

TO: L&S Chairs and Directors

FROM: Pierre Wiltzius, Executive Dean

Re: Call for Proposals—Critical Issues in America

We are now accepting proposals from our faculty for the 2022-23 *Critical Issues in America* program. Proposals are due **April 8, 2022.**

The *Critical Issues in America* endowment provides funds for educational and public programming to address a topic of contemporary national concern or significance. The issue should be approached from an interdisciplinary perspective. **Up to \$25,000** is available to support programming around the selected topic

The award duration is September 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. This allows a full quarter to plan and a full calendar year (2023) to run courses and activities.

Creative programming is encouraged. We offer the possibility of alternate types of programming. Please submit a proposal under Option 1 or Option 2 as listed below.

**Please note that while programs frequently have multiple PIs or groups of faculty working together, at least one of the PIs must be a Senate faculty member.*

OPTION 1: TRADITIONAL CRITICAL ISSUES PROGRAM:

The topic must be suitable to interdisciplinary study and the proposal should show evidence of plans for a critical analysis of the issue.

At a minimum the following activities must be incorporated into the proposal:

- Topic offered for discussion as a Discovery@UCSB Seminar
- Topic included in other related courses at the undergraduate level
- Lectures or workshops for faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, staff, and when appropriate, the community
- Panel discussions with experts open to the UC Santa Barbara and external community as appropriate
- Dissemination of the information gathered from the discussions, classes, guest speakers, and research, either published or in other formats.
- Undergraduate and graduate students should be included in the activities, as appropriate.

OPTION 2: COURSE CLUSTER MODEL

A topic suitable for interdisciplinary study that is taught in a cluster of undergraduate and graduate courses. The focus area should be incorporated into multiple courses, with one or two large public panel discussions or workshops. Organizers may use funds to bring in guest speakers and visiting artists for the targeted courses, as well as developing new courses around the topic.

At a minimum the following activities must be incorporated into the proposal:

- Topic offered for discussion as a Discovery@UCSB Seminar
- Topic included in other related courses at the undergraduate and/or graduate level
- One highly publicized panel discussion with experts, open to the UC Santa Barbara and external community as appropriate
- Dissemination of the information gathered from the discussions, classes, guest speakers, and research, either published or in other formats.

Elements of A Successful Proposal

- The proposal should demonstrate forethought regarding outreach to the campus community
- The proposal should identify which academic unit will provide support for management of the program/funds and should demonstrate any other funds available to support the project
 - Replacement funds to the proposer’s department necessitated by teaching a special Critical Issues course will be at the rate of a replacement lecturer and should be budgeted at this rate. Replacement funds will be provided for no more than one course
- The proposal should contain the endorsement of the principal PI’s Department Chair or Director. A required proposal cover sheet is attached

Submission Details

Proposals are due to the College of Letters and Science by close of business **Friday, April 8, 2022**, and should be submitted electronically to Nora Drake – noradrake@ucsb.edu.

All proposals will be evaluated by the deans of the college. Note that the chosen proposal will require a final report of activities, due by February 1, 2024. Interim reports may be requested at the discretion of the deans.

Attachments: Required Elements and Proposal Cover Sheet

cc: Letters & Science Deans

CRITICAL ISSUES IN AMERICA – PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Proposal Deadline: April 8, 2022 (by close of business)

ELEMENTS OF A “CRITICAL ISSUES IN AMERICA” PROPOSAL:

- Written proposal outlining the topic and the components of the program
- Budget request outlining major components of the budget
- Indication of any additional funding expected or received
- Completed cover sheet including Executive Summary of the project and endorsement of the principal proposer’s chair or director
- Sent electronically to <noradrake@ucsb.edu> by deadline

COMPONENTS OF A “CRITICAL ISSUES IN AMERICA” PROGRAM:

- Interdisciplinary approach to a topic of contemporary national concern or significance.
- Topic offered for discussion as a [Discovery@UCSB Seminar](#)
- Dissemination of information gathered from the discussions, classes, guest speakers, and research, either published or in other formats
- Budget request from L&S not to exceed \$25,000

PROPOSALS WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. The topic addresses an issue of contemporary national concern or significance.
2. The topic is suitable to interdisciplinary study and the proposal shows evidence of plans for a critical analysis of the issue.
3. Demonstration that an interdisciplinary group of faculty will contribute to the planning and implementation of the project.
4. Involvement of undergraduate and graduate students.
5. Articulation of the potential for activities to contribute to a better understanding of or solutions to the critical issue identified.
6. A preliminary plan for effective advertisement and communication of project activities to the campus and the local community.
7. A plan for dissemination of information throughout or at the end of the project.
8. Total funds requested and intended use of funds.
9. Identification of an academic unit to provide an administrative home and support for management of the program.
10. Endorsement of the principal proposer’s chair or director.

Required
PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
CRITICAL ISSUES IN AMERICA

PI Name & Email:

Department:

Phone:

Project Title:

Executive Summary (maximum 200 words):

Total Project Budget: \$ _____

Amount Requested from Critical Issues: \$ _____

Other funding sources (if applicable):

I endorse the proposal and agree to provide release time as indicated (if applicable).

Chair/Director

Date

Department/Program