MASTERCLASS 2014-15

TO: ALL FACULTY IN THE HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, ARCHITECTURE, AND MUSIC

DATE: AUGUST 19, 2013

FROM: FARÈS EL-DAHDAH, DIRECTOR

Deadline: February 10, 2014

Masterclasses are one-credit courses for undergraduate and graduate students in the humanities. Students meet monthly each semester to focus on critical questions and debates using a variety of methodologies, forms, and historical contexts. Classes are structured around a topic or text that stimulates discussion among graduate and undergraduate students. Community-building is a major part of this program. To expose Rice students to a wide variety of innovative research within the humanities, masterclasses are often facilitated by outside scholars from throughout the U.S. Scholars may engage in different ways, such as leading class discussions or giving a lecture open to all on campus. 2014-15 will be the fourth year of the program. Information on the program can be found at http://hrc.rice.edu/masterclass/.

This program serves three interrelated aims:

- To foster undergraduate scholarly community across the humanities
- To provide a mentoring support structure between undergraduate and graduate students
- To introduce advanced humanities research and outside scholars to Rice undergraduates

Awards of up to $6,000 per selected proposal will cover outside speaker expenses and graduate student support.

Proposal guidelines: Please be as specific as possible in your proposal and include:

- A narrative that describes the scholarly impact of the proposed masterclass
- The need for such a program for students in your field(s)
- A list of potential speakers from within and outside of Rice
- A budget indicating other potential or confirmed sources of funding (for example, utilizing current scheduled events and speakers to supplement the masterclass)
• A detailed plan identifying faculty organizers, administrative assistance needed from the HRC, and recruitment strategies for undergraduate and graduate students

The current masterclasses adhere to the following criteria, though other formats may be used:

• Student participants are receiving degrees in diverse disciplines
• Students and faculty leaders meet monthly for a discussion related to the masterclass topic
• During these meetings, outside and/or internal faculty speakers lead a 1-hour seminar on pre-circulated material
• Outside speakers deliver a public lecture open to the general Rice community
• Graduate students serve as mentors to the undergraduates and meet with them in small groups regularly throughout the academic year
• Undergraduate and graduate students receive one pass/fail course credit per semester
• Graduate students receive modest funding for books or conference travel

Potential applicants may contact Lauren Kleinschmidt at laurenk@rice.edu with questions.

Submit proposals via email to hrc@rice.edu or bring hard copies to 306 Herring Hall.