



ENGAGED HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

University of Portland • May 11–12, 2023

CORE
CURRICULUM
UP

OUR GOALS FOR THE INSTITUTE

Infuse the engaged humanities in the curriculum by helping each other use engaged humanities approaches in courses that offer creative opportunities for students and faculty to learn through timely and place-based issues.

Use the engaged humanities to help implement the interdisciplinary vision of the revitalized University Core by facilitating the development of high-quality X courses that are intentional about helping students engage multiple Core habits and cultivate a broad liberal arts mindset.

Share resources and incubate ideas for great courses by offering materials, time, space, and feedback for faculty to make tangible progress on teaching projects that support individual creativity and a sense of shared endeavor.

DAY 1 SCHEDULE

- 9:00-9:45am **Introductions: To Each Other, To the Institute**
During our opening session, participants will introduce themselves and the course they're working on, and institute organizers will introduce the institute and the goals for the coming two days—coffee, tea, and pastries provided.
- 9:45-11:00am **Session 1: Why the Engaged Humanities? A Discussion**
The goal of this session is to begin to imagine why and how the engaged humanities could be useful for participants' pedagogy. Through small and large group discussion of the background readings, the session will develop participants' understandings of central topics in the engaged humanities and key concepts and practices for building engaged courses, projects, and activities.
- 11:00-12:00pm **Session 2: Engaged Faculty Panel**
An interdisciplinary panel of UP faculty with a range of experience in locally- and/or community-engaged coursework, pedagogy, and research will discuss their efforts, strategies, and lessons learned in these areas. Panelists' responses and the discussion to follow will enable institute participants to get a broad view of what's being tried in community engagement within the context of UP and get tangible examples of how faculty approach this work.
- 12:00-1:00pm **Lunch & Partner Discussion**
Over lunch in DB 134 or outside, participants will break into small groups to reflect on their pre-institute worksheet responses and brainstorm their reasons for developing engaged humanities pedagogy.



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1:00-2:30pm

Session 3: Designing Great Courses: Creating Interdisciplinary Courses with Engaged Humanities Goals

The exploration level of the University Core offers rich possibilities for engaged humanities courses; this session will engage those possibilities by working through a backward design process that can help move us toward three goals. First, we'll start by imagining great courses that fulfill faculty's greatest hopes for our teaching. Second, we'll connect those courses with the revitalized University Core – and talk through how to best design for the interdisciplinary goals of a liberal arts curriculum. And third, we'll orient our course design around the educational value of engaged humanities approaches. At the end of the session, everyone should have the start on the shell of a great course that serves a shared academic vision.

2:30-2:45pm

Coffee Break & Next Steps

Organizers will outline the work of the afternoon breakout session and introduce the engaged humanities toolkit (beta version) as a potential resource.

2:45-4:30pm

Breakout Session: Individual Work

This time should be used to start sketching your own course design drawing on the day's discussions. You will have a template for starting on the backward design of learning outcomes and on a topical map for your course, along with a menu of potential course design tasks. These should help you to start imagining a syllabus that merges your wildest dreams for your course, the pieces of a great X course for the University Core, and all the advantages of the engaged humanities. The goal is to be able to return at the end of the day with a few specific course design ideas to share with colleagues for preliminary feedback, and to take forward into tomorrow's sessions on designing great learning experiences.

4:30-5:15pm

Debrief of Day 1 & Preview of Day 2

Participants reconvene in small groups to discuss their course development/revision accomplishments so far. Organizers will preview Day 2 activities and invite participants to tag a learning experience to focus on tomorrow.

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

- 9:00-9:30am **Day 2 Introduction**
Organizers preview Day 2 goals; discussion of day 1 progress, challenges, and questions; coffee, tea, and pastries provided.
- 9:30-11:00am **Session 4: Leading Engaging Discussions**
Adam Davis (Director, [Oregon Humanities](#)) is a long-time practitioner of the public humanities who has led community conversations across Oregon and trained thousands of conversation facilitators across the country. His session will start by engaging us in discussion of a short story (“The Lesson” by Toni Cade Bambara) to offer an experience and a model of humanities-oriented conversation. In the second half of the session, he’ll guide us through a consideration of how conversations like this can be crafted as engaged learning experiences and help build educational community. Participants should take away a vision of their own hopes for engaged conversations as part of their teaching, along with specific tools for leading meaningful discussions and engaging student participation.
- 11:00-12:00pm **Session 5: Designing Engaged Learning Experiences**
In this session, we’ll explore avenues for creating learning experiences that use humanities approaches to help students engage with timely issues and/or with a public audience in mind. Organizers will offer a series of tested sample activities and assignments, from brief in-class activities to low-stakes work to major course projects—and will solicit examples from institute participants to share as well.
- 12:00-12:15pm **Breakout Session Preview and Lunch Pickup**
Introduction of afternoon individual work—developing or revising one or more learning experiences, along with a student-facing assignment/prompt, for your engaged course within the framework offered in the prior session. Participants can reconnect with group members for lunch or go directly to work.
- 12:15-2:30pm **Breakout Session: Individual Work**
Participants will work on developing or revising a learning experience, along with student-facing prompt, with plans for scaffolding and transparency of goals and criteria in mind. Coffee will be served in DB 134 starting at 2:15pm.
- 2:30-3:30pm **Session 6: Workshopping Engaged Learning Experiences**
Organizers will lead participants in small-group workshops of their learning experiences/assignments, troubleshooting them for possible pitfalls and ensuring connection with the engaged humanities and interdisciplinary goals of the course.
- 3:30-4:00pm **Reflection and Next Steps**
Organizers lead discussion of next steps in the course design process; participants create a “to-do list” for how to capitalize on the work of the past two days.
- 4:00-5:00pm **Institute Close Out**
Happy hour in the DB Lounge to celebrate participants’ work and a successful pilot Engaged Humanities Institute!