



April 2016

**Announcement:
Course Development Fund, AY 2016-17**

The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy is pleased to continue to support course development at the University of Missouri through a fund designed to encourage innovative faculty contributions to the Institute's interdisciplinary Minor and Certificate in American Constitutional Democracy. A description of the minor and certificate, as well as a list of currently offered courses, can be found on the Kinder Institute website, democracy.missouri.edu, in the section on undergraduate programs. While focused on promoting teaching and scholarship on American political thought and history, we interpret these subject fields broadly to include not only the philosophical foundations and historical origins of America's constitutional and democratic traditions but also the evolution, application, and reinterpretation of these traditions in later periods and around the globe.

Any course that fills a critical need or a serious curricular gap for the minor and certificate will be considered, but we are especially interested in developing "experiential courses" that combine traditional classroom instruction with on-site and/or creative learning activities. For example, we envision courses that take students to the places where American political history unfolded (e.g., Jefferson City, the Dred Scott courthouse in St. Louis, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, or the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.), or abroad to study constitutional democracy from a global perspective. We also are looking to develop smaller-scale courses framed around the intensive study of key primary texts.

The broad outline of the curriculum we envision for the Minor and Certificate in American Constitutional Democracy includes courses in five key areas:

- Ancient and Early Modern Influences
- The American Founding
- American Political Culture, Thought, and History
- American Constitutionalism
- Constitutional Democracy in a Global Context

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to promote the development of 3-credit hour courses that further the mission of the Institute and contribute to the minor and certificate. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available to support the development of 1-credit hour Honors College Tutorials. Half of all course development awards will

be transferred to the faculty member's department at the beginning of the grant, and the other half will be distributed at the beginning of the semester in which the course is first offered.

To apply for a course development grant, submit a 2-3-page proposal describing the course's objectives and main pedagogical components, appending a tentative reading list or syllabus, to **kinderinstitute@missouri.edu**. Please include in the proposal an explicit statement about how the new course would contribute to the curriculum for the minor and certificate and/or to the mission of the Kinder Institute. Once the course is developed, the faculty member is responsible for submitting the University's required paperwork for putting a new course in the catalog, including a full syllabus. In addition, the faculty member must forward a copy of the syllabus, which should include a description that ties the course to the Institute's mission, to Kinder Institute Communications Associate Thomas Kane, at KaneTC@missouri.edu.

The Kinder Institute Joint Executive Committee will make course development award decisions on a rolling basis. For more information, please contact:

Kinder Institute Director Justin Dyer (DyerJB@missouri.edu)

or

Kinder Institute Associate Director Jeffrey L. Pasley (PasleyJ@missouri.edu)