



Call for Proposals Sophomore Seminars

Brown University offers a wide array of courses and co-curricular programs that encourage students to think broadly about power and positionality 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 [Race, Power, And Privilege designated course](#) or by engaging in research or study away or abroad. To enhance these opportunities, the College offers a sophomore seminar program that allows students to build even deeper foundations of understanding related to constructions of race and other social formations, equity, power, and privilege.

SOPHOMORE SEMINAR PROGRAM

The Sophomore Seminar Program builds 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 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 Sophomore Seminar Program provides 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.

INFORMATION FOR FACULTY

The College provides funding and support for new sophomore seminars related to social justice, identity, and difference. Our aim is to develop course offerings that embrace 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.

HOW TO PROPOSE A COURSE

As is the case for all new courses, proposed sophomore seminars 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 collaborate with faculty in designing and delivering the courses.

CONTACT

For more information about the Sophomore Seminar Program, please contact curriculum@brown.edu.