

Mellon Confounding Problems in the Public Humanities and the Arts Summer Curriculum Development Grants Proposal Guidelines (Summer 2021)

□ **OBJECTIVE**

Andrew W. Mellon Confounding Problems Summer Curriculum Development Grants are intended to support projects to develop courses in the areas identified as confounding problems by faculty in the humanities and arts. 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; environmental change and adaptation; different meanings of health and wellbeing; rural 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.

Proposals that support a form of public engagement are encouraged, as are proposals that contribute to the College Core Curriculum. Above all, though, these courses are about advancing and enlivening the presence of the humanities and arts in ways that serve the public good.

These grants are competitive, and so submission of a proposal does not ensure an award. The summer stipend amount for 2021 is \$6,000. In addition, the fellowship provides up to \$4,000 in a reimbursable account for course-related expenses during the academic year 2021-2022 when the course is offered. For more information on the Summer Curriculum Development grants, contact the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu.)

□ **ELIGIBILITY**

Faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences are eligible to apply for this grant. Faculty in the last year of an appointment are not eligible. Faculty may apply for more than one type of summer curriculum grant (e.g. FDC, CCC, CSREG, BIPP), with the understanding that each of these opportunities is competitive and that one cannot receive funding for more than one of these grants in the same summer.

□ **APPLICATION DEADLINES & GUIDELINES**

Application deadline: **Monday, February 1, 2021**

Descriptive assessment deadline: **Monday, September 13, 2021**

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 review your application carefully prior to submission. Address any questions regarding expectations of the proposal to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant.

1. **Completed Cover Sheet** (*page 3*).
2. **Proposal:** Limit the body of the proposal to a maximum of four single-spaced pages (12-point font, reasonable margins), although a bibliography or appendices may be included when appropriate. The proposal must include the following subsections:
 - a. **Project Description and Rationale:** Describe the proposed course or instructional project in a form intelligible to the non-specialist and explain how it meets the grant requirements. It is

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essential to describe the confounding problem in question and the value of a humanistic approach in furthering our understanding how the course fits into department/program and/or general education priorities, and indicate plans for offering the course in subsequent years. Describe the course's curricular and/or instructional significance. Include a statement of the value of the proposed work to the development of the applicant as a teacher, placing the project in the context of the applicant's past and future teaching plans.

- b. **Work Plan:** Describe the amount of time that you will commit to the proposed summer curricular project and outline a work plan, likely timetable, and outcome(s) (including any course approval process). Please note that recipients are expected to commit themselves to their project for a minimum of two months of the summer and ensure that the work plan reflects this commitment.
- c. **Budget:** If you request the summer stipend of \$6,000 as a reimbursable account (rather than as a stipend), note that here and explain how the funds will be used to complete your proposed curricular project. Also include a budget of up to \$4,000 for reimbursable course-related expenses during the academic year when the course is offered.

3. Current Curriculum Vitae.

4. **Chair's Letter of Endorsement:** Please ask your department chair or program director to provide a letter of endorsement for your project directly to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu). Letters from the chair/director that provide rationale regarding the value of the new course and discussing how often the course will be staffed in the future are particularly helpful. Department chairs/program directors who are themselves applying should ask a colleague to write this letter. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit the proposal to the chair/director (or faculty member writing this letter) at least five working days before the deadline so that s/he may write an informed letter of endorsement. Chairs/directors will submit the letter no later than the proposal deadline.

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 innovative curricular projects undertaken by faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences into areas identified as confounding problems. Preference will be given to proposals for courses that will be taught in the next academic year and that will become a regular component of the curriculum. We welcome proposals that imagine teaching in creative ways to ensure health and safety, as circumstances warrant. Potential applicants are urged to consult with the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant with any questions.

DESCRIPTIVE ASSESSMENT

Grant recipients are expected to email a descriptive assessment of their summer activity to the Administrative Assistant for the grant, Kathi Venios (klv006@bucknell.edu), no later than September 13, 2021. 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: _____

1. Provide the title or a short description of your curricular project.

2. Please list any previous Bucknell grants applied for. Indicate year of application and whether the proposal was funded. Include any previous or upcoming sabbaticals or untenured leaves.

3. Please list other internal and/or external funding sources that you currently have available, or for which you are currently applying, for this project, such as an FDC or CCC grant.

4. If you have previously received a Curricular and Instructional Development Grant from any campus program, please describe the outcomes of that grant including the course name and number and when the course was taught.

5. Attach to the cover sheet your proposal, which must include the following three subsections:
 - a. Project Description and Rationale
 - b. Work Plan
 - c. Budget

6. 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.campbell@bucknell.edu).