

Global Humanities Institute and the Communication Studies Program

“Global Humanities: Many Voices, One College”

Call for Applications: Faculty Fellowships, Spring 2018

Montgomery College has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support a “Global Humanities: Many Voices, One College” (MVOC) initiative. The grant is part of the NEH Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges program. The aim of MVOC is to improve intercultural competencies in Communication Studies and non-humanities (professional) fields through global humanities approaches. It was inspired by a new exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History titled Many Voices, One Nation. The project enables non-humanities faculty from professional fields (business, law, engineering, and nursing, among others) and faculty from the Communication Studies discipline to join together in a professional development opportunity with the ultimate goal of increasing students’ critical thinking and intercultural competencies. MVOC will expand on the highly successful work of Montgomery College’s Global Humanities Institute (GHI), created by an NEH “Bridging Cultures” Challenge Grant, by helping faculty infuse global learning into professional training fields, and by adding humanistic content to Introduction to Human Communication (COMM 108), the highest enrolled General Education course in the Humanities distribution area, reaching over 4,000 students annually.

To accomplish its objectives, the project includes a semester-length “Many Voices, One College” Faculty Fellows Professional Development Cohort with two associated workgroups in partnership with the Global Humanities Institute (GHI). The fellowship will begin in spring 2018 with the first cohort of eleven interdisciplinary participants. It will be repeated for two additional semesters (fall 2018 and spring 2019), running a total of three times with a total of 33 participants. Using the MVOC thematic focus, fellows will discover how global humanities can enhance disciplinary thinking and how intercultural competencies can transform instruction. Participants will visit the Many Voices, One Nation museum exhibition and brainstorm ways to bring greater humanities content into their courses.

MVOC will create opportunities for faculty to study together and improve their capacity to teach the humanities, while engaging students in their own learning through material that speaks to their diverse and international backgrounds. It will support a new partnership between the college and the Montgomery County Historical Society. The project will have a lasting and significant impact at MC by engendering a broader institutional vision of the humanities that embraces non-humanities fields and engages our highly diverse and international student body in learning centered on topics of interest to them as global citizens.

We are pleased to issue a call for applications for Spring 2018 MVOC Faculty Fellowships.

The MVOC Faculty Fellowships Application deadline is 5:00pm on Friday, November 3, 2017.

Faculty may apply for one of two associated workgroups

Fellows in both workgroups will discover how global humanities can enhance disciplinary thinking and learn how intercultural competencies can transform instruction. Members of both workgroups will meet for seven sessions total. Five of these will be joint sessions, and the cohort will split into workgroups for two sessions specific to their focus:

- 1) **The Global Humanities Approaches for Non-Humanities Courses Workgroup**, led by Dr. Rita Kranidis, will consider “Many Voices through Texts” and study how literary and other humanities texts can be used to engage global human perspectives in non-humanities disciplines.
- 2) **The Global Humanities Approaches for Introduction to Human Communication Workgroup**, led by Dr. Andrée Betancourt, will consider “Many Voices through Literature, History, Religion, Musicology, and Philosophy” and explore how these disciplines can promote effective intercultural communication.

We will consider: What are the humanities and how can global humanities approaches inform professional disciplines? What are the essential foundations for contemplating what it means to communicate in a global society? How can we infuse courses with global humanities perspectives that engage students’ critical thinking and intercultural communication competencies and help them locate themselves in a complex world? How can we leverage the humanities to help students, especially those from diverse and immigrant backgrounds, learn to communicate clearly and persuasively?

Who can apply?

Full-time and part-time faculty in Communication Studies, non-humanities (professional) fields, and relevant disciplines who wish to explore the connections between the humanities and global issues and cultures are invited to submit proposals for Faculty Fellowships.

Applicants for these fellowships should have a strong interest in the humanities or interdisciplinary humanities exploration, as well as training or teaching experience in their discipline. We are most interested in faculty who have a desire to incorporate global humanities and intercultural competencies into the courses they teach. The fellowships offer opportunities for faculty to build on their discipline content knowledge and to gain scholarly expertise.

Can faculty in the humanities apply?

Aside from Communications Studies faculty, humanities faculty do not qualify for these fellowships, which are geared toward bringing the humanities and global perspectives to professional and other non-humanities disciplines.

About the NEH

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

How does the NEH define “humanities”?

