George Mason University
Department of History and Art History
History 523: Hidden in Plain Sight

Spring 2013
January 22, 2013 – May 14, 2013
3 Graduate Credits

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"Hidden in Plain Sight" is an asynchronous, online course designed for history and social studies teachers. In this course, teachers explore America's past by examining everyday objects that address different periods in history. There are no in-person class meetings; all course work is completed through the course website.

Course Structure

The course is designed as a series of ten online modules. The first module focuses on historical thinking; the remaining nine modules explore U.S. history through everyday objects. Each module contains resources, readings, and activities to guide you through historical content, engage you in the historical inquiry process, and provide opportunities to think about classroom applications. After finishing the historical thinking module, you may complete the remaining modules in any order.

Course Readings:


Course Requirements

All students enrolled in Hidden in Plain Sight are expected to work through ten modules and complete all required assignments, including the final project. The course will proceed through the modules according to the schedule below and all work must be completed by May 14, 2013.

Assignments in each module include:

1. Introduction: Write a hypothesis about the object’s significance in history.
2. Resources: Explore resources that uncover the historical context for each object.
3. Article: Read assigned articles to build a deeper understanding of historical context and then analyze the article and what it reveals about the module’s central object.
4. Quiz: Complete the quiz to review historical content.
5. Rethink: Reflect on what you have learned about the object’s significance in history and revise your hypothesis.
6. Connections Essay: Read a short essay to learn more about the topic.
7. Classroom Connections: Write a discussion of classroom applications.
8. Wrap-up: Read what other teachers have posted on the topic and respond.

Final Project:

Design a module exploring the hidden history of an everyday object. Each participant will select an object, conduct background research into the historical context, write descriptive text, select images, and create quiz questions for the final module. Participants will submit pieces throughout the semester, receive feedback, and revise for the final submission. Due dates are listed on the course schedule.
**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Module</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Complete Module 1 (<em>Historical Thinking Skills</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Complete Module 2 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<td>Submit proposed final project primary source to the instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Complete Module 3 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<td>Submit list of resources section items and annotated bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Complete Module 4 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Complete Module 5 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<td>Submit draft narrative text for resources section items</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Complete Module 6 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Complete Module 7 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<td>Submit draft connections essay and quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Complete Module 8 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>Complete Module 9 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Complete Module 10 (<em>selected individually</em>)</td>
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<td>Submit all final project materials</td>
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