



BROWN

**Call for Proposals  
Sophomore Seminar Courses**

Brown University offers a wide array of courses and co-curricular programs that encourage students to think broadly about diversity and to learn how to participate productively in a pluralistic society. Students can develop their knowledge and skills through campus and community activities, by taking a Diverse Perspectives in Liberal Learning course, or by engaging in research or study abroad. To enhance these opportunities, the College is embarking on a new initiative—a sophomore seminar program—that will allow students to build even deeper foundations of understanding related to diversity and social justice.

**SOPHOMORE SEMINAR PROGRAM**

As sophomores, students are confident and competent members of the university community. They are ready to examine questions of their own identity in relation to other experiences and perspectives. The Sophomore Seminar Program will provide an academic infrastructure for such investigation while helping students develop the skills and knowledge they need to progress toward more advanced learning in a discipline or field.

The Sophomore Seminar Program will build on our highly successful First-Year Seminar Program, which was launched in 2002 as part of Brown's Plan for Academic Enrichment. In first-year seminars, students begin to learn what it means to be a Brown student: they become comfortable sharing their ideas in class, they learn how to collaborate with other students, and they develop the academic skills they need to succeed in Brown's open learning environment. Sophomore seminars will build on this foundation by providing sophomores with more focused opportunities to engage with faculty and other students in discussions grounded in two of Brown's liberal learning goals: the goal of embracing diversity, and the goal of understanding cultural difference. The program will also complement and enhance two of the integrative themes in Brown's new strategic plan: the themes of creating just societies, and of exploring human experience.

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## INFORMATION FOR FACULTY

The Sophomore Seminar Program will provide funding and support for faculty interested in developing new courses related to social justice, identity, and difference. Our aim is to develop a program that embraces not only a range of intellectual perspectives, but also a diversity of people and experiences. Faculty are encouraged to propose courses that bring together ideas, perspectives, and approaches that are not normally seen side by side in a give course or program.

Participating faculty may wish to partner with another instructor teaching a complementary class, work with community partners, or integrate programming sponsored by Brown's Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America and Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. Existing faculty advising groups, such as TEAM Advisors and Randall Advisors, may also work with seminar faculty and share best practices about working with sophomores.

## HOW TO PROPOSE A COURSE

As is the case for all new courses, proposed sophomore seminars will go through the standard review process under the College Curriculum Council. Course proposals must be submitted through Brown's online course proposal system and must be for courses offered in a fall or spring term. Given the specific nature of the program, faculty will need to provide a draft syllabus that includes course objectives, required assignments, and a working list of assigned readings and related activities.

## COURSE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Faculty whose course proposals are approved will be provided with up to \$4,000 in course development funds based on a submitted budget. Funds may be used for material expenses related to course development; for guest speakers, fields trips, and other course-based events during the semester a seminar is offered; and for supporting undergraduate students who may collaborate with faculty in designing and delivering the courses.

## CONTACT

For more information about the Sophomore Seminar Program, please contact Kathleen McSharry, Associate Dean of the College for Curriculum and Writing, at [Kathleen\\_McSharry@brown.edu](mailto:Kathleen_McSharry@brown.edu) or by phone at 401-863-1367.