

George Mason University
History 695: Issues in American History
April 2007 — April 2008

Loudoun County Public Schools
Teaching American History Project
Cohort C

Instructor: Dr. Wendi Manuel Scott
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Description of Course:

Participants in *Foundations of US History: Virginia History as American History*, the Loudoun County Public Schools Teaching American History project, will focus on content areas including American Indian history, George Washington, founding documents, antebellum era, slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, urbanization and modernization, Jim Crow, the Progressive era, the Depression, World War II, post-war America, civil rights, and the 1960s. They will learn innovative teaching strategies to enhance history education and explore exciting methods for teaching with a range of documents, from traditional to non-traditional (including texts, photographs, oral history, quantitative history, and online resources). Participants will read history books and articles, conduct research, write reflection essays for all book groups and workshops, infuse two lesson plans with online primary sources, and create an in-depth, multiple-day lesson plan.

Concepts and Skills:

- analyzing primary sources
- learning history content
- conducting research
- creating lesson plans
- finding high quality primary sources online
- teaching effectively with primary sources

Assignments:

- Attend 2-day Summer Institute
- Read assigned books and articles;
- Attend keynote lecture and film and history workshops;
- Write reflections on Summer Institute, keynote lecture, film and history workshops, and readings;
- Develop two primary source activities and create a case study for each;
- Participate in evaluation surveys; and
- Share with colleagues in school and district.

Readings:

A Reader's Companion to American History edited by Eric Foner

Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts by Sam Wineburg
Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies by Mark C. Carnes
History Matters by Alan Gevinson, Kelly Schrum, Roy Rosenzweig

Additional articles for each workshop to be assigned.

Course Meeting Times

Meeting Times

April 2007

April 25, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

- Orientation to discuss project requirements and website.
- Teachers receive project books.

June 2007

Summer Institute, LCPS and GMU Loudoun Campus, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

June 25:

- “Historical Thinking Skills,” with GMU Professor T. Mills Kelly
- “Locating and Analyzing Online Sources,” with GMU Professor Sharon Leon

June 26:

- “Analyzing Online Primary Sources,” with GMU Professor Sharon Leon
- “Using Primary Sources in the Classroom,” with GMU Professor T. Mills Kelly

June 30:

- Post online reflection on first two days of Summer Institute

July 2007

- Research for primary source activities

August 2007

- Submit summary of two primary source activities to teach during September or October

September 2007

- Teach primary source activities
- Submit case studies about experience teaching each primary source activity

October 2007

- If not done in September, teach and write about primary source activities

October 17, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.:

- Annual Keynote Lecture, “Virginia History as American History,” with Suzanne Lebsock

October 20:

- Keynote lecture reflection due

November 2007

November 14, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.:

- Historical film workshop on *Vietnam* with GMU Professor Meredith Lair
- Post film workshop reflection and respond to postings

February 2008

February 6, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.:

- Historical film workshop on *Native Americans* in film with GMU Professor Paula Petrik
- Post film workshop reflection and respond to postings

April 2008

April 10: 5:00 – 7:00 pm:

- Closing Reception from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.