approves split courses. A guideline that committee members follow is ensuring courses include significantly more work for graduate students compared to undergrads.

Once a course comes out of committee and available for students, it is sometimes taught without *any* significant difference to both sets of students.

For example, an instructor of a split course may only require grad students to tack on five extra pages

to the final paper.

While most professors do not under-teach their graduate students, many are still falling through the cracks of the system. A recent poll taken of 447 OU graduate students indicates that 29% of respondent believe their department offers poor or mediocre quality split courses.

A possible solution to this problem is to require split courses' syllabi be submitted to a committee, department chair, dean, or even GSS at the start of every quarter.

If an oversight body like this exists, split courses that fail to follow the guidelines set by UCC may likely reduce substantially, thus improving graduate education at Ohio University.

312	Western Philosophy- mod
314	Western Philosophy-19th
418/518	Plato
430/530	Cont. Ethical Theory
440/540	Contemporary Social
448/548	Pragmatism
457/550	Theory of Knowledge
491/591	Graduate Seminar: Phil.n

'Split' courses listed in Ohio University course catalog.

## Free Money! Free Money! Free Money!

We all know what it is like to be poor graduate students trying to accomplish our research with extremely low funding, but Graduate Student Senate (GSS) can help.

Each quarter the GSS gives away \$8,000 to

graduate students to support their scholarly activities.

For spring quarter, the travel grant deadline is April 29 and the original work grant deadline is May 2.

The former supports

graduate travel to attend and present at conferences while the latter directly supports research.

More information, including applications and funding requirements can be accessed online at [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss).

### Inside this issue:

A Letter from Our President	2
Meeting Calendar	2
Original Work Grant Recipient Profile	3
Graduate Programs Fair Wrapup	3
GSS Election Information	4
GSS Members	4
GSS Contact Information	4

### Keep your eyes peeled!

- Profiles of your senators and representatives are making their way to a building near you!
- You'll be able to learn your senator's email, see his or her photo and find out some interesting facts about your senator as well as GSS!
- Look for these fliers in your classrooms and hallways in February!

## A Letter from Our President

Thank you for taking the time to read the first edition of Graduate Student Senate's (GSS) 2005-2006 newsletter, The Graduate Link. We intend to use this newsletter to inform grad students about the work we are doing for them, as well as important events, programs, and funding opportunities that arise.

Graduate programs at OU are expected to grow in the near future. Expanding specific programs or the Graduate Studies office involves a careful balancing of student, faculty, and staff interests. Graduate Student Senate has participated in this process through membership to Graduate Council, Vision Ohio

Graduate Priorities Implementation Team, and frequent meetings with University officials. With your help, we hope to ensure the present and future state of graduate education at OU keeps graduate student interests in mind.

Stipend levels, student health

insurance, computer printing costs, 'yoked' classes, and the general fee are all examples of issues that GSS is tackling this year. On a more general basis, we are also working to improve the department-student relationship as well. By pursuing these various tasks we have expanded GSS's membership to over 50 grad students,

joined as many OU committees as we can, and have welcomed input and suggestions of over 500 graduate students so far this year.

So how can you contribute to improving graduate education and life at OU? First, I recommend you visit our Web site at [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss) to see if there are any vacant positions on GSS for you to apply to fill. Second, please communicate to GSS your concerns and sugges-

tions by telephone, email, or by speaking at one of our meetings.

Lastly, pay attention to Vision Ohio, OU's new strategic plan ([www.ohio.edu/outlook/vision](http://www.ohio.edu/outlook/vision)). Vision Ohio addresses many important issues for graduate students, from stipend levels, health care costs, and 'yoked' classes, to a possible formation of an OU 'Graduate School'.

Again, please stay tuned to GSS's Web site

and this newsletter. The more you voice opinions about graduate education and life at OU, the more we are able to work to improve it. Thanks again, and good luck on exams!

