ENG 579: The Road Not Taken: 
A Conference on Best Practices for Middle and High School English Teachers

Conference Title/Name: The Road Not Taken: Best Practices for Middle and High School English Teachers

Instructor of Record: Dr. Eden Wales Freedman

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Course Credit: 0.5 graduate credits

Dates & Times: April 15, 2016
9:00 am – 4:00 pm (w/working lunch)

Due Date for Materials: May 13, 2016
See Attached Conference Schedule

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
“The Road Not Taken” explores best practices for middle and high school English teachers. Following a keynote address by former U.S. Congressman, John Salazar, conference attendees will consider new and productive ways to teach literature, composition, creative writing, and special topics. The instructor of record, Dr. Wales Freedman, will lead participants in a discussion of how to treat—and defend the pedagogical value of—banned and challenged literature in middle and high school classrooms. Following the conference, students will select a banned or challenged text that they would like to teach and will explicate their pedagogical choice in a brief essay.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Eden Wales Freedman is an Assistant Professor of American Literature at Adams State University. Before joining ASU in 2014, Dr. Wales Freedman taught Composition at Boston College and Literature at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Wales Freedman also served as a high-school English teacher at St. Mark’s High School (Wilmington, DE) and as the Principal of Boston International Academy (Brighton, MA). As a teacher, professor, and administrator, Dr. Wales Freedman has long upheld the pedagogical value of engaging contentious literature in the safe space of the middle-school, high-school, and university classroom.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify practical strategies for teaching middle and high school English students.

2. Determine new and productive ways to teach literature, composition, creative writing, and/or special topics.

3. Appraise the relevance of banned and challenged literature to contemporary concerns and pedagogical debates.

4. Develop practical skills in teaching banned and challenged literature in the middle and high school classroom.

5. Justify the pedagogical value of a banned or challenged text to concerned parties, such as parents, principals, or school boards.

TEXTS, READINGS, INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:
Following the conference, participants will select a historically banned or challenged text that they would like to teach to middle or high school students. They will read this text (if they have not already) and research the history of why it has been banned or challenged. They should also craft a proposal, as part of the paper, as to why it should be included in the curriculum of the course they teach.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
In order to receive a Passing grade, the participant must:

1. Attend the conference and breakout sessions.

2. Actively participate in discussions and activities during breakout sessions.

3. Attend Dr. Wales Freedman’s presentation on teaching contentious texts to middle and high school English students.

4. Select a historically banned or challenged text to teach to middle or high school English students.

5. Write a 4-5 page, double-spaced typed paper (in MLA format) defending their choice of text to concerned parties (e.g., parents, principals, or school boards). Writing this paper requires students to demonstrate a full understanding of why a selected text has been banned or challenged in the past and what pedagogical value it offers middle or high school English students today.
GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

Grade Distribution:
- Conference Attendance: 10%
- Participation: 10%
- Final Project: 80%

Grade Scale:
Grading will be Pass/Fail: Full attendance at the conference and a minimum score of 80% is required to pass.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE: Attached.