



Oral History for Social Change

ONLINE TRAINING & CERTIFICATE

what is it?

The certificate program issued by the Institute for Diversity and Civic Life teaches learners how to use oral history as a tool to advance social justice. The certificate program is an **asynchronous 15-hour experience** on ReligionAndPublicLife.org that consists of **five on-demand courses**.

Each course takes 3 instructional hours to complete and follows the **e-learning WISE steps**. WISE is an acronym where each letter represents a type of instruction designed to help students **absorb and retain** information: W (watch), I (interact), S (study), and E (engage). Each course includes video, audio, interactive games, discussion, and course packs with resources and reading materials.

who is it for?

- **activists and community organizers** who want to strengthen their social justice toolkit and value the power of stories
- **scholars** who are familiar with qualitative methods, but want to learn more about oral history methods
- **public historians** who are considering creating their own oral history archive
- **students** eager to learn more about storytelling as research method

who created it?

Eleonora Anedda: IDCL Oral Historian
M.A. in Oral History from Columbia University

Dr. Elizabeth M. Melton: ACLS Leading Edge Fellow
Ph.D. in Communication from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Tiffany Puett: IDCL Executive Director
Ph.D. in Religious Studies, University of Waterloo

This certificate is made possible by ReligionAndPublicLife.org, a project of 1791 Delegates and The Foundation for Religious Literacy.

how much does it cost?

Individual Course - \$56
Complete Certificate - \$224

how do I enroll?

Visit <https://www.bookstore.religionandpubliclife.org/partners/idcl/>





Oral History for Social Change

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HUM 301: Introduction to Oral History

Explore the origins of Oral History as a formal methodology and narrative research approach.

KEY TERMS: storytelling, memory, orality, history, archive

KEY PEOPLE: Zora Neale Hurston, Alessandro Portelli, Linda Shopes



Instructional Videos

What is Oral History?

Provides historical overview of the development of oral history as a distinct field and introduces the components of an oral history interview.

Learn The Jargon

Defines key concepts like history, memory, orality, archive, and storytelling.

Meet the Faculty

Introduces IDCL's team.



Podcasts

Tips & Tricks: Getting Started & Required Technology

Learn what you need to start your own oral history project.

Scholar Highlight: Alessandro Portelli

Review Portelli's key contributions to oral history, consider the reliability of oral history, and unpack the value of misremembering.

Precursors to Oral History:

The Federal Writers' Project & Zora Neale Hurston

Includes David Taylor's Oral History Review blogpost about the roots of oral history practice, a review of the Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, and reviews Hurston's unique interdisciplinary approach to the narrative arts.



Course Pack Materials

A Short Introduction to Oral History By Eleonora Anedda

A History of Oral History: Episode Two By Eleonora Anedda

Oral History As Qualitative Method By Elizabeth Melton

More on "Official History," Memory, and Storytelling By Elizabeth Melton

Oral History Resources By IDCL Team



Featured Resources

Oral History Association ~ StoryCorps ~ Texas Oral History Association ~ Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage at University of Southern Mississippi ~ Columbia Center for Oral History Research and Oral History Master of Arts at Columbia University ~ Institute for Oral History at Baylor University ~ Southern Oral History Program and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ~ University of North Texas Oral History Program



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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HUM 302: Oral History and Social Justice

Investigate critical approaches for narrative driven social change and familiarize yourself with ethical frameworks for community-based oral histories.

KEY TERMS: decoloniality, feminism, indigeneity, sharing authority

KEY PEOPLE: Nēpia Mahuika, Michael Frisch, Farina King



Instructional Videos

Anti-Oppression Approaches

Consider the usefulness of anti-oppression language in an oral history project and reviews the significant contributions made by feminist, decolonial, and indigenous practitioners.

Oral History Ethics: Sharing Authority

Examine how sharing authority works in practice and consider the evolution of co-authorship.

Project to Know: Texas After Violence

Learn about Texas After Violence's radical approach to storytelling for prison reform.



Podcasts

Scholar Highlight: Nēpia Mahuika

Review and discussion of Dr. Mahuika's 2019 publication, *Rethinking Oral History and Tradition: An Indigenous Perspective*.

Practitioner Highlight: Tiffany