

Spring 2017 Faculty Course Grant Application Form

Please answer the following questions so that we may evaluate your proposal for a Sontag Center course grant. We recommend limiting your proposal to two pages, excluding the top section. If you have any questions about how to apply, feel free to contact your college's steering committee member (<http://creativity.claremont.edu/team-3/>) or a member of the leadership team for more information. Proposals are due December 2, 2016.

Name(s) with email addresses:

Sarah Gilbert, Asst. Professor of Art -- Sarah_Gilbert@pitzer.edu

With

Alexandra Chappell, Librarian -- Alexandra_Chappell@cuc.claremont.edu

Madelynn Dickerson, Librarian -- Madelynn_Dickerson@cuc.claremont.edu

College(s): Pitzer and Library

Department(s): Art

Course Number(s): PZ Art 176 Materiality, Craft and Labor

Course Description(s):

This hybrid seminar/studio course explores materiality, craft, and labor within the context of contemporary sculptural practice. In a "post-studio" era in which few contemporary sculptors actually fabricate their own work, how and why might an artist choose to cultivate a skilled technical practice? Readings focus on the critique of value and the commodity form; skill and deskilling after the readymade; medium specificity and resource extraction in the Anthropocene; distributive agency and "new materialist" ontologies; and media archeology and materialities of the digital. Four major studio projects allow students to explore these topics hands-on, emphasizing rigorous material experimentation, as well as questions of audience, site, and duration.

1. Please describe how you will use support (including money, space, and/or staff time) from the Sontag Center to transform elements of your course:

- a. This new sculpture course includes a unit on how to make the digital real. Working in partnership with the library, faculty experts from disciplines outside art, Hive staff, and each other, students will design and build an interactive art installation that makes digital library resources (such as ebooks, ejournals, datasets, scanned primary sources, etc.) tangible and that will be installed in the library and accessible to all 7C students and faculty. We have already received funds from the 5C Collaboration Grant for course development and to pay for the time of several faculty working in disciplines outside art (such as engineering or computer science) to hold consultations with students within the course. However, we do not currently have funding for materials needed to build the installation. Hive funding would enable the students to build the installation they will be designing in this unit of the course. We are seeking funds from the Hive for

materials to build the installation, as well as staff time and assistance in facilitating a preliminary design workshop and facilitating faculty consultations.

2. Please describe the experiential learning component(s) of the course element:

Students will be working in teams to design and build an interactive installation within the library for other 7C students to engage with. This will give them the opportunity to have a more public audience for their work (beyond the standard in-class studio critique).

3. Please describe how the course element will bring together students and/or faculty from multiple campuses or disciplines:

The students enrolled in this course are from 4 of the 5 undergraduate colleges. This unit of the course will be run by Prof. Gilbert in collaboration with Librarians Alexandra Chappell and Madelynn Dickerson and will include bringing in outside faculty experts from other divisions (such as engineering and/or computer science) to consult with the students as they work on their installation design. Once built and installed in the library, the artwork itself will be accessible to all members of the 7C community.

4. Please describe how the course element involves substantial collaborative activity among students:

This is a fundamentally team-based project. Students will be working together to design and build an interactive art installation that will be installed in the library.

5. Please describe how activities that stem from the proposal promote non-traditional approaches to disciplinary inquiry:

In this project the Library will serve as both a partner and as a client. Working to create art for an external stakeholder is something that is often done by professional artists, but is unusual within the undergraduate academic experience.

In order to create this artwork, students will need to draw on their art experience as well as their understanding of other disciplines (which will be aided by the faculty consultations)

6. Please describe how the proposal allows for experiences that are not possible in the current course design:

Have funding for supplies would make it possible for the students to build the installation as opposed to simply creating a design

7. If there is any additional information you would like to provide, please do so here:

We believe this art installation project is a unique and powerful means of addressing the conceptual disconnection between electronic resources and library spaces, as well as an effective way to raise awareness of information privilege at the Claremont Colleges. Addressing these issues by way of art is certainly not standard operating procedure for an academic library. The idea for the project was inspired by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which dedicates a full time staff member to creating art to communicate complex scientific principles to the public. We intentionally avoid describing exactly what the art installation might ultimately look like, because we anticipate that our highly gifted and

engaged students will conceive of an art installation that addresses the issues we have raised in a way unlike anything we could imagine.

8. Please include a rough preliminary budget for the proposed funds:

Students will be working in teams to develop ideas during the course and materials will vary depending on their specific interests but we estimate that we would need \$1000 for lumber, \$1000 for electronics, \$1000 for metal

9. Please describe non-monetary support you are requesting, including but not limited to space and staff time:

- a. Facilitate faculty consultations
- b. Facilitate preliminary design workshop for students

10. Please let us know of any other funding sources you have or are applying for to support this course or course element:

We have secured funding from the 5C Consortial Fund for Cross-Campus Projects to cover course development, faculty consultations, documentation of the project in Scholarship@Claremont, and catering/promotion for an opening event when the artwork is installed. This funding is contingent on securing “written commitment from the Library and the Hive to cover the cost of materials for the construction of the artwork” We are also asking for materials funding from Library administration.