

LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE

Sabbatical Leave Proposal

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1. Purpose of Sabbatical Leave

I am requesting a sabbatical leave of one semester in order to begin writing a philosophy book for publication and use in *Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Ethics* courses. I plan to use the book in my *Phil 7: Introduction to Ethics* courses.

The book is tentatively titled:

Philosophical Ideas to Bend Your Mind and Change Your Life

The fact that philosophy deals with all sorts of bizarre (if not downright crazy) theories and concepts has always served to attract many college students to its study. However, for many students it is this very feature that turns them off to philosophy. They end up feeling that much of what they learn, while perhaps interesting, is not really relevant to their daily lives. This has led me to try to focus my courses and research on those ideas that are deeply important and personally relevant. The inspiration behind this book proposal is to acquaint people with the ideas in philosophy that I have found to be most relevant and valuable for daily living. The “twist” of the book is that I simultaneously want to utilize the attraction of the bizarre nature of so many of the great philosophical ideas. Hence, my plan is to focus upon the bizarre, anti-intuitive or “mind-bending” ideas of philosophy that I believe can transform a person’s life for the better.

2. Details of My Proposed Sabbatical Plan

In order to give you a better sense of the book, here are a few sample chapter themes:

The Buddha: *The Doctrine of Annatta*

The Buddha’s Mind-Bending Idea: The “self” is a fiction. There is no thing that is “you.”

Jean-Paul Sartre: *Bad Faith*

Sartre’s Mind-Bending Idea: You are responsible for everything you do. There are no excuses.

Pierre Simone Laplace: *Causal Determinism*

Laplace’s Mind-Bending Idea:

Immanuel Kant: *The Categorical Imperative*

Kant's Mind-Bending Idea: There is a universal moral order.

4. How the project will contribute to my professional development and current assignment

Researching the ideas for the book will deepen my subject knowledge on topics relevant to the three courses that I regularly teach: Intro Philosophy, Intro Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion. All of the topics covered are relevant to both Intro Philosophy and Intro Ethics, and about one fifth will be relevant to the Philosophy of Religion.

Writing the book with my LBCC students in mind will allow me a unique opportunity to develop innovative ways to present these ideas in a clear and engaging manner that is relevant to the lives of our students.

5. How the project will benefit the college and students.

There are a number of ways that this project will benefit the students of Long Beach City College. First, it will develop and improve my own understanding of a number of philosophical topics relevant to my courses. I believe that students always benefit from a professor's depth and breadth of knowledge. Second, through writing, one develops new and innovative ways to convey complex ideas.

There are also ways that this project will benefit the college apart from its effects on my students. One of these ways is by bringing asOn 12 (il)iosJET BTm mia rintis bmt ay 0 0 12 3