PRIMARY SOURCE SEMINAR

The Division of Cultural Resources at the Morristown National Historical Park would like to introduce the installment of our newest educational program, Primary Source Seminar. We believe that providing young people the occasion to study historical manuscripts firsthand is invaluable, and with our extensive manuscript collection, our library is able to offer such an opportunity.

The primary goal of our seminar is to provide a skill-building workshop for students of history. We aim to guide students through source use and analysis activities that will lead students toward effective and meaningful primary source investigation. Our archives tutorial program provides students the unique perspective of working with authentic, unedited eighteenth- and nineteenth-century manuscripts from our own Lloyd W. Smith Archival Collection.
Theme: Exploring Human Rights in America. In the twenty-first century, the universal right of the individual is a generally accepted premise, but this has not always been the case. As history informs us, the definition of “human rights” has not always held the same currency and therefore, historically, not all individuals have been treated with equal concern. The current conception of “human rights” did not come into its common notion until the twentieth century. Primary Source Seminar emphasizes the changing conceptions of human rights as revealed through historical documents. We encourage an open discussion of human rights by exploring some of the definitions societies have proposed, and we discuss the types of world events, legal-ethical codes, political systems, and cultural conventions that affect those definitions. For our Primary Source Seminar, we have intentionally chosen documents from our collection to springboard our discussion of human rights. These documents pertain to three groups historically on the margins in terms of access to human rights in America: Native Americans, African Americans, and Women.

Objectives: Primary Source Seminar is designed to give advanced placement students and teachers the unique perspective of working with authentic, unedited eighteenth- and nineteenth-century manuscripts from our own Lloyd W. Smith Archival Collection. As primary document analysis is an important component of the AP U.S. History curriculum, we are in the unique position to offer teachers a vitally useful resource. Through the Primary Source Seminar, we aim to guide students through source use and analysis activities that will lead students toward effective and meaningful primary source investigation. Though we choose to focus on manuscripts pertaining to Native American, African American, and Women's issues, we do not claim to be experts on these topics. Our seminar focuses primarily on modes of document analysis. The purpose of our endeavor is not to act as historical authorities or to seek definitive answers, but rather to inspire productive inquiry generated through document analysis.

Students and Teachers: Primary Source Seminar is designed specifically for the benefit of AP U.S. History students, Honors history students, and advanced students taking general education courses. Using the College Board APUSH course description and input from area APUSH teachers as our guide, we have put together a program which complements the current APUSH curriculum. By providing access to our resources, we can provide a unique and valuable learning experience for advanced students of history. Our Primary Source Seminar allows us to open our archives to America's future historians and cultural heritage leaders.

* Our program largely caters to advanced students of history and their teachers, but we eagerly welcome all mature groups of high school and college level students.

Primary Source Seminar at Morristown National Historical Park offers both teacher workshops and student seminars.

Scheduling A Student Seminar  Teacher Workshop
What Primary Source Seminar can offer:

- Firsthand experience with authentic, unedited historical documents
- Instruction on primary document care and handling from experts in the field
- An exclusive look at documents pertaining to Native American, African American, and Women’s issues
- Interaction with a professional institution—similar to what students will experience at the university level
- Experience working with non-classroom educators, in the broader community setting
- A tour of an active rare-books library and archives
- Training in primary document analysis

Scheduling:

Seminar sessions will be held by appointment only. We will try to accommodate all seminar requests. Because we have a relatively small curatorial staff, we can only accommodate one seminar group (not to exceed twenty-five students) at one time. For larger groups please call and make special arrangements.

Classes attending the Primary Source Seminar must be accompanied by at least one educator who has attended the teacher workshop.

Seminar appointments may be scheduled with:

Sarah Minegar
Museum Technician/
Program Coordinator
Morristown NHP
Sarah_Minegar (at) nps (dot) gov
973-539-2016 x 215
973-539-8361(fax)

or

Jude M. Pfister, D.Litt.
Chief of Cultural Resources
Morristown NHP
Jude_Pfister (at) nps (dot) gov
973-539-2016 x 204

Registration form: [PDF]
Teacher Workshops:

We recently began offering teacher workshops at Morristown National Historical Park Library. Our workshops are designed to familiarize educators with our educational program, Primary Source Seminar, and to provide teachers with resources and valuable training in primary source use in the classroom.

If you and your students would like to participate in Primary Source Seminar or if you'd like to learn more about integrating primary sources into your lesson plans, please sign up for our next workshop.

Date: For the most-up-to-date information, visit www.primarysourceseminar.blogspot.com

Location: 30 Washington Place, Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4299
*Please use the main entrance, located on the south side of the building.

Contact: Sarah Minegar
Museum Technician/Program Coordinator
Morristown NHP
Sarah_Minegar (at) nps (dot) gov
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973-539-2016 x 204

Registration form: (PDF) online

Professional Development Provider:

The Primary Source Seminar Teacher Workshop is a full day workshop and counts toward 6 professional development hours.

Note: The Primary Source Seminar Teacher Workshop was registered with the New Jersey Department of Education under provider number 7037, but after the adoption of N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15 the NJDOE is no longer registering professional development providers. According to NJDOE “It is now the responsibility of districts, schools or individuals to review the credentials of the providers and make their own determinations of suitability and level of expertise.”

NJDOE Professional Development Provider Page
The Primary Source Seminar Blog is the latest installment of our program. Our blog is an interactive space for us to connect with teachers in the community. We use this site to connect teachers with resources and to post information about upcoming events. Teachers are able to leave comments on our page that other readers and the curatorial staff may address.

www.primarysourceseminar.blogspot.com

Visit us online at http://www.nps.gov/morr/forteachers/index.htm or get the most up-to-date info on our blog http://primarysourceseminar.blogspot.com/