



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

August 23, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Studies: Thinking Historically about Virginia – An Interactive Online History Course; Preregistration by September 6, 2013

Virginia Studies: Thinking Historically about Virginia, an interactive online course for Virginia teachers, will be offered this fall. This class supports the Virginia Standards of Learning for teaching Virginia Studies and is designed to help teachers incorporate more Virginia history into the curriculum. Participants who complete the course will be eligible for license renewal points. The course is also available through George Mason University for three graduate credits, with tuition paid by participants.

The class will be offered on the Internet at <http://virginiastudies.org>. Registration may be completed online at that Web site. Teachers may preregister by September 6, 2013, and the first module assignment is due September 30, 2013. The course ends December 9, 2013.

For teachers desiring recertification points only, participants work through seven modules. In each module, requirements include writing a hypothesis, exploring historical materials, completing a quiz, and reflecting on classroom applications. The cost is \$40. Preregistration should be completed by September 6, 2013, at <http://virginiastudies.org>.

Teachers interested in earning three graduate credits through George Mason University will participate in a related course with seven modules and will design and produce a module on the hidden history of a primary source from Virginia's past for the final project. The cost is \$800 for Virginia residents and \$875 for out-of-state residents. Pre-registration should be completed by September 6, 2013, at <http://virginiastudies.org/content/graduate-credit-pre-registration>.

For more information, please contact Betsy Barton, specialist, history and social science, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454; or contact Dr. Kelly Schrum at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, by e-mail at kschrum@gmu.edu or by telephone at (703) 993-4521.

PIW/BSB/vdg