

2013 Syllabus for Pre-AP Social Studies

July 22 – 25, 2013

Institute Overview

This course will focus on bringing Pre-AP ideals into the concrete realities of the public (or other) school Social Studies classroom. Because we teach so many different subjects, we will focus on strategies and skills rather than specific content elements. The week will include some discussions of the realities of state testing and the potential impact of Common Core on our classrooms and our students.

Institute Goals

We'll look at the meaning and purpose of "Pre-AP" and ways to balance content and skill-building in classes of all levels. While theories and goals are important, practical, effective strategies and ideas will be priorities. Most of the institute will consist of "doing" rather than "listening", in hopes of better understanding student perspectives in our own classrooms.

Consultant Background



Dallas Koehn has been teaching various Social Studies and History classes at Union Public Schools in Tulsa, OK, for 13 years. His classes have included "Academic", ELL, and Pre-AP sections, and he's been a consultant for the College Board for a good chunk of that time. As "Instructional Team Leader" (the latest Educationese for "Department Head"), he's worked with his department to implement Pre-AP strategies at all levels to various degrees - a work always "still in progress." Dallas has worked with both the State Social Studies and Fine Arts Conference and numerous school districts in Oklahoma and Texas to throw as many starfish back in the ocean as possible - whether they wish to go or not. He is National Board Certified and is fairly tolerable after enough caffeine.

What participants should bring:

- Please bring your best lesson plan or idea
- Your greatest challenge, insecurity, or weakness in the classroom (don't worry—we'll be gentle)
- Stuff to write with and on for various activities

Tentative Institute Schedule

Note: This schedule may be adjusted based on the wants, needs and interests of participants as expressed during the institute.

Monday

- What do we want our students to know or be able to do?
- What is "Pre-AP" and what does it mean in practice?
- The Four Skills of Pre-AP
- Practicing Inquiry
- Basic Document Analysis

- Approaching Charts, Cartoons, and Other Visual Sources

Tuesday

- Pre-Reading Strategies
- During Reading Strategies
- Post-Reading Strategies
- Manipulating Information for Better Understanding (i.e., Artsy-Fartsy Stuff)

Wednesday

- Quick-Writes and the 30 Minute Research Paper
- Writing a Basic Historical (Argumentative) Thesis
- FRQs, DBQs, PARCC, CCSSI, and Other Acronyms
- Computer Lab: Implementing the Four Skills

Thursday

- Common Core Anchor Standards for Reading & Writing in the Social Sciences
- Overview of AP and AP Exams
- Sharing Is Caring
- Wrap-Up and Implementation

Graduate Credit Option

Participants may also earn three graduate education hours for the Pre-AP Summer Institute from Washburn University for a reduced tuition rate and the successful completion of an academic assignment.

Additional Information

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