



Holocaust Education

Course Syllabus

Course Description

The purpose of this professional development course is to equip educators with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to teach the Holocaust effectively, while also addressing broader themes of justice. Drawing on historical events and the concept of the Wassmuth Center's Spiral of Injustice, participants will draft a unit on the Holocaust for their students. By the end of this course, educators will have developed the beginnings of a unit plan that not only teaches the historical context of the Holocaust but also uses the Spiral of Injustice as a guiding framework to foster critical thinking, empathy, and social responsibility in their students.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in historical pedagogy by preparing educators to teach Holocaust history with accuracy, sensitivity, and contextual depth.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Analyze the importance of Holocaust education, with a focus on best practices, while exploring the role of 'The Spiral of Injustice' in contextualizing patterns of prejudice and oppression.
2. Gain a comprehensive understanding of key events and historical context of the Holocaust, while considering how to teach these important ideas to students.
3. Explore how to use primary sources and continue to gain a comprehensive understanding of key events and historical context of the Holocaust.
4. Understand what it means to treat someone as "other," analyze the role of language in perpetuating the Spiral of Injustice, and develop enduring understandings and an essential question to guide a unit of study.
5. Understand the role of avoidance in the Spiral of Injustice, and continue building a unit by choosing standards, crafting an essential question, and developing enduring understandings.
6. Understand the role of discrimination in the Spiral of Injustice, and continue building a unit by developing a culminating assignment and assessments.
7. Understand the role of violence in the Spiral of Injustice, and continue building a unit by deciding how to sequence learning for students.
8. Understand the role of elimination in the Spiral of Injustice, and sequence lesson topics in a unit plan template.

Modules

- Module 1: Introduction to Holocaust Education, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Planning for Holocaust Education: Part 1, Quiz 2



- Module 3: Planning for Holocaust Education: Part 2, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Unraveling the Spiral: Exploring Othering & Language, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Unraveling the Spiral: Exploring Avoidance, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Unraveling the Spiral: Exploring Discrimination, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Unraveling the Spiral: Exploring Violence, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Unraveling the Spiral: Understanding Elimination, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.