



UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**  
THE HONORS COLLEGE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **NEH GRANT LAUNCHES CLEMENTE VETERANS' INITIATIVE IN HOUSTON**

New York (March 28, 2019) -- The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) today announced that the Clemente Course in the Humanities is among its 2019 grant recipients, awarding two grants totaling \$198,930 to expand its work in the [NEH Dialogues on the Experience of War initiative](#). Projects funded through NEH Dialogues on the Experience of War grants will support humanities-based programs for military veterans and their families.

The grants will expand the Clemente Veterans Initiative (CVI), including launching a new program in Houston in partnership with the Honors College at the University of Houston. CVI was developed in 2014 to provide a meaningful intellectual community to veterans who are struggling to adapt to civilian life. CVI is based on the idea that guided discussion of humanities texts can provide these veterans with an opportunity to reflect on their military experiences and move out of isolation and into community.

The Houston program will launch in Spring 2020. Dialogues use humanities texts from the Ancient Greeks to contemporary literature to explore themes of war and reconciliation, considering universal human experiences and questions. The course will be offered free of charge to participants. Books, child care, and transportation assistance will be provided at no cost. Transferable college credit will be available from Bard College.

"The Honors College is very pleased to host the Clemente Veterans' Initiative: Houston," said William Monroe, dean of the Honors College. "The Clemente vision coincides with our belief that the humanities belong in the public realm, that our work can and should serve society as a whole. The humanities are inherently collaborative and free us to imagine better worlds for ourselves and others. We are excited to learn with and from our incoming class.

The Houston program will be directed by Dr. Max Rayneard, faculty member in the UH Honors College. Rayneard has extensive experience working with veterans and military personnel as a director and producer for The Telling Project, which staged the stories of veterans in theaters around the country. He can be reached at [mjrayneard@uh.edu](mailto:mjrayneard@uh.edu) or 541.556.4368.