



JEANNETTE K. WATSON DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES

Please [download the full application form \(.docx\)](#) to propose a **Spring 2026** Watson Professor residency, submitted to humcenter@syr.edu by **noon on Friday, November 1, 2024**.

About the Professorship: The [*Jeannette K. Watson Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities*](#) was established by the Watson family to support on-campus residencies of prominent humanities scholars, writers, and artists. Previous holders of the professorship include: Krushil Watene, Gabrielle Foreman, Saul Bellow, Susan Schweik, Laura Freixas, Cherríe Moraga, Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, Hans Mommsen, Toni Morrison, Martha Nussbaum, Mario Vargas Llosa, Leo Steinberg, Stephen Greenblatt, Anthony Grafton, Margaret Atwood, and others.

Watson Professor Residency Overview and Requirements

- Public events organized around the Watson Professor's visit should be designed to attract a diverse audience from across campus and the wider community.
- The successful candidate's work should meaningfully engage the humanities, broadly conceived.
- Generally, the Watson Professor offers a manageable combination of public lectures, readings, or performances; mini-seminars or workshops; and academic event participation, including class visits and/or small group dialogues, lunches, etc.
- Proposals may originate from individual faculty members or groups of faculty -- from single units or from across a combination of departments/programs/colleges. That individual or group serves as the principal organizer of the residency and functions as the primary point of contact and host for the visiting Watson Professor.
- The residency can take various forms but must be equivalent to a two-week residency (including one weekend) or multiple shorter visits across the semester to the Syracuse campus.
- If your proposal is awarded, you/your team will: organize the residency details, host the Watson Professor, serve as the primary point of contact and collaboration, which includes reaching out to various constituencies to ensure broad participation and impact, and coordinate with the Humanities Center with regard to the overall vision and implementation of programming and publicity.

Budget: If approved, the Humanities Center will award up to \$55,000 toward the total residency cost. *Be sure to complete the enclosed budget planning sheet, with rationales, as part of your proposal.*

Selection criteria:

- The scholar/writer/artist must be distinguished and currently active in their field(s).
- The scope of the proposed visit should help foster intellectual community and engagement across the humanities.
- Their work should relate well to other Humanities Center programs and initiatives.
- The planning team should have some experience planning and hosting events.