



ITALY READS

Scholarship for Professional Development Course for High School Teachers

Information and Misinformation in a Fake News World

Continuing the successful High School Collaboration programs offered by John Cabot University to high school teachers and students in Italy including the professional development resources currently offered, JCU is pleased to present this opportunity to High School teachers.

John Cabot University is offering 30 scholarships to attend a **Professional Development Course (30 hrs.)** entitled

Course Title: *Information and Misinformation in a Fake News World*

Instructor: Deanna Lee. Thirty years working in the media industry, as Chief Communications and Digital Strategies Officer at the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Vice President for the New York Public Library Communications, Marketing and Public Engagement Office, preceded by an extensive career in broadcast journalism, Lee has received eight Documentary Emmy Awards and served as Senior Producer at ABC News “World News Tonight with Peter Jennings” and International Producer for “Nightline”.

Course Description:

This course examines what it means to “read” nonfiction in a time of fake news, when information and misinformation are too often indiscernible in every area of knowledge today—from current events and politics, to academic research, science and medicine, media and communications—and even in our everyday relationships and lives.

Reading, says the Oxford English Dictionary, involves comprehending, understanding, and interpreting. How we do this, in a time when we have more information, in more formats and media, at our fingertips than ever before? In every class, we will read, analyze and discuss various media, from articles to images, reports, and Wikipedia-type research. We will place today’s so-called “post-fact” landscape in historical context, using examples of fake news from the past to begin addressing enduring yet evolving questions: What constitutes a trusted source? What and how does one “fact check?”

The course will focus on new and social media’s role in disseminating fake news. What responsibility do we have now that everyone is a communicator? Everyone shares. We will “read” examples of fake news, dissecting how it spreads, often unwittingly on the part of sharers, across social and technological borders and platforms, far and wide, and fast. At the same time, emphasis will be placed on the internet’s power to further positive discourse and debate in society. While many search out content that strengthens their own views, we will see how knowledgeable readers can play a vital role in teaching others to not only source, but seek out and share information from various viewpoints effectively and responsibly.

As fake news abounds in virtually every field today, course participants will present examples, ideally from their own reading experience, examining their genesis, dissemination, and discovery. Through the course, participants will track how fake news arises and spreads, but also gain insight into how it can be recognized, avoided, and used as cautionary lessons in being responsible readers, consumers, and sharers of information and learning today.

The course will be taught in English and take place from **16 January to 3 May 2018. It will meet from 4:30-6:00p.m. on Tuesdays.** Attendance at all class meetings is required. Applicants must currently teach in a *liceo* or high school.

Scholarship – Winners will receive a certificate of award and final certification of the total number of hours (30) of Professional Development. Participants will not receive a university transcript of university credit for this course.

Procedure for Application - Application Form and Essay. Applicants must fill in the form below and complete the essay as specified.

Review by Committee - The application and essay will be reviewed by the Executive Coordinator for High School Collaboration and by Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Mary Merva.

Applications for the scholarship must be received by JCU before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 11 December 2017. Scholarship winners will be announced before 15 December 2017.



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Applicant Information

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ CAP: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

High School Name: _____

How many years have you been a high school teacher? _____

Essay

In 1-2 pages, please discuss your previous experience with JCU's High School Collaboration programs (i.e. The Big Read Rome, Italy Reads, Italy Writes, Italy Pitches and the specifically for-ASL course for students *How to Write a CV and Cover Letter and How to Prepare for an Interview*). Explain how you felt your students and you benefited from the programs **OR** discuss how you feel your participation in this Professional Development Course could enhance your abilities as a teacher.

Please return the completed application by **11 December 2017** to one of the following:

- by email to: italyreads@johncabot.edu
- by fax to: 06 6832088 (Attention: Italy Reads)