

## COMMITTEE ON DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

### NOMINATION FOR THE 2017-2018 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

The Committee on Distinguished Teaching is pleased to nominate an outstanding educator as recipient of the 2017-18 Distinguished Teaching Award.

#### **Professor Farah Godrej**

Prof. Farah Godrej joined UCR's Department of Political Science in 2006. Her areas of research include comparative political theory, globalization, and Indian political thought, especially that of Gandhi's. She has taught a wide range of courses, including lower division introductory courses, upper division lecture courses and seminar, and graduate seminars, covering such topics as political ideologies, environmental political thought, political thinkers in-depth, and non-Western political thought.

Prof. Godrej's exceptionally effective teaching can be seen in her extremely high scores and the enthusiastic student comments throughout her evaluations. Many students praise her for being passionate, intelligent, well-prepared, clear in elucidating difficult concepts, helpful, inspiring, amazing, and regard her as the best professor they have had at UCR. As evidenced by her stellar evaluations as well as the rave letters from students and colleagues, Prof. Godrej is committed to "fostering students' thinking about important issues," and encouraging students' critical thinking, self-confidence, intellectual development, and spiritual growth, and has exerted a strong positive impact on them. Students point out that Prof. Godrej "challenged us to think deeply and critically about the material we were presented with," "provided an environment that allowed for open discussion among students to which she reciprocated with insightful feedback"; that she connects very well with students, is "sensitive to student needs," and is "a good role model" for them. The students who took Dr. Godrej's undergraduate seminar found it to be a life-changing experience: "the focus on the meditative techniques changed my life forever"; the course "truly opened my mind to new forms of thinking and furthered my self-development," "made me a nicer person," and "changed my life and my whole perspective on education."

For her extraordinary teaching effectiveness and dedication to students' intellectual and spiritual growth, Dr. Godrej is fully deserving of the Academic Senate's Distinguished Teaching Award.