

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Research Seminars: Period.

We are seeking proposals for new, team-taught [Taft Research Seminars](#) to be offered spring 2026 related to the 2025/26 Center theme [Period](#). Each member of the faculty teaching team should come from a different unit (one must be a Taft unit, the other may be outside the college) and have a different disciplinary training. Both should have expertise on the proposed topic.

This program will provide \$15,000 to incentivize and support the collaborative research, teaching, and public outputs for the new course and its development. Up to \$5,000 per unit may be utilized to allow faculty to co-teach the seminar as part of their regular workload. These unit-allocated funds may not be used for capital expenses or general operating expenses. The remaining funds must be utilized for material costs and associated programming, e.g., honoraria or funding community partner participation.

Applications should be submitted through the Taft portal, and must include the following:

- Abbreviated (two-page) curriculum vitae of each proposed faculty leading the seminar;
- Seminar name and description;
- A narrative on the co-designed seminar and how it relates to the 2025/26 theme;
- A brief discussion of methods and theories to be discussed in the first half of the seminar;
- Proposed activities for the second half of the seminar;
- Anticipated outcomes of the seminar;
- Letter from each faculty member's unit head affirming that if they are selected, the faculty member will be allowed to teach the co-taught course as part of their teaching obligations for spring 2026.

Applications are due by April 28, 2025, at 5pm

Taft Research Seminars are designed for advanced undergraduates and early graduate students interested in reading, thinking, and working collaboratively across the humanities and social sciences. Seminars are organized around interdisciplinary themes, with readings from multiple disciplinary perspectives and related thematic programming at the Taft Research Center. Discussions in the first half of the seminar are geared toward dissecting methods, theories, and approaches across and beyond the involved units, encouraging students to critically reflect on their own disciplinary training and planned research trajectory. Activities in the second half of the seminar support students in designing collaborative, public-facing interdisciplinary research projects related to the seminar. Seminars are listed under HUM/SOSC 4010 and HUM/SOSC 7010 for 3 credit hours, and have the following student learning outcomes:

- Appraise how disciplinary boundaries, genres, and conventions in the humanities and social sciences shape scholars' research questions, the knowledge they produce, and how they collaborate with others beyond their discipline.
- Analyze and articulate how their own disciplinary training has shaped their research interests and planned trajectory.
- Develop interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research questions that draw on multiple humanities and social science fields, theories, and methods.
- Design collaborative, public-facing interdisciplinary research projects.
- Devise plans for integrating interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches in their thesis and dissertation research projects. (Graduate students only)

Period.

A period can be a point, a dot, a break, a marked yet invisible tool of control that naturalizes power and its perspective. It also can be a fleshy, natural thing—something abundant and excessive, often stigmatized and obscured. A period can be shorthand for the experience of time and history, condensing the fullness of life into a terse description that highlights key relations. A period can signal duration, contrast, and repetition.

The 2025/26 Taft Research Center theme *Period.* invites us to think about time, perspective, punctuation, rhythm, and speed. While periods can signal the end of something—a definitive statement, break, full stop, end of discussion—they also suggest cycles, intervals, and return. Grammatically, periods pace our writing, translating speech into written forms. When a period is multiplied, gathered, and evenly spaced, it becomes an ellipsis. Ellipses can suggest pause and reflection, trailing off to allow one to privately think, rest, and regroup, or they can sharpen a writer's point, eliding words and context, encouraging readers to move more quickly through a text, much like periods in abbreviations.

With the 2025/26 theme *Period.* we will explore how humanities and social science scholars punctuate time, history, and our ideas for audiences within and beyond the academy. What is the point of humanities and social science research? What do we include and what do we leave out in our work and writing? In exploring both the public-facing and backstage of humanistic inquiry, we will examine how the humanities and social sciences connect us to the fleshy rhythms of life.