

**FACDIS International Studies Summer Institute for Teachers**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 4, 2015**

***The Middle East: Where to start? How to teach?***

**June 21-June 26, 2015**

**Blackwater Falls State Park**

**Program Description**

*The Middle East: Where to start? What to teach*? will focus on a most complicated, controversial and crisis-ridden part of the world. Unquestionably, teachers cannot ignore an area that involves religious differences, military involvements, diplomatic tensions, negotiating opportunities, and international complexities—all in a volatile setting of disturbing demographics. Still, few of us understand even the basic religious beliefs of the majority in various parts of this region, much less so much else. Yet, we owe our students at least some well-founded insights into this area, its people and problems.

Although no short course on the Middle East can hope to provide a comprehensive foundation for this most complex part of the world, this week-long institute for pre-collegiate teachers aims to expand knowledge and enhance teaching strategies. It is designed primarily for middle and high school teachers who wish to incorporate this knowledge into their curricula. As always, however, it is open to teachers at all levels of instruction, K-12.

Heading the summer staff is Dr. Karen Culcasi, an assistant professor of geography in the WVU Department of Geology and Geography. She completed her doctoral degree at Syracuse University in 2008. Broadly speaking, her research focuses on geopolitical issues in the Middle East, her most recent research projects examining issues of identity for Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Jordan. Her teaching assignments include a large lecture course on world regions, smaller undergraduate courses on the Middle East and political geography, and a graduate seminar on geopolitical theories. She has also led WVU undergraduates to Jordan and the United Arab Emirates on three different occasions. When not focused on teaching and research, she is “joyfully exploring the world with my daughter, Ayla, her son, Milo, and her fellow geographer husband, Brenden McNeil.” (Brenden, an expert on climate change, headed our institute last summer.)

Also part of the teaching staff will be specialists on Islam, Iran, and other key issues of the region. For pedagogical assistance, the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, will provide experts to aid us in practical classroom applications.

**The Sponsor: FACDIS**

The West Virginia Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies (FACDIS) is sponsoring, for the 27th summer, a Summer Institute for Teachers on an international topic. FACDIS is devoted to improving international education in West Virginia, and furthers its mission by providing professional development opportunities for our state’s teachers. Funding is from the State Legislature to FACDIS for the summer international study program.

**Blackwater Falls State Park**

Blackwater Falls State Park is named for the falls of the Blackwater River whose amber-colored waters plunge five stories then twist and tumble through an eight-mile-long gorge. Numerous observation points afford panoramic views of the half-mile wide canyon. Stairways and boardwalks lead to the base of the falls for an awe-inspiring, close-up view. Blackwater Lodge sits on the canyon’s south rim, providing a sweeping view of the densely forested gorge. Blackwater Falls is located in the scenic, mountainous Potomac Highlands in Davis, West Virginia on Rt. 32. For further information: [www.blackwaterfalls.com](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com).

**Application Information**

To apply, visit us online at:

<http://facdis.wvu.edu/professional-development/summer-institute>

**Employment Certification Letter from Principal:**

Your application will not be complete without a letter from your principal stating that you are employed in a regular and on-going position. This letter can be sent by regular mail, fax, or direct email (from the principal) to Gretchen Peterec.

Mailing address:

Gretchen Peterec, FACDIS Assistant Director

Department of Political Science

WVU, PO Box 6317

Morgantown, WV 26506-6317

Fax: 304-293-8644

E-mail: [gretchen.peterec@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:gretchen.peterec@mail.wvu.edu)

**Personal Statement:**

Applicant must submit a personal statement of about 250 words explaining why you wish to attend, and how you plan to incorporate institute information into the courses you teach. This can either be done with the online application or sent directly to [gretchen.peterec@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:gretchen.peterec@mail.wvu.edu).

**Credit:**

Three hours of *free* graduate credit (History 930: *The Middle East: Where to start? How to teach?*) will be offered for participation in the institute. Credit will be arranged through the WVU Office of Online and Extended Campus. Professional development graduate credit is offered, which can be used for re-certification and salary increments, but cannot be used as credit toward a graduate degree program.

**Eligibility:**

Social studies teachers, as well as teachers of other subjects, who indicate **how** they will utilize the institute material in class, are eligible to apply.

**Selection of Participants:**

The personal statements will be taken into consideration during the applicant selection process. Relevance of the program to the applicant’s teaching responsibilities will also be a consideration.

Space is available for up to 40 teachers.

**What Will Teachers Receive?**

* Three hours professional development graduate credit through WVU.
* Tuition-fee waivers for credit.
* Free double-occupancy lodging and meals at Blackwater Falls State Park.
* Teaching resource materials and texts.

**What are Costs to the Teachers?**

* $20 professional development fee to WVU Office of Online and Extended Campus for summer 2015 admission to receive professional development graduate credit.
* Cost of transportation to/from home to Blackwater Falls State Park.
* Recreational amenities at Blackwater Falls.

**Final Course Requirement:**

Teaching units with detailed lesson plans for five to seven class periods will be due to the FACDIS office by **Friday, July 31, 2015**.

**University Admission Procedures:**

After teachers have been accepted to the Summer Institute, they will be informed of the University admission procedures by the WVU Office of Online and Extended Campus. Teachers needing to be admitted will be responsible for the professional development fee for graduate admission.

**Application:**

To apply please visit us online at: <http://facdis.wvu.edu/professional-development/summer-institute>***.*** The application and the personal statement are due by **May 4th.**  A letter of employment certification from your principal must also be received by the FACDIS office.

**Feel free to forward this information to colleagues who you think might also be interested**

**in attending our *The Middle East: Where to start? How to teach?***

**Summer Institute for Teachers.**