Sincerely,

Mark M. Mecum  
President,  
Graduate Student Senate  
Ohio University  
[mm303901@ohio.edu](mailto:mm303901@ohio.edu)



Our President, Mark Morris Mecum

*"We hope to ensure the present and future state of graduate education at OU keeps graduate student interests in mind."*

*Mark M. Mecum*

## Graduate Student Senate General Body Meeting Calendar

### WINTER QUARTER

**1/9/06** - General Body Mtg  
**1/23/06** - General Body Mtg  
**2/6/06** - General Body Mtg  
**2/20/06** - General Body Mtg

### SPRING QUARTER

**4/3/06** - General Body Mtg  
**4/17/06** - General Body Mtg  
**5/1/06** - General Body Mtg  
**5/15/06** - General Body Mtg



(photo credit [ohio.edu](http://ohio.edu))

Margaret M. Walter Hall, the site where Graduate Student Senate holds its General Body meetings.

Meetings are held bi-weekly, Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Walter Hall Governance Room on Ohio University's campus in Athens, Ohio.

## Grad Programs Fair invited students to explore Ohio University

Another successful Graduate Student Programs Fair was hosted at Ohio University by Graduate Student Senate (GSS) last quarter. Prospective graduate students from OU, Ohio State, Miami University, Marietta College, Marshall University and the Athens area attended to discover more about OU's 170+ graduate programs.

The main goal of the event was to "increase the number of applicants to OU graduate programs," said Mark Mecum, Graduate Student Senate

President. He added, "if the applicant pool to OU graduate programs increases, we have the opportunity to admit more diverse and qualified students, which could improve graduate programs overall."



(photo credit: *The Post Online*) Graduate Student Senate teamed with Graduate Studies for the fair at Walter Hall, pictured here.

More than fifty programs were represented at the fair, held in the Walter Hall Rotunda last October.

"We are hoping that the next time GSS holds this event all departments will showcase information with students, professors, or department staff present so that prospective students can find answers to all of their questions" said Mecum.

The Programs Fair, which is the second in the past four years at OU, was coordinated by both Graduate Student Senate and Graduate Studies.

## PROFILE: Mariana Quiroga, Original Work Grant Recipient

### Length of time at Ohio University:

More than two years

### Program of study: Film

### Learned about GSS grants:

From the School of Film

### Why she came to Ohio University

"The OU School of Film offers you a solid curriculum through which one can develop skills in any area of filmmaking –digital editing, producing, scriptwriting, directing, cinematography, sound and media arts management. Plus, the school offers several courses in film theory and history, in which we develop skills to analyze and criticize films,

helping us to be better filmmakers. Without a doubt, the OU School of Film is a wonderful environment to grow as a filmmaker and as a person. In addition, Athens is a vibrant community, with a lot of things to do."

### How Mariana is using the grant:

To continue working on her thesis film entitled *Why Ohio?*.

### Her Synopsis of *Why Ohio?*:

"As national and mainstream media have been reduced to the sound

bite, it is vitally important for independent film and video makers to explore political and social issues with careful consideration. I am in the midst of creating a documentary about the current threats to voting

rights in the United States, as exemplified by the 2004 presidential election in Ohio.

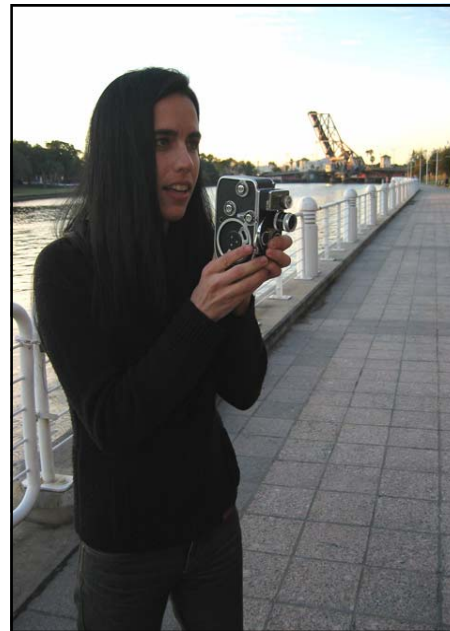
Under the examination of the *Why Ohio?* team, serious and substantiated allegations of electoral fraud and intimidation emerge, throwing into question the integrity of a so-called democracy in the world's military and economic

superpower. The implications of their findings are quite serious,

and so it is essential that their stories of disenfranchisement and political misconduct be disseminated. The filmmakers intend to confront the subject with candor and wit, so that the film may withstand partisan criticism and ultimately deliver an important message to its audience, regardless of political background.

This project is being co-produced by three graduate students in the School of Film.

The filmmakers started this documentary in August 2005 and currently are shooting interviews and gathering footage to be used in the film."



