

Mellon Confounding Problems in the Public Humanities and the Arts Curricular Teach-In & Teach-Out Grants Proposal Guidelines (AY 2020-21)

□ OBJECTIVE

Andrew W. Mellon Confounding Problems Curricular Teach-In Grants are intended to support the creation of new quarter-credit or half-credit courses by faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences in response to confounding problems. Confounding (or wicked) problems are large-scale problems that resist any simple solution – and that concern us as citizens as well as scholars. Examples include (*but are not limited to*) issues of race, identity, and security; migration and borders; environmental climate change and adaptation; different meanings of health and wellbeing; rural and gentrification and urban renewal in a postindustrial age; or practices of memory and restoration. The arts and humanities are crucial to understanding and responding to these issues in thoughtful, informed, and imaginative ways.

These grants allow faculty in the humanistic and artistic fields to use their disciplinary expertise to engage with such urgent and complex public issues through nimble, creative teaching apart from usual teaching formats. Faculty will receive overload pay at the standard Bucknell University rate for teaching these courses, and students will receive academic credit for enrolling and successfully completing them.

Additionally, follow-up Teach-Out funds may be available in the form of a reimbursable account for faculty who have taught a Teach-In course and/or students who have completed one, to encourage continued engagement with the confounding problem under study. Such a Teach-Out activity might take any number of forms (a field trip, a class project, etc.). For more information on Teach-Outs, contact the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu)

Given the current uncertainties and the changing landscape of the pandemic, we encourage applications that take guidelines for public health and gatherings into account and imagine creative responses to these circumstances. We appreciate that Teach-Ins and Teach-Outs may be remote or a hybrid of remote and in-person, as appropriate, for this academic year.

□ ELIGIBILITY

Faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences are eligible to apply for this grant. Team-teaching is possible through this grant. If the proposal is for a team-taught Teach-In or Teach-Out course, at least one member of the faculty team must be in the Arts & Humanities division of the College of Arts & Sciences. Priority will be given to first-time applicants in order to ensure a variety of course offerings.

□ APPLICATION DEADLINES & GUIDELINES

The Teach-In course application deadline is **8 September for Fall** and **30 January for Spring**. The Teach-Out course application deadline is within one month following the completion of the Teach-In course. However, course proposals will be considered year-round, depending on funding and feasibility.

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Each application must include all components described below, assembled into a single pdf file and emailed as an attachment to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.cambell@bucknell.edu). Please contact the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant (for any questions regarding Teach-Ins or Teach-Outs).

1. **Completed Cover Sheet** (*page 4*).
2. **Proposal:** The proposal must include the following three subsections:
 - a. **Project Description and Rationale:** Describe the proposed course in a form intelligible to the non-specialist and explain how it meets the requirements of a Teach-In, in particular: identifying the confounding problem that the course tackles and the value of a humanistic approach to its understanding. Also, provide a rationale for the curricular and/or instructional significance of the proposed course.
 - b. **Course Credit, Schedule, and Engagement:** Provide a schedule of meetings for your proposed 0.25 or 0.50 credit course. Please keep in mind that 1.0 credit courses at Bucknell have a minimum expectation of three (3) direct faculty-student contact hours per week for 14 weeks, or 42 hours during the semester. Thus, the minimum expectation for a 0.50 credit course is 21 direct faculty-student contact hours, and the minimum expectation for a 0.25 credit course is 10.5 direct faculty-student contact hours. Also, provide a description of your expectations for student engagement (i.e., out-of-class student work). Note that the minimum expectation of student academic engagement (i.e. hours of direct faculty instruction and hours spent on out-of-class student work) is 12 hours per week for 1.0 credit courses at Bucknell; half and quarter unit courses should have proportionate expectations for student engagement.
 - c. **Student Recruitment and Enrollment:** Describe how you will recruit students for this partial credit course and how many you anticipate will enroll in it. Please note we will work with you to promote the course.
3. **Department Chair's or Program Director's Signature:** The signature of your Department Chair or Program Director on the cover sheet (*page 3*). If a Department Chair or Program Director is applying for themselves, they should ask a colleague to sign the cover sheet (*page 3*).

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The goal of this grant is to support the creation of new quarter-credit or half-credit courses by faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences in response to urgent confounding problems. Preference will be given to proposals for courses that will be taught in the current academic year and that most clearly articulate the nature of the confounding problem in question and the value of a humanistic approach in response. Potential applicants are encouraged to consult with the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant to discuss their ideas and their applications.

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□ ***DESCRIPTIVE ASSESSMENT***

Grant recipients are expected to email a descriptive assessment of their curricular activity to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu), or the Administrative Assistant for the grant, Kathi Venios (klv006@bucknell.edu), within one month after the completion of the course. Additional information is available at our website, <https://www.bucknell.edu/mellongrant>.

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COVER SHEET

Faculty information:

Name: _____

Department: _____

Email address: _____

Year of first Bucknell appointment: _____

Course information: _____

Proposed course title: _____

Course credit (*check one*): .25 .50

1. Attach to the cover sheet your proposal, which must include the following three subsections:
 - a. Project Description and Rationale
 - b. Course Credit, Schedule, and Engagement
 - c. Student Recruitment and Enrollment

2. Department Chair's or Program Director's signature.

Dept. Chair's/Program Director's Signature

Date

Please submit this cover sheet and the entire proposal, via an email as a single pdf file attachment, to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.cambell@bucknell.edu).