

Christine M. Robinson, Ph.D., Professor of Justice Studies

Please find below the answers to the questions that you have asked us to complete. As you can see (below), I am currently enrolled in the JMU Libraries Online and Blended Learning Institute (which began on Tuesday earlier this week), learning how to adapt the course assignments for this course in particular to an online platform. I will send you my final full report (with draft syllabus and assignments) about mid-way through this course (late October), so that the materials I submit reflect not only the updated content (which I worked on this summer), but also the ways I have adapted the course to be taught online (which I am presently learning).

Christine

### **1. What was the goal(s) of your grant?**

The general purpose was to revise and teach an existing course. The specific goals included:

- revising/updating the policy content of the course;
- creating meaningful civic and/or community engagement assignments and opportunities for students in the course, especially since the course will be taught online the next time; and
- adapting the course content in preparation for allowing some non-majors (i.e., advanced students in specific minor programs at JMU) to enroll without those students having to take the course prerequisites.

### **2. What were the outcomes of the project for which the grant was awarded?**

The grant enabled me to invest more time (than I would have been able to otherwise) to pursue each of the three goals above, specifically:

- reading and locating current research and policy (in the US and in many areas, globally) to update lecture material and provide scholarly sources on a range of topics addressed in the course, including bias-motivated crimes; access to culturally competent health care (including physical and mental health); discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations; family policy; educational policy; human rights (decriminalization; freedom of expression, association, and assembly; prevention of torture and inhumane treatment); and in other areas;
- developing some introductory course material in lecture form that I can use to make the course more accessible for non-majors who may enroll in the course in the future (specifically, advanced students in eligible minors); and
- creating assignments that students can do in an online platform that will develop their civic literacy and knowledge on issues that affect people in the communities where they live.

### **3. Was the grant valuable to your teaching, research, and/or service? Please explain briefly.**

The grant was tremendously valuable, not only for revising the course content as described above, but also for my own professional (pedagogical) development. This summer, I took

advantage of participating in a four-hour workshop on “Co-Creating Trauma-Informed Communities,” which I discovered is tremendously valuable for this course (and others I teach). Receiving this grant meant that I would need to teach this course online the next time I taught it (a requirement for summer courses in my department), so that necessitated committing to developing skills to adapt this course for both blended and online learning platforms. This summer, I applied for the fall JMU Online and Blended Learning Institute so that I could work with instructional design experts during the fall semester to adapt lectures and assignments (including exams) for this course to an online learning platform (and learn how to use online technologies with which I am not familiar). Finally, I am taking an online course (external to JMU) beginning in late September called "Introduction to Community Oral History for Social Change." It is possible that I will learn how to create assignments that I can use in an online course for students in this class for Summer 2020 related to oral history. I will not know for sure until the course is complete (in November). If not, then I will save assignments related to this until the next time I teach this course in a classroom environment.

**4. Did the curriculum grant spark new ideas and would you apply again when you become eligible?**

Yes. Because this course will be taught online the next time it is offered, there are some community engagement assignments/research opportunities in the local community (oral history and archival research assignments related to a project I began in 2018, with the support of Justice Studies and the Office of Digital Projects and Pedagogy in the JMU Libraries) that I may not be able to allow students to pursue until I offer this course again in a classroom (or unless I am able to teach a different course focused more specifically on advanced research/engagement opportunities). This would be an exceptional community engagement learning opportunity for students.

\*\*\*\*\*