

Exploratory Teaching Groups: Call for Proposals
Winter & Spring 2021 Pilot
Submission deadline extended to March 8

Exploratory Teaching Groups (ETGs) provide faculty and instructors a collaborative framework to explore and discuss ideas, issues, and challenges in their teaching, with the aim of developing new practices, resources, or other educational interventions. This pilot program aims to be driven by the teaching interests and professional development goals of instructors, so proposals are welcome on any topic and the format is flexible. Faculty and instructors may use ETGs for relatively simple, low-stakes activities such as a pedagogical reading group or a series of structured discussions around a theme; to engage in a collaborative course (re)design project; to investigate new teaching strategies, tools, or approaches; or to advance any other project related to teaching and learning in their courses, programs, or at UChicago generally.

The CCT invites groups of faculty and instructors, coordinated by one or two colleagues acting as Group Chair(s), to propose a topic and plan of activities for an ETG to run during Winter and Spring Quarters 2021. [Proposals related to any topic are welcome](#), with ETGs in the following areas especially encouraged:

- Remote/pandemic teaching and learning, such as:
 - Innovations and lessons learned that may inform post-pandemic teaching
 - The use of digital tools, such as Hypothesis, Gradescope, and the like
 - Using videos and other remote teaching materials to “flip” your class
- Inclusive teaching, such as:
 - Inclusive syllabus (re)design
 - Incorporating anti-racist pedagogical approaches or materials
- Course (re)design projects aligned with the [new academic calendar](#) beginning Autumn 2021, such as developing a three-week September term course

The CCT will provide support by consulting with ETGs on their plans and activities, recommending resources and literature, connecting them with appropriate offices and partners on campus, providing a venue for sharing and reflecting on their work with a larger campus community, and lending support for implementation of new ideas and recommendations as appropriate. When merited by the proposal, the CCT may also provide a research assistant to help identify and gather resources, information, and literature to inform the discussion and the project, and to work with ETGs to help develop any materials. Funds are also available to support the purchase of books, technology, and other resources, the facilitation of group activities (e.g. materials and other costs for events, etc.), and other activities relevant to the advancement of teaching and learning at the University.

[Proposals may be submitted here](#). Please see the proposal guidelines below. Faculty and instructors are invited to discuss their proposals with the CCT before submitting. Contact Joe Lampert with any questions at josephlampert@uchicago.edu. **Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning February 19, with a final deadline of March 8.** Full consideration will be given to all submissions received by March 8.



Proposal Guidelines

Faculty and OAAs interested in facilitating an Exploratory Teaching Group should submit a proposal (maximum ~500 words) describing:

- The goals of the ETG (what do you hope to accomplish? what outcomes do you anticipate?)
- The plan and structure of ETG activities, e.g. how often you will meet, the kinds of meetings you plan to hold (discussions, reading groups, workshops, invited speakers, etc.)
- What, if any, campus offices or departments you plan to collaborate with
- Who will be the Chair(s) of the ETG (at least one of whom is responsible for submitting the proposal)
- Who else will/might participate in the ETG—identify any confirmed participants and describe other potential participants (e.g. faculty and instructors from particular departments, Core sequences, etc.)
- Any proposed supporting resources, along with a budget of up to \$500 (if requesting)
- Whether and how the ETG would make use of a research assistant

Guidelines for Organizing Exploratory Teaching Groups

All ETGs should:

- Consist of at least three members (if not all members have been identified, a plan for identifying and recruiting members may be included in the proposal).
- Identify 1-2 Chairs responsible for coordinating group activities.
- Meet at least three times by the end of Spring Quarter, 2021.
- Regularly consult with a designated CCT liaison for support and guidance on group activities.
- Participate in a year-end colloquium in which ETGs share their reflections and/or outcomes with each other and stakeholders in the College and across the University.
- Produce a brief (~500 words) summative memo on the ETG's activities, including how the experience shaped participants' approaches to teaching, how the ETG's resources, findings, or recommendations were (or will be) disseminated or implemented, etc.