



Call for Proposals

Reading Groups in the Humanities (2020-2021)

Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2020

GUIDELINES

A. Grant Description

The Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (CHPS), with the support of the Robert and Margaret Rothman Endowment for the Humanities, offers a funding opportunity for reading groups. Groups may use this opportunity for scholarly exchange on a shared topic of interest related to the humanities*. Their long-term goals may be to explore the possibilities of a shared research agenda, to deepen interdisciplinary knowledge, to learn from each other, to organize a symposium, or to develop future grant proposals. This program allows participants from across campus and beyond to explore complex issues at a moment when cross-disciplinary collaboration is crucial for addressing shifting domains of knowledge and a rapidly changing world. The Center expects to be able to fund four reading group awards at \$500 each.

The funds will be used by the groups during the academic year 2020-21 according to their proposed budgets. Awarded groups are also invited to use the CHPS meeting facilities.

B. Eligibility

The groups must include a minimum of four members; they must be led by a faculty member of any rank (excluding courtesy and adjunct faculty members) and may include advanced graduate students, staff members, and community members with a shared intellectual interest. Groups that have been awarded a reading group grant for 2019-20 are eligible to apply. In their application, they should outline their achievements and how they are going to build on their intellectual exchange. If proposals are of equal quality based on the outlined criteria below, a proposal by applicants who have not received funding previously in this category of grant will be given priority over applicants with a previously funded proposal.

Existing working groups affiliated with the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere or other UF units are eligible to apply to reenergize their inquiry. Groups from within a single unit may apply. This grant is not available to groups who currently receive funding from the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere or any other collaborative grant on campus.

CHPS uses a [definition of the humanities adapted from the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965](#) as the basis for determining the eligibility of proposed projects.

C. Activities

The reading groups must:

- have one convener who must be a UF faculty member of any rank who will be at UF in the 2020-21 academic year (excluding courtesy or adjunct faculty members)
- include a minimum of four members, including two UF faculty members (not counting courtesy or adjunct faculty members)
- attend an orientation meeting in Fall 2020
- meet a minimum of once a month throughout the academic year

D. Deliverables

The reading groups must:

- provide a list of participating members to the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere
- provide a one-page report on their activities by May 1, 2021
- give a brief, informal presentation of the group's work in late spring semester at a meeting set by CHPS

APPLICATION

Please submit proposals as a single document through the online submission process at: <http://forms.humanities.ufl.edu/>. Applicants will provide the following information in the online submission form:

- Name of Convener Applicant, Department/School and College, Rank, and Email
- If applicable, Name of Co-applicant(s), UF Department/School and College, Rank, and Email
- Name and Email of Applicant's Chair or Director
- Project Title
- Amount Requested
- Abstract (100-200 words, written for a general audience)

The following materials should be uploaded to the online submission form as one single PDF in the order listed below:

1. NARRATIVE (max. 500 words, single-spaced) that addresses the following:
 - A. What is the topic that the group will explore during the academic year? (Please give at minimum two examples of works to be read together.)
 - B. How does the topic advance scholarship in the humanities at UF?
 - C. How do the members' expertise enhance the exploration of the topic?
 - D. How will the reading or working group benefit the members' scholarly expertise?
 - E. What is the anticipated meeting schedule for the group?
 - F. What is the long-term goal for this group? (e.g., apply for a grant, collaborate on a research project, course development.)

2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS with affiliation and email information

3. BUDGET in table form

\$500 can be used for refreshments and/or meals, rental expenses, book purchase, digitization or translation expenses, or speaker honorarium. The purchase of alcohol is not permitted. Group members are not permitted to use award funds for individual expenses, except for books. Groups may be reimbursed for shared activities (e.g., group attendance at an exhibition or performance). For all other possible expenses, please inquire with Dr. Barbara Mennel, at mennel@ufl.edu.

CRITERIA OF EVALUATION

1. Originality and significance of group's proposed topic
2. Projected likelihood of the topic to advance scholarship in the humanities at UF
3. Ability of the members' expertise to enhance the exploration of the topic
4. Likelihood that the group will benefit the members' scholarly expertise
5. Feasibility of the group's meeting schedule and budgeted expenses
6. Significance of long-term vision of the group's goals

Applicants will be notified by April 2020 regarding the status of their applications.

PROPOSAL ASSISTANCE

We invite applicants to write to the Director, Dr. Barbara Mennel, at mennel@ufl.edu in advance with queries about the grant process or to review a draft proposal. All drafts must be submitted no later than a week prior to the grant deadline.

An example of a previously awarded proposal for a Reading Groups in the Humanities Grant is available here: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00010938/00001>