

Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Center (IHRC)
College of Arts and Sciences
Course Grants for 2025-2026
(Fall 2025, Winter 2026, Spring 2026)

Call for Proposals: Collections-Based Courses

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 4, 2025

AWARD NOTIFICATION: April 25, 2025

The mission of the College of Arts and Sciences' Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Center (IHRC) is to strengthen faculty research and creative activity while also enhancing its integration into the curriculum; support initiatives involving multidisciplinary research teams, both within the university as well as with external partners; and foster intellectual community and public engagement.

The IHRC has been an incubator for curriculum innovation and public humanities outreach since its establishment in [2009](#), providing seed grants to support interdisciplinary team-teaching as well as collaborative multidisciplinary projects resulting in the establishment of new undergraduate minors (e.g. Environmental Humanities, Game Studies, the redesign of the Disability Studies minor), and inter-arts collaborations supporting scholarship, performances, and exhibitions as well as K-12 outreach. [See previously funded projects.](#)

IHRC Grants for 2025-2026: Collections-Based Courses

The IHRC supports the development of courses that imagine creative use of “collections” and how such are defined/demarcated, collected, and supported. How and when does accumulation accrue value, become a “collection” that endures, shaping knowledge and perspectives?

Projects may wish to engage documentary concepts (e.g., custody, collection development, arrangement, description, organization, representation, and naming), as well as matters of ownership, social justice, preservation, reuse, and sustainability. Projects might elect to engage community-focused histories and participatory approaches to archival practices. Proposals may reimagine notions of “collection” within the broad scope of material culture, as well as develop new “collections” from stories, recipes, data, and other “stuff” within and outside of traditional institutions.

Projects may use institutional collections at the University of Delaware or from local or regional institutions and organizations. Especially encouraged are projects that help forge sustainable collaborations with outside experts, curators, librarians, archivists, and community stakeholders or seek to bridge communications with K-12 networks.

Designed for graduate and undergraduate students, previous collections-based course grants have been used to promote and bring visibility to Black and African Diaspora print and material culture, the production and circulation of South American textiles, and the creation of digital archives of community-based arts. Others have focused on documentary photography, oral

histories, and [digital storytelling](#) of community stories. All have provided rich opportunities for hands-on experience and public-facing student learning.

Collections-Based Proposals Should:

- Collaborate with archives, library and museum professionals, within and beyond the university, to engage with already existing collections; or
- Develop new “collections,” broadly defined, as a part of pedagogical and public-facing objectives.
- Engage the humanities in subject matters, methods, and/or outcomes.
- Create interdisciplinary learning opportunities for students.
- Enable students to gain hands-on experience with archival and curatorial processes and their varied outcomes, either physical or digital.

Allowable costs for IHRC funding include:

- Honoraria for external collaborators (museum and library professionals whose job responsibilities do NOT include teaching or supervising UD student researchers).
- Honoraria for external specialists (non-UD faculty collaborators, artists, invited speakers, community partners or research participants).
- Student/faculty field trips that are grant project related (e.g. transportation expenses).
- Limited expenses for teaching materials for supplementary activities or research related to the project and student engagement.
- Specialized workshops for collaborating faculty and students.

Departmental in-kind cost-share support is required for:

- Support for the proposal from department/unit chair(s). Please share draft CFP with your chair or program directors or sponsoring units.
- On-load assignment of faculty to teach the proposed graduate or undergraduate course in Fall 2025, Winter 2026, or Spring 2026.
- Administrative support for faculty grant expenditures and financial reporting.

Maximum award amount: \$5,000. Grant expenditures are reimbursed by the IHRC.

- Grant recipients must submit a final project report suitable for archiving/publication on the IHRC website by June 15, 2026. Funds must be spent by June 1, 2026; a full accounting of expenditures is to be included in the final project report.
- Grant recipients will be asked to share highlights from their project at a future IHRC workshop and/or IHRC grant showcase.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 4, 2025 **[Please follow template below]**

AWARD NOTIFICATION BY: April 25, 2025

IHRC PROPOSAL TEMPLATE: Submit a PDF, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, that includes the following information and in this order:

CFP Category: Collections-Based Courses

Project title:

Principal investigator(s) and team members and home department(s)/program(s):

Project description, including a brief description of the collections to be used, your proposed plan for students' collaborative research, and collaborations with curators and other museum/library/archive professionals to be negotiated:

Humanities engaged by course, research, and/or project:

Interdisciplinary connections:

Potential significance and impact of the proposed project:

Primary target audience and estimated course enrollment:

Timeline for the course/project:

Budget proposal: please itemize according to projected expenses and confirm that budget estimates are informed by existing UD standards and cost structures for compensation. If applicable, list potential cost-share opportunities from other sources. An Excel worksheet is most welcome but not required.

Please Note: The itemized budget *and* rationale for the budget are among the most important considerations for grant reviewers and grant success. How will these expenditures support the ideas you have for the course project? Make this clear for the reviewers.

Submit application to Tracy Jentzsch, Program Manager: ihrc-info@udel.edu

In the subject heading of the email, please write:

IHRC AY25-26 and your name: e.g., IHRC AY25-26 Name