

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

# Enduring Questions: Pilot Course Grants

RECEIPT DEADLINE: November 13, 2008 (for projects beginning July 1, 2009)

**Comment [MN1]:** This RFP is a federal grant sponsored by the NEH. The heading indicates the name of the grant, proposal deadline, and the beginning date of the project.

Date posted: September 10, 2008

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)  
Number: 45.163

### Questions?

Contact the staff of NEH's Division of Education Programs at 202-606-8380 and [education@neh.gov](mailto:education@neh.gov). Hearing-impaired applicants can contact NEH via TDD at 1-866-372-2930.

## I. Program Description

The purpose of the Enduring Questions grant program is to encourage faculty and students at the undergraduate level to grapple with the most fundamental concerns of the humanities, and to join together in deep, sustained programs of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day. Enduring questions are, to an overarching degree, *pre-disciplinary*. They are questions to which no discipline or field or profession can lay an exclusive claim. Enduring questions can be tackled by reflective individuals regardless of their chosen vocations, areas of expertise, or personal backgrounds. They are questions that have more than one plausible or interesting answer. They have long held interest for young people, and they allow for a special, intense dialogue across generations. The Enduring Questions grant program will help promote such dialogue in today's undergraduate environment. What are these enduring questions? The following list is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive but serves to illustrate.

- What is the good life?
- What is justice? Mercy?
- What is freedom? Happiness?
- What is friendship?
- What is dignity?
- Is there a human nature, and, if so, what is it?
- What are the limits of scientific understanding?
- What is the relationship between humans and the natural world?
- Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Good and evil?
- What is good government?
- What are the origins of the modern world?
- What is liberal education?

The Enduring Questions grant program will support new humanities courses at the undergraduate level: their design and preparation, teaching, and assessment, as well as ancillary activities that enhance faculty-student intellectual community. Courses may be taught by faculty from any department or discipline in the humanities or by

## Guideline Overview

### I. Program Description

### II. Endowment-Wide Programs and Initiatives

### III. Award Information

### IV. Eligibility

### V. Application and Submission Information

### VI. Application Review

### VII. Award Administration Information

### VIII. Points of Contact

### IX. Other Information

## Budget Resources

- [Budget instructions \(5-page PDF\)](#)
- [Budget form \(14-page PDF\)](#)

- [Definitions of types of funding](#)

## Program Resources

- [DUNS number requirement](#)

## Grants.gov Help

- [Registration Checklist](#)
- [Download the current version of Adobe Reader](#)

- [How to convert documents into PDFs](#)

- [Tips for Creating PDF Files in Grants.gov Applications](#)

**Comment [MN2]:** The Program description gives an overview of the grant and the purpose of the grant. It serves the same purpose in a RFP as the executive summary in a proposal. Prospective proposers can read the Program Description and decide whether to devote time and energy to this grant or to another. Looking over this Program Description, how would you answer the following questions from your textbook?

- What does the soliciting organization really want?
- What is the problem that needs to be solved?
- What approaches to the solution will be viewed most favorably?
- What approaches will be viewed unfavorably?
- What objections will our plan elicit?
- Can we accomplish the goals we propose?

**Comment [MN3]:** Detailed budget information appears later in this RFP. Why do you think a detailed list of things the grant may not be used for appears so early, as part of the Program Description?

**Comment [MN4]:** Even though the NEH "encourages applications" in these areas, this RFP also says such applications will not receive "special consideration." How would a proposer use this information when writing a proposal in response to this RFP?

**Comment [MN5]:** Many grants given to non-profits require cost sharing, a detailed accounting of the resources the organization will devote to the project. Often, cost sharing information is used by the granting organization to weigh the commitment the grant seeking organization will make to the project.

**Comment [MN6]:** Eligibility guidelines indicate who may apply for a grant and who in the proposal organization should be a signatory to the grant application.

**Comment [MN7]:** Government agencies that distribute grants often encourage applicants to contact the agency with questions. Some grants include pre-submission periods during which the agency reviews grants and makes suggestions for revision prior to the official submission deadline.

**Comment [MN8]:** Length requirements are critical. If an application exceeds the length requirements it will often be rejected without being read.

**Comment [MN9]:** The bulk of grant money would go to a stipend for the project director, which might be used for summer employment or for a course release. Consequently, the budget for this project would be much less complicated than a ...

**Comment [MN10]:** All government grants are submitted electronically. Most colleges and universities already have a registration number. Often applications such as this one are submitted by a grant office rather than the proposer. The grant ...

**Comment [MN11]:** Proposals that do not use these forms or do not follow instructions will not be considered.

**Comment [MN12]:** This RFP supplies the rubric the grant committee will follow during the selection process.

