

Housing Advice

Participants in the NEH Summer Institute at Georgia College, “Reconsidering O’Connor,” often have questions about the housing and related matters that they will encounter during their almost four weeks in Milledgeville as well as how they will pay for it. The information below should help.

1. Our Institute coordinates with Georgia College to have available a block of dorm rooms on campus and within walking distance of the O’Connor Collection as well as the classroom facilities where the seminars will be held. The dorm we will be using is arranged in suites: two single rooms connected by a bathroom. Participants will have a room to themselves, but they will share a bathroom facility with one other NEH participant. We will likely have an entire dorm building to ourselves, ensuring that our privacy apart from other short-term problems being housed on campus—in other words, we are hopeful that you won’t be sharing a building with pre-teens at soccer/baseball/cheerleading camp for a week.
2. These rooms will have basic dorm furnishings: a twin bed, a bookcase, a desk, and a chair. As a program, we provide mattress liners, one set of bed linens, a blanket, towels, and wash cloths. Participants are encouraged to bring or buy after they arrive any additional linens they feel they may need (the South’s air conditioning can be chilly for some) and a pillow. Those who come to the Institute in their own cars may wish to bring along a lamp for reading and anything else they need to feel at home. We are working with a local rental company to make available small refrigerators that can be rented for the length of the program, but the dorm will also have at least one community refrigerator in a common kitchen area.

3. The program will set up trips to the local Wal-Mart and grocery stores for anyone wishing to purchase food or other items there. Most of these trips can be made upon your arrival and check-in at the Institute.
4. The NEH stipend awarded to each participant is intended to cover most of the costs of taking part in the Institute, and it will more than cover the cost of staying in the dorm facilities. However, when they arrive, participants need to be prepared to cover the full cost of housing even if their stipend payments have not yet arrived. At this point, we simply can't guarantee the timing.
5. Some participants may elect other local options for housing. We will do our best to supply anyone who wants to pursue this option basic information about searching for short-term housing, but it is up to the participant to make all the arrangements for this housing. In previous O'Connor Institutes, most participants have elected to use the dorm option because it enables more interaction with other participants and is simply more convenient. The porch of past dormitories were popular hangouts for intellectual and musical jam sessions (yes, feel free to bring instruments if you wish!). But for anyone who needs to bring a family member, partner, or pet with them, off-campus housing may be preferable.
6. Participants are responsible for most of their own meals, and the Georgia College dining halls do offer food at reasonable prices. Also, there are a number of restaurants and bars within walking distance of campus and even more for those with access to a car. Plus, the community kitchen is available for cooking to all participants every day, and it will be equipped with a stove, a microwave, and some basic pots and pans. Many people will elect to keep breakfast items such as cereal or muffins in their rooms, and bringing a

coffee/tea maker is encouraged if that is desired. Again, the NEH stipend is meant to cover the cost of your meals, but staying within that budget is the individual participant's responsibility. A few meals will be provided as part of events during the Institute, but anyone relying on them for all their caloric intake will discover a rather radical weight-loss plan.

7. Normally, suitemates are chosen randomly among participants of the same gender. But if anyone knows another participant who he/she would prefer to share a suite with, that can be arranged. We've had few suitemate issues in our previous two Institutes, and those few were easily resolved by individuals realizing the importance of maintaining a shared space and by simple collegiality. Many participants have made valuable professional and personal friendships. We look forward to more such outcomes this coming summer.
8. Milledgeville is typically warm in June so participants are encouraged to plan their clothes packing appropriately. Casual summer wear is acceptable almost everywhere, and comfortable shoes are highly recommended. Tuxedos and ball gowns can be safely left at home. The campus does have an exercise facility, including a lap pool, that we expect participants will be able to use; however, they may need to purchase a \$50 one-month fitness center membership in order to use those facilities. We'll be confirming this in the days ahead.
9. Wi-Fi will be available in the dorm and on campus generally, but participants should plan on bringing a lap top computer for use in their rooms. It can always be useful to have a power cord as well. Printers and copiers are available in the library.
10. Covid protocols for the Institute follow the rules of the State of Georgia for its public colleges and universities. Currently, the College has adapted CDC protocols for Covid

issues. You may wish to bring a test or two with you; free testing is available at the local public health facility.

Planning a month away from home is always challenging, but our past participants attest the benefits outweigh the efforts. Our goal is to form a community of scholars that will benefit each participant's professional growth for years to come.