(photo courtesy of [ohio.edu/film](http://ohio.edu/film)) Mariana Quiroga, Fullbright MFA Student



**OHIO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE  
STUDENT SENATE**

218 Lindley Hall  
Ohio University

Phone: (740) 593-1899

Email: [gss@ohio.edu](mailto:gss@ohio.edu)

SERVING  
OHIO UNIVERSITY  
SINCE 1954

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.OHIO.EDU/~GSS](http://WWW.OHIO.EDU/~GSS)

### Get Involved

Are you looking for a way to contribute to the betterment of Ohio University and the graduate student body? Would you like to gain professional experience and build up your resume?

### Run for Office

Every May, Graduate Student Senate elections are held in which Executives and Senators are elected for the following academic year. For an application to run and a party declaration form, visit [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss). You can also check out our Constitution, which includes election rules and guidelines.

### Apply for a Vacant Position

Throughout the school year, (and the summer), many elected and staff positions on Graduate Student Senate come vacant and must be filled by qualified applicants. The process is quick and easy. For an application and list of current senators, visit [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss).

## 2005-2006 OU Graduate Student Senate Member List

EXECUTIVES / STAFF / ADVISOR		
President	Mark Mecum	<a href="mailto:mm303901@ohio.edu">mm303901@ohio.edu</a>
VP for Communications	Natalie Pariano	<a href="mailto:np269701@ohio.edu">np269701@ohio.edu</a>
VP for Committees and Leg. Affairs	Liz Miller	<a href="mailto:lizzie0625@hotmail.com">lizzie0625@hotmail.com</a>
VP for Finance / Treasurer	Lamar Hylton	<a href="mailto:lh308903@ohio.edu">lh308903@ohio.edu</a>
Parliamentarian	Dominic Barbato	<a href="mailto:db179602@ohio.edu">db179602@ohio.edu</a>
Secretary	Katie Nutter	<a href="mailto:knutter218@hotmail.com">knutter218@hotmail.com</a>
Advisor	Dr. Michael Mumper	<a href="mailto:mumper@ohio.edu">mumper@ohio.edu</a>
COLLEGE SENATORS		
Education	Scott Robinson	<a href="mailto:robinson@ohio.edu">robinson@ohio.edu</a>
Engineering	Jeff Dickman	<a href="mailto:td592094@ohio.edu">td592094@ohio.edu</a>
Communication	Sothearith Im	<a href="mailto:si152203@ohio.edu">si152203@ohio.edu</a>
Health & Human Services	<i>Vacant</i>	
Arts & Sciences	Sam Rossi	<a href="mailto:sr283301@ohio.edu">sr283301@ohio.edu</a>
Fine Arts	Jason Hartz	<a href="mailto:jh181103@ohio.edu">jh181103@ohio.edu</a>
Business	Trevor Hale	<a href="mailto:Th103605@ohio.edu">Th103605@ohio.edu</a>
IIP	Shane Tilton	<a href="mailto:st336796@ohio.edu">st336796@ohio.edu</a>
Center for International Studies	Rachael A. Szydlowski	<a href="mailto:rs160004@ohio.edu">rs160004@ohio.edu</a>
College of Osteopathic Medicine	Kecia-Ann Blissett	<a href="mailto:Kb190704@ohio.edu">Kb190704@ohio.edu</a>
COMMISSIONERS		
Woman's Affairs	Katie Nutter	<a href="mailto:kn325901@ohio.edu">kn325901@ohio.edu</a>
LGBT Affairs	Stephanie Thompson	<a href="mailto:Sktjr169@yahoo.com">Sktjr169@yahoo.com</a>
Black Affairs	Will Tarter	<a href="mailto:wt289101@ohio.edu">wt289101@ohio.edu</a>
Minority/Professional Affairs	Lamar Hylton	<a href="mailto:lh308903@ohio.edu">lh308903@ohio.edu</a>
