HUMANITIES PLUS: THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

Humanities Pedagogical Initiative Grants

Call for Proposals (due February 15th, 2019)

In recent years Humanities Departments at Rutgers have revised their offerings, both to meet the requirements of the [Core Curriculum](https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/degree-requirements/core) and to create courses in entirely new or recalibrated categories: [Byrne Family Seminars](https://byrne.rutgers.edu/), [Interdisciplinary Honors Seminars](https://www.sashonors.rutgers.edu/academics/curriculum/interdisciplinary-seminars), and [Language Engagement Courses](https://sas.rutgers.edu/images/faculty/meetings/2017_spring/Language_Requirement_Task_Force_-_Report_and_Proposal.pdf). These exciting curricular changes have asked faculty to focus on content. The [Humanities Pedagogical Initiative](https://sasoue.rutgers.edu/teaching-learning/humanities-plus) now asks faculty to turn its attention to the means by which students learn. All Humanities undergraduate courses of 3 credits or more (or attached to courses of 3 credits or more), including Interdisciplinary Honors Seminars originating in Humanities departments, are eligible.

The ready access to vast amounts of information and the radical transformation of technologies of connection mean that students organize their educations in ways that faculty 15, 35 or 55 years older than them may sometimes find difficult to understand, let alone adapt to. Traditional classroom strategies do not always capture and hold the attention of students accustomed to constant stimulus and uninterrupted communication, or students who have been exposed to new collaborative approaches to teaching and learning in STEM courses. Without imposing any one particular approach to teaching, the Humanities Plus Pedagogical Initiative Grants are designed to encourage professors at all ranks (including NTTs) to imagine, design, and apply innovative approaches to teaching and learning geared explicitly and intentionally toward the 21st century learner.

Grants in the form of research funds will range from $1000 to $3500, depending on the scope of the project, whether adding a new tool or process to an existing course, creating a new course, or rethinking every aspect of a course currently on the books. Proposals to create a new course (with an emphasis on pedagogy and the twenty-first century learner, rather than content), will be considered, but the primary purpose of this initiative is not to promote the development of new content. Proposals that involve collaboration with or borrowing from disciplines beyond the Humanities are encouraged.

The successful application will include the following:

1. Information about the course: course title, the semester in which the course is next intended to be offered (Fall 2019 or Spring 2020), how often it will be offered, and the target population (general, majors and minors, particular groups of non-majors).
2. A description of the aspect(s) of the course intended to be rethought, the tools or methods to be employed, and an explanation of how this revision intends to affect student learning.
3. A brief plan for measuring the observable impact of the proposed innovation.

Full application instructions can be found [here](https://sasoue.rutgers.edu/teaching-learning/humanities-plus).

Once selected, the grantees will be assembled into groups that will meet in late Spring Semester, 2019 to determine what additional resources the Humanities Pedagogical Initiative might provide (a workshop? invite a scholar from beyond Rutgers to speak? travel to a teaching conference?). Resources are not unlimited, but every effort will be made to provide what is necessary. At the beginning of each semester following the teaching of the new version of each course, the grantee cohort will meet to present and discuss their results, suggest changes to the next cycle of grants, and offer advice to potential new grantees, who will be invited to attend.

**TIMELINE**

November 27th, 2018 Release of the Call for Proposals

February 15th, 2019 Completed applications with endorsement of UGD and Chair due

March 13th, 2019 Grant awards announced

April 3rd, 2019 Work group clusters announced

April 17th, 2019 Meeting of grantees in work group clusters

Fall Semester 2019 Workshops and other events (to be determined)

January 29th, 2020 Symposium of results from Fall 2019 courses

Spring Semester 2020 Workshops and other events (to be determined)

September 9th, 2020 Symposium of results from Spring 2020 courses

Since Rutgers is vast, decentralized, and sprawling, it is difficult for any of us to be aware of the communities, tools, and resources already devoted to pedagogical innovation. For this reason, the Humanities Plus Pedagogical Initiative is designed to encourage exchange and foster community among the faculty who want to renew their commitment to teaching. Grant applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the following resources, although they are by no means expected to limit their proposals to categories of innovation preexistent at Rutgers.

\*[Active Learning Community](https://dcs.rutgers.edu/active-learning/community)

focus on methods that encourage all students to engage actively in the learning process

\*[Learning Assistants Program](https://rlc.rutgers.edu/services/learning-assistant-program)

advanced undergraduates contribute to instruction

\*[Learning Centers](https://rlc.rutgers.edu/home)

support to undergraduates

\*[CTAAR: Services for Rutgers Faculty and Instructors](https://ctaar.rutgers.edu/teaching/)

faculty development and assessment

\*[CITE](http://uaa.rutgers.edu/cultivating-inclusive-transformational-environments-cite-learning-communities)

addressing inclusion and diversity

\*[Office of STEM Education, SAS](https://sasose.rutgers.edu/ose)

STEM-specific instructional development and educational research

\*[Teaching and Learning with Technology](https://tlt.rutgers.edu/)

[Game Research and Immersive Design (GRID)](https://tlt.rutgers.edu/game-design-and-virtual-reality)

increased engagement through gaming technologies

[Instructional Technology](https://tlt.rutgers.edu/instructional-technology)

support for technology that facilitates and enriches instruction

[New Media Center](https://tlt.rutgers.edu/new-media)

provides services for video production

[Office of Instructional Design (OID)](https://tlt.rutgers.edu/instructional-design)

supports the use of educational technology

\*[Teaching Tips (Teaching Assistants Project, SGS)](http://taproject.rutgers.edu/teaching-tips.php)

articles on teaching

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For a short review of the literature on effective pedagogy organized by key findings, see University of Maryland Teaching and Learning Transformation Center’s “[Fearless Teaching Framework](https://tltc.umd.edu/fearless).”