The funder of this grant, the National Endowment for the Humanities, defines the humanities as follows:

"The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence;

philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

--National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended

Why apply?

These workshops will employ Global Humanities approaches to guide fellows through the process of improving intercultural competencies in Communication Studies courses (specifically, COMM 108 Introduction to Human Communication) or non-humanities (especially professional) courses. The sessions will be supplemented and enriched by stimulating guest speakers, readings, and discussions related to interdisciplinary and global aspects of the humanities and intercultural competencies. Upon completion of the fellowship, faculty must implement their new course material in at least one section.

The topics of the first four cohort sessions will include:

- 1) What are the humanities and how can they inform non-humanities disciplines? What are intercultural communication competencies?
- 2) What are the essential foundations for contemplating what it means to communicate in a global society?
- 3) How can "backward design" be used to bring the humanities into non-humanities courses based on lessons learned from other global humanities learning approaches?
- 4) How does the Smithsonian exhibition accomplish its objectives; and how may its resources be incorporated into instruction?

After the field trip and the two workgroup sessions, the fellows will rejoin for one final cohort session during which they will share how they plan to embed global humanities and intercultural communication content into their respective courses. Fellows from each cohort will also present their work during a showcase event at the end of the grant period that will feature the work of all cohort fellows. A companion website will serve as a useful resource.

The workshops will:

- Help fellows prepare their students for competence in an increasingly interconnected world
- Encourage faculty to view their course content from various historical, cultural, and geopolitical perspectives
- Provide strategies for infusing their course with global humanities knowledge, awareness, and skills in ways that support their standard course objectives
- Help fellows select materials and learning activities that promote critical thinking and student-centered learning, including engaging the diverse experiences and perspectives of their students.

Upon completing the workshop, fellows will have a concrete design plan for improving Intercultural competencies in their courses through global humanities approaches.

When and where will the meetings be held?

Because attendance at all sessions is required, faculty must work with their departments to ensure their availability.

- Thursday, February 8
- Thursday, February 22

- Tuesday, March 6
- Thursday, March 22 [field trip to Smithsonian]
- Thursday, April 5
- Thursday, April 19
- Thursday, May 3

Time: Sessions will be held from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, with the exception of the field trip to the National Museum of American History, which will require additional travel time.

Location: Fellowship meetings will take place at a central campus location, to be determined by the home campuses of the fellows. Some travel to other campuses will be required.

Is alternate ESH provided?

Yes. Fellows will receive 1 non-teaching ESH for the semester. Because the assigned ESH does not reduce faculty participants' teaching load, efforts will be made to keep assignments outside the fellowship sessions manageable. Fellows are expected to attend all sessions and to participate actively in the work of the fellowship.

What selection criteria will be used for acceptance?

MVOC faculty fellowships are opportunities for faculty to build on their current knowledge and teaching practices and gain scholarly expertise in the area of global humanities study and intercultural competencies. We are looking for faculty who have strong interest in bringing the humanities and global perspectives to their teaching and who seek to incorporate a global perspective into courses they regularly teach. The strongest applications will demonstrate a fundamental awareness of the value of the humanities and global perspectives and strong commitment to enhancing their teaching through integration of global humanities content and approaches.

How can I apply?

Please submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of your completed application:

1. Complete the attached application form, addressing the following:
 - Identify one or more courses you teach regularly that you believe would benefit from a more global, cross - cultural perspective. What about these courses lends itself to this kind of study? Which areas, themes, or cultures especially interested you? Provide specific examples and details.
 - Describe your past experience with or interest in global approaches in the humanities and improving intercultural competencies. Tell us about some areas of study you would like to pursue through this fellowship. What new knowledge would help give you scholarly expertise? Provide specific examples and details.
2. Receive approval and sign-off of your proposal from each of your instructional deans, department chairs, and, if relevant, program coordinators. This approval may be entered electronically or submitted via email with an explanation.

All application materials, including chairperson and dean approvals, must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, November 3, 2017.

- **Please submit an electronic copy of your completed application TO BOTH Rita and Dre:**
Rita.Kranidis@MontgomeryCollege.edu **and** Andree.Betancourt@MontgomeryCollege.edu
- **In addition, please send a hard copy to:**
 Rita Kranidis, Global Humanities Institute, Cafritz 127, TPSS Campus