International Affairs	Rachael A. Szydlowski	<a href="mailto:rs160004@ohio.edu">rs160004@ohio.edu</a>
DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES		
Chemistry	Allyson Kozak	<a href="mailto:ak738192@ohio.edu">ak738192@ohio.edu</a>
Economics	Xinxin Kang	<a href="mailto:xk310505@ohio.edu">xk310505@ohio.edu</a>
Mechanical Engineering	Steve Spencer	<a href="mailto:ss311502@ohio.edu">ss311502@ohio.edu</a>
International Development	Treasea James	<a href="mailto:tj815902@ohio.edu">tj815902@ohio.edu</a>
Environmental Studies	Paul Patton	<a href="mailto:pp175499@ohio.edu">pp175499@ohio.edu</a>
Sports Administration	Scott Ellis	<a href="mailto:me217204@ohio.edu">me217204@ohio.edu</a>
Southeast Asian Studies	Animesh Rathore	<a href="mailto:ar123705@ohio.edu">ar123705@ohio.edu</a>
Latin American Studies	Cheryl King	<a href="mailto:ck136205@ohio.edu">ck136205@ohio.edu</a>
Communications & Dev. Studies	Shermalon Kirby	<a href="mailto:sk238705@ohio.edu">sk238705@ohio.edu</a>
Sociology	Brandon Wolfe	<a href="mailto:bw129601@ohio.edu">bw129601@ohio.edu</a>
African American Studies	Eric Weiss	<a href="mailto:ew378405@ohio.edu">ew378405@ohio.edu</a>
Human and Consumer Sciences	Tara Harwood	<a href="mailto:th357798@ohio.edu">th357798@ohio.edu</a>
Hearing and Speech	Jessica Wolfgang	<a href="mailto:jw241701@ohio.edu">jw241701@ohio.edu</a>
Physical Therapy	Dave Kohlrieser	<a href="mailto:dk257301@ohio.edu">dk257301@ohio.edu</a>
Music	Annie Dotson	<a href="mailto:ad133004@ohio.edu">ad133004@ohio.edu</a>
Interdisciplinary Arts	Chris Koch	<a href="mailto:ck330503@ohio.edu">ck330503@ohio.edu</a>
Social Work	Kelly Cook	<a href="mailto:cookek1@ohio.edu">cookek1@ohio.edu</a>
Physics	Deepshika Choudhury	<a href="mailto:dc934001@ohio.edu">dc934001@ohio.edu</a>
Linguistics	Deborah Siegrist	<a href="mailto:ds179004@ohio.edu">ds179004@ohio.edu</a>
Biological Sciences	Jeniffer Hancock	<a href="mailto:jh302003@ohio.edu">jh302003@ohio.edu</a>
Environmental and Plant Biology	Sarah Stewart	<a href="mailto:sarahastewart@gmail.com">sarahastewart@gmail.com</a>
Psychology	Kevin Tamanini	<a href="mailto:kt109402@ohio.edu">kt109402@ohio.edu</a>
Sociology	Brandon Wolfe	<a href="mailto:Bw129601@ohio.edu">Bw129601@ohio.edu</a>
Journalism	Steve Siff	<a href="mailto:ss307805@ohio.edu">ss307805@ohio.edu</a>
Chemical Engineering	Mahesh Biradar	<a href="mailto:mahesh_bir@yahoo.com">mahesh_bir@yahoo.com</a>
Film	Chris Iacofano	<a href="mailto:ci260498@ohio.edu">ci260498@ohio.edu</a>
Counseling & Higher Education	Lamar Hylton	<a href="mailto:lh308903@ohio.edu">lh308903@ohio.edu</a>
Political Science	Talece Hunter	<a href="mailto:th261004@ohio.edu">th261004@ohio.edu</a>
Telecommunications	Lisa Wagner	<a href="mailto:lw345404@ohio.edu">lw345404@ohio.edu</a>
Physical Therapy	Hallie Aquilla	<a href="mailto:ha338601@ohio.edu">ha338601@ohio.edu</a>
Electrical Engineering	Ananth Vadlamani	<a href="mailto:av138901@ohio.edu">av138901@ohio.edu</a>
Indust. & Man. Systems Engin.	Kuldip Karnat	<a href="mailto:kk142504@ohio.edu">kk142504@ohio.edu</a>
History	Annessa Stagner	<a href="mailto:as333205@ohio.edu">as333205@ohio.edu</a>
Philosophy	<a href="#">Noah Gemzer</a>	<a href="mailto:ng188105@ohio.edu">ng188105@ohio.edu</a>
Mathematics	Ryan Botts	<a href="mailto:rb110503@ohio.edu">rb110503@ohio.edu</a>