

# HISTORY AS INQUIRY

## Ashland University Course

**Instructor:** Matthew I. Doran (mdoran@ashland.edu; 614.286.3623)

**Meeting Dates/Times/Location:** February 27, March 6 (online - 5:30-7:00), March 13, March 20, March 27, 4-7 p.m. Northgate Center, 6655 Sharon Woods Blvd.

**Graduate Workshop Credit:** 1 Semester Hour; Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

**Course Description:** This course is designed to help teachers prepare their students for the Historical Thinking and Skills standards Ohio's New Learning Standards and the Literacy in History/Social Studies standards in the ELA Common Core State Standards. Participants will explore current issues in historiography (historical thought and method) and history pedagogy for the classroom, with an emphasis on inquiry-based strategies.

### Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

- Distinguish between the past (events) and history (accounts).
- Define historical thinking and recognize the challenges in developing students' historical thinking skills.
- Utilize the five habits of historical thinking to investigate historical questions.
- Develop an inquiry-based approach to history instruction.

**Course Requirements:** To receive a satisfactory grade, participants must attend all sessions, participate in class discussions, and develop an original inquiry-based activity.

### Texts:

Lesh, Bruce. *"Why Won't You Just Tell Us the Answer?": Teaching Historical Thinking in Grades 7-12*. Stenhouse Publishers. 2011

Ward, Kyle. *Not Written in Stone: Learning and Unlearning American History through 200 Years of Textbooks*. The New Press. 2010

### Schedule:

Session 1: Wednesday, February 27, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 pm - Introducing Historical Thinking

Welcome and Introduction; What is History? Why Study History? History as a Humanizing Agent; Historical Investigation

Session 2: Wednesday, March 6, 2012, Online, 5:30 - 7:00 pm - Why Won't You Just Tell Us the Answer?

Readings: Lesh, Chapters 1-3

Topics: Introducing Historical Thinking; Text, Context and Context; Evaluating Evidence

Session 3: Wednesday, March 13, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 pm - Chronological Thinking and Causality/Multiple Perspectives

Readings: Lesh, Chapters 4-6, pp. 75-136; Any chapter of Ward

Topics: Causality, Counterfactual and Alternative History; Historiography; Multiple Perspectives

Session 4: Wednesday, March 20, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Quest

Topics: Local History as National History; Field work

Session 5: Wednesday, March 27, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 pm - Conclusion

Readings: Lesh, Chapters 9-10, pp. 181-210

Topics: Historical Investigations vs. Sleep; Overcoming Barriers to Change  
Inquiry Assignment Presentation