

2009 Teacher Institute Seminar offerings

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) 2009 Summer Teacher Institute

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) announces its **2009 Summer Teacher Institute**, a professional development program for the state's K-12 teachers and librarians, located for the first time on the campus of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. The Teacher Institute is designed to support teachers working with increasingly diverse student populations, offering insights and encouraging discussion about 19th and 20th century political and social history, uses of technology in the classroom, contemporary youth culture, and the development of our nation and its policies.

"The Teacher Institute challenges teachers to think critically about history, literature, and other humanities disciplines," says NJCH Executive Director Jane Brailove Rutkoff. "Our hope is that teachers return to the classroom with the resources they need to nurture cultural understanding and encourage community participation."

Teacher Seminars

The six-day residential Summer Seminars at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey provide a stimulating immersion experience with ample time for discussion, writing and curriculum workshops, field trips, and conversation with colleagues. Past courses have featured such events as a teleconference with former United States Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and a field trip to "Thurgood" on Broadway. These content-rich summer courses are designed to inform teachers about recent scholarship in their fields and to help them incorporate new knowledge into their classroom teaching. Books, materials, and room and board are included in this tuition-free program.

The 20th Century and the African American Experience, Sunday, July 5

Friday, July 10, Led by Dr. Clement Price, Professor of History at Rutgers University/Newark, this seminar explores the impact African Americans have had on the modern era through their culture, their movement across the nation, their idealism and their tenacious social activism. Teachers examine the great achievements and challenges that marked the life and times of African Americans and the transformation of American race relations in the twentieth century.

Washington and Lincoln: Presidents and Slavery, Sunday, July 12 -Friday, July 17

In this year of the Bicentennial of his birth, it is clear that the memory and symbolic importance of Abraham Lincoln is central to American culture and history. George Washington also remains one of our most revered founding fathers. Led by Dr. Graham Hodges, Professor of History at Colgate University, this seminar will examine these presidents' lives and careers in the historical and social context of their times. Particular focus will be placed on Washington and Lincoln's relationship with the institution of slavery, both publicly and privately.

Coming of Age Literature, Sunday, July 19 - Friday, July 24

Led by Dr. Laura Nicosia, Professor of English at Montclair State University, this seminar explores modern and contemporary portrayals of adolescents in coming-of-age literature and in the popular media. Participants analyze recent research on the challenges and opportunities faced by today's youth. Teachers also discuss how coming-of-age literature can be used to engage students in the language arts Classroom and how to create communities of learning.

Literature and Democracy, Sunday, July 26 - Friday, July 31

This seminar, led by Dr. Jacqueline Zubeck, Professor of English at The College of Mount Saint Vincent, examines short stories, poetry, and one-act plays through the lens of the Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, which provides the framework for American citizenship and implies the necessity of an informed, literate and expressive populace.

The Teacher Institute programs have been endorsed by the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Professional Development Institute and are supported with

funding from the State of New Jersey and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NJCH, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, has been creating and funding a broad range of public humanities programs for the people of New Jersey since its founding in 1973. The Institute, begun in 1994, has held sixty-seven residential seminars and over eighty-five school-based programs for more than 3,300 educators from school districts throughout New Jersey.

The mission of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities is to serve the people of New Jersey by developing, supporting, and promoting projects that explore and interpret the human experience, foster cross-cultural understanding, and engage people in dialogue about matters of individual choice and public responsibility.

For more information about the Teacher Institute, contact NJCH Program Officer Mary Grace Whealan at (609) 695-4838 or e-mail mwhealan@njch.org.

Information is also available at www.njch.org/teacher.html.