

IHRC Grant Themes: 2021-2022 Academic Year
curricular enhancement & course development

- **Humanities & Digital Collections**

Prior to the pandemic, public debates placing the digital and material in opposition with each other had outlived their utility in an increasingly digitally-mediated world. The lockdowns that resulted from COVID-19, however, offered new insight into the research and pedagogical value of digital collections. As we transition to a post-pandemic environment, how can we take the lessons learned from our experience with leveraging the affordances of digital collections and apply them to new ways of teaching and learning? How can we use the humanities to enhance our understanding of digital collections, their materiality, the power dynamics involved with their creation, maintenance, and ownership? How can working with digital collections enhance current developments in anti-racist pedagogy and feminist praxis? Supported courses should center the humanities in interdisciplinary approaches to collection-based digital work, inclusive of digital curation, digital storytelling, and digital archiving.

- **Humanities & Healthcare**

The past year has shown us how important it is to apply humanistic research to the study of healthcare. Interdisciplinary partnerships between the humanities and healthcare is essential to understanding the history of public health, its discourse, and its ability to interface with diverse populations with equity and inclusivity. Teaching projects focused on humanities and healthcare may include work that situates and confronts the various manifestations of systemic racism and inequality in the healthcare systems. There are opportunities to further explore connections between healthcare and the interconnections that exist and manifest in other societal sectors (education, criminal justice, government, social capital, etc.). Multidisciplinary approaches are welcome: from how social media, film and television, literary, popular fiction, and even comics use narrative to explore the healthcare community, to the interplay between media and the communication of healthcare advances, pandemic storytelling, and the dynamics of narrative construction and vaccine skepticism.

- **Humanities & Accessibility**

The common perception of accessibility among non-disabled populations is often limited to mandated accommodations for wheelchair use and the reformatting of documents and websites. Yet accessibility can also involve mental health conditions, sensory experiences, and behavioral and physical differences that may not be immediately visible to non-disabled and neuro-typical individuals. The humanities can help us all to develop a deeper awareness of accessibility's diverse forms of communication, cultural expression, and community building. Humanities and accessibility projects could lead students and faculty in thinking about the social ethics of promoting inclusion for disability communities. Accessibility projects could work to break down ableism and the misconceptions it creates around accessibility concerns. More specific issues could cover accessibility design in research and teaching spaces, the rhetorics and poetics of sign language and Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC), or the material history and cultural impact of prosthetics, Braille technology, and hearing amplifiers.

Questions: please email ihrc-info@udel.edu