



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2024

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals Michigan
Pre-K-12 Educators

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Comprehensive History Instruction: New Webinar Series Begins March 2024

As members of a diverse state, nation, and world, educators and students need to know our rich, complex history. Children deserve to learn about the full breadth of U.S. and world history. As educators, we are responsible for teaching them the entire extent of our history, including about race, racism, sexism, and other difficult and challenging subjects.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) identifies teaching comprehensive history as an important effort supporting Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan and provides teachers with opportunities to expand their knowledge to educate students.

In April 2022, MDE launched its comprehensive history instruction webinar series to assist educators in learning about historical movements, events, and peoples that are part of the rich, diverse history of our country and world. Previous webinars can be accessed at MDE's [Teaching Comprehensive History website](#).

Beginning in March 2024, the series of free virtual webinars continues with the following topics (all times are in the Eastern Time Zone):

The Art of History in African American Life and Culture

[Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 4-5 p.m.](#)

[Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 4-5 p.m.](#)

[Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 4-5 p.m.](#)

This webinar series will explore the crucial relationship between art and history in African American life and culture. The presentation will include how African Americans utilized art as a crucial medium for expressing urgent political and social

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ideas about race, slavery, and freedom. In addition, the presentation will include ways that historians can use art as a source for teaching and learning about the past.

Women's Anti-Slavery Activism

[Wednesdays, May 1, 8, and 15, 2024, 4-5 p.m.](#)

This webinar series will look through the life and times of Harriet Jacobs to explore Black women's experiences in slavery, women's anti-slavery activism, and the importance of source material such as slave narratives. By learning about the history of Jacobs' famous slave narrative and looking at letters and other source material, participants will know more about Jacobs and her world full of women dedicated to radical social change.

Using Literacy to Enhance the Social Studies

[Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 4-5 p.m.](#)

This webinar will explore resources and pedagogy for using literature to create integrated lessons that build disciplinary literacy skills and, at the same time, expand the narrative to include marginalized voices and topics.

Civil Rights and Equal Rights

[Wednesdays, August 7, 14, and 21, 2024, 4-5 p.m.](#)

This webinar series will discuss how enslaved and free African Americans fought for civil and equal rights in the United States in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Topics include the struggle for equal rights in the North and West, African American conceptions of citizenship, Black political, economic, and social accomplishments during the Reconstruction Era, and the role of Black women in struggles over civil and equal rights.

The Bracero Program

[Wednesdays, September 4 and 11, 2024, 4-5 p.m.](#)

This webinar series will cover the history and impact of the U.S. temporary labor program, largely known as the Bracero Program. The sessions will chronicle why and how the program emerged, the actual elements of policy structure, who was impacted by the program, how the program influenced current migrant seasonal farm worker conditions, and how the policy contributed to other immigration-related policies.

Researching Women in Michigan's Labor Movements

[Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 4-5:30 p.m.](#)

*This webinar will use the novel *Women of Copper Country* and the non-fiction book *We Kept Our Towns Going* as springboards. We will demonstrate how to find and use primary and secondary sources from the Library of Michigan, MEL.org, and other online sources to delve into Michigan Women involved in labor history.*

Women's Experiences During the Holocaust

[Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 4-5:30 p.m.](#)

This webinar will share how the Holocaust was not gender neutral. Women experienced the Holocaust as women and were targeted differently as women. This webinar explores women's experiences under Nazi control and focuses on Jewish victims and survivors of the Holocaust, as well as women who risked their lives to resist hatred and help others during one of the darkest times in human history. Centering the experiences of women provides a more nuanced understanding of the Holocaust and its impact. Educators will learn how to incorporate women's stories into their Holocaust lessons.

Webinar content aligns with multiple grade levels of Michigan's K-12 social studies standards, approved by Michigan's State Board of Education in 2019. The Teaching Comprehensive History webinars can be helpful learning for educators in all roles and responsibilities. SCECHs will be available for those who attend.

The webinar series is produced in collaboration with institutions of higher education, cultural centers, and the 12 federally recognized tribes of Michigan that form the Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments to assist educators with teaching and learning about comprehensive history through thematic instruction. Supporter education organizations of the comprehensive history instruction series include the following:

- Michigan Council for the Social Studies
- Michigan Council for History Education
- Michigan Education Association
- AFT Michigan
- Michigan Elementary & Middle School Principals Association
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
- Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators
- Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity
- Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators
- Michigan Association for Media in Education
- Library of Michigan
- Michigan Library Association
- Michigan Academic Library Association

Each webinar session will feature a unique presentation on a given subject. Educators interested in a topic are encouraged to attend all associated sessions (e.g., May 1, 8, and 15 sessions of Women's Anti-Slavery Activism). Presenters will help educators learn more about movements in and aspects of history.

If you have questions regarding this support for the Teaching Comprehensive History learning series, please contact the Teaching Comprehensive History Webinar Series Team at MDE-TeachingComprehensiveHistory@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments