



## UC DAVIS GLOBAL TEA INSTITUTE CALL FOR PROPOSALS (FUNDED):

The UC Davis Global Tea Institute (GTI) invites qualified senate and federation faculty to submit proposals to develop new academic courses on or related to tea, broadly defined. We are seeking innovative course designs in any department or college that will engage students in a deep exploration of the cultural, historical, economic, and/or scientific aspects of tea. Possible topics include the role of tea in various cultural traditions (yaupon in Native American cultures, gongfu in China, high tea in the UK, rooibos in South Africa), tea and wellness, tea in marketing and the global economy, tea as social practice or religious ritual, tea in politics and governance, tea in colonial history, tea communities, tea and health, tea agronomy and agriculture, tea labor and production, tea and the environment, etc.

We anticipate THREE awards that will take the form of \$13,500 in funds toward a course buyout, to be disbursed directly to the applicant's home department. The balance for the cost of the replacement instructor will be negotiated through that department's Dean's Office and the applicant's home department. The buyout will allow time for the applicant to develop the new course on tea, and shepherd it through the Integrated Curriculum Managements System (ICMS), through to approval by the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI). Awardees are required to submit a report upon the completion of the course proposal, with the expectation that the new course be taught within two academic years of the proposal's completion.

The award is part of the GTI's larger commitment to developing a broad curriculum of courses related to tea so that UC Davis can offer an undergraduate degree (major and/or minor) in Global Tea Studies. Courses that incorporate experiential learning opportunities, guest lectures from a wide range of perspectives, and practical components to enhance the overall learning experience are encouraged.

Interested individuals or collaborators are invited to submit proposals that include the following information: 1) a brief overview of the course developer's qualifications and expertise related to the subject of tea, 2) name of the course and an outline detailing its structure, including topics to be covered, potential session breakdowns, student activities, and any prerequisites, 3) a brief description of the teaching methods, resources, and materials to be employed in the course, 4) the proposed assessment methods, grading criteria, and any examinations or projects, 5) a timeline for the development of the course, including key milestones, deliverables, and proposed quarter for the course buyout and 6) a brief note from the applicant's department chair indicating that, a) in principle, the department's course offering schedule is amenable to the proposed course buyout

(Winter, Spring, or Fall of 2026), and b) that it supports the scheduling of the new course within the following two academic years.

Proposals will be considered on a rolling basis for course buyouts beginning in Winter 2026. For Winter 2026 buyouts, proposals must be submitted by June 30, 2025. For Spring and Fall 2026 buyouts, proposals will be accepted until September 1, 2025. Proposals should be sent via email to Professor Joseph T. Sorensen at: [jsorensen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jsorensen@ucdavis.edu). A committee of GTI members will review them based on criteria such as relevance, originality, feasibility, and the proposer's qualifications. Any inquiries regarding this call for proposal should be directed to [jsorensen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jsorensen@ucdavis.edu).

We look forward to receiving your innovative proposals and working collaboratively to enrich our academic offerings in the fascinating field of tea studies.

UC Davis Global Tea Institute for the Study of Tea Culture and Science

Katharine P. Burnett, Founder and Director  
Professor of Art History

Joseph T. Sorensen, GTI Steering Committee  
Associate Professor of Japanese