Curricular Innovation Grant

Award up to $20,000

The Center for the Humanities is pleased to announce, as part of our five-year initiative aimed at transforming humanities PhD training, a funding opportunity for tenure-track and tenured faculty. Generously supported by the Mellon Foundation, the Redefining Doctoral Education in the Humanities (RDE) Curricular Innovation Grants will be awarded to individual faculty members or small groups of faculty and community partners proposing innovative and transformative graduate level coursework. We are especially interested in supporting curricular innovation that crosses disciplinary boundaries and develops some of the following capacities in our humanities graduate students: quantitative and digital skills, teamwork and collaboration, writing for multiple audiences, public presentation, project management, and humanities pedagogy beyond the research university. Successful applications will demonstrate significant modifications to an existing course or propose the development of a new course.

Grants – Two types of grants are available under this program. Standard grants (up to $7500) support curricular innovation by one faculty member, and bridge grants ($10,000 to $20,000) support interdisciplinary and/or inter-institutional teams of two to four faculty interested in teaching across academic boundaries. The “bridge grants” can be used to support collaboration between departments, programs, and schools at Washington University, as well as between humanities departments at Washington University and neighboring institutions (universities, community colleges, museums, secondary schools, etc.). Fall 2018 will be the first of four funding cycles for this grant.

Examples – We foresee an exciting range of possibilities from this initiative. For example, the connections that the Department of Art History has built to the Saint Louis Art Museum through its internship program provides a solid foundation for more expansive curricular innovation, not only involving Art History, but History, Romance Languages and Literatures, or East Asian Languages and Cultures. Faculty in History and Urban Design, through the Divided City initiative, are already collaborating with colleagues at a number of institutions, including Harris-Stowe State University, the Griot Museum, the Missouri History Museum, and the Vashon African American Museum and Research Center. We can imagine a range of new courses involving internships, archival preparation, and digitalization emerging from these existing partnerships. We can also envision new bridges to neighboring educational institutions, which might involve innovative teacher training for PhD students and the opportunity to learn about best pedagogical practices from expert colleagues at the high school and community college level.

Eligibility – All Arts & Sciences tenured or tenure-track faculty in the humanities or humanistic social sciences may apply.

Application Deadline – November 30, 2018 at 12 pm central time.
Grant Amount(s) – We will fund one standard curricular innovation grant ($7500) and two bridge grants ($10,000 to $20,000) in this cycle.


Application Requirements –

- Application Cover Page (name, rank, department, contact details, signature of applicant and department chair).
- Project Summary – no more than 150 words.
- Project Description – (3-page limit; single spaced; 12 pt. font). The project description should include:
  - information on the existing course, if the proposal is for redesign
  - a full discussion of the proposed course, including disciplinary and interdisciplinary parameters, learning objectives, content, assignments, and anticipated outcomes.
  - if partner institutions are involved, a specific description of their role in the course
  - a precise timeline, including plans for implementation and for sustainability beyond the timeframe of the project. (The new or revised course should be offered no later than three semesters from the end of the grant period.)
  - a specific discussion of the skills or capacities (see above) that will be developed
- Collaborator names (for bridge grant applications only) – including pertinent title, organizational information, and an email address.
- List of advanced undergraduate & graduate courses taught in the last five years – include course numbers, course titles, and the semesters in which the course was taught. Bridge grant applications – include course information for all faculty involved in the project.
- Budget – provide a description and detailed itemization of costs associated with the project. The budget may include line items for faculty summer salary and fringe benefits, instructional and teaching materials such as books, apps, and software, research assistants to find, curate, and create relevant materials, travel funds to attend relevant meetings or conferences that relate to the project. Be as specific as possible about the expenses you expect to incur. All expenses should be reasonable and directly related to the activities that will be conducted as part of the project. Funds may not be used for local meals, entertainment, or alcohol purchases.
- Evaluation and Assessment Plan – a brief description of the criteria that will indicate the success of your curricular innovation and how you will assess and judge this success.
- Curriculum Vitae for each faculty participant.
- Endorsement letter – for both standard and bridge grants, a letter of endorsement from the department chair(s) is required and should address the following: the chair’s assessment of the quality of the project and a brief assessment of the options for long-term departmental support after the term of the grant. Bridge grant proposals require a letter in support of the project from any institutional partners.

Submission Procedure – Submit the full proposal, including cover sheet, narrative, CVs, endorsement letters, and support letters, in PDF format as a single email attachment to cenhumapp@wustl.edu using the following naming convention for the application pdf: Last name First Name RDE CIG. Deadline for submission: 12 pm, CST, Friday, November 30, 2018.
Funding Priorities and Criteria – Proposals will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the RDE Advisory Committee, plus two representatives from outside of the humanities (either based at Washington University or from neighboring institutions). Priority will be given to new courses that include one or more of the following capacities in their curriculum design:

- Quantitative and digital skills
- Teamwork and collaborative research and writing
- Writing for multiple audiences
- Public presentation
- Project management
- Humanities pedagogy beyond the research university

Reporting – All awardees will be required to submit a short (200-word) final report that discusses the goals achieved and describes, in as much detail as possible, the content, structure, and objectives of the new course, as well as a timeline for first offering. We will request a follow-up report (with syllabus) after the course has been offered for the first time.