



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

PRF 2022-23 • ENGAGING HUMANITIES

Imagining New Courses:
A Focus Group Discussion on
Interdisciplinary Teaching

3/17/23 • 11:45-1:15pm • Teske Dining Room



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Core Humanities: Integration through Curriculum, Campus, and Community

Project Directors: Molly Hiro and Jen McDanel

Objective:

- plan for the long-term advancement of the humanities at UP through curriculum and program development that helps break down boundaries between the classroom, disciplines, and the world outside the university gates

Activities:

- work with the Core director to design and host a pilot institute in May 2023 for faculty to incorporate engaged humanities approaches into new Core courses
- Begin foundational planning of an Engaged Humanities Hub by:
 - researching other institutions' programs
 - forming connections with other interdisciplinary units on campus
 - fostering relationships with potential community partners interested in working on long-term engaged humanities projects with UP faculty and students

What are the Engaged Humanities?

The engaged humanities are a constellation of approaches that...

- seek to develop understandings of **human experience and values** (especially stories, art, faith, language, and history)
- through **modes of interpretive inquiry** (including open-ended discussion, reading and writing about primary texts, and denaturalizing "given" narratives with alternatives)
- that **connect academic work with the world outside the classroom** (via timely issues, interdisciplinary collaboration, or a focus on local/global communities).

Opening Pair Discussion

**How do you approach designing a new course?
What's your process/sequence like, what
elements do you focus on, and how do you develop
your ideas?**

Survey

**Thank you for filling out our survey
about interdisciplinary teaching.**

<https://tinyurl.com/MarchCoreSurvey>



Small Group Discussion (3 / group)

- 1. Share briefly in your group: how has interdisciplinarity shown up in your research, teaching, or other activities?**
- 2. Discuss, based on these: what does interdisciplinarity look like *in practice*? Is it the same as “multidisciplinarity”? Or does something distinct emerge from intersecting more than one disciplinary way of thinking and doing?**
- 3. *If time:* What do you see as the benefits and/or challenges of interdisciplinary work?**

Whole-Group Discussion

What barriers do you see in designing a new X course in particular?

What kinds of support would be most useful for you?

Pilot Engaged Humanities

Institute Preview

May 11-12, 2023

Who it's for:

- **faculty interested in designing courses that are more interdisciplinary and more engaging for a variety of students**
- **faculty who'd like to teach an X course but haven't found time for syllabus design**
- **faculty curious about connecting their pedagogy with public-facing outcomes but need a push to explore their options**

Pilot Engaged Humanities Institute Preview

May 11-12, 2023

What we'll do:

- **Sessions on putting interdisciplinarity into classroom practice, crafting engaged humanities assignments and activities, connecting coursework with student professional development, and leading engaging classroom discussions**
- **Community engagement roundtable with community members and UP faculty working in partnerships**
- **Time for guided course development work—on your own**
- **Small group workshops to review and improve course/activity development**

Pilot Engaged Humanities Institute Preview

May 11-12, 2023

What you'll leave with:

- **A draft engaged humanities pedagogical rationale**
- **New or revised engaged course description and learning outcome(s)**
- **An engaged assignment and scaffolding for implementation**
- **Experience using the online engaged humanities toolkit for future steps in engaged humanities teaching**
- **\$1000 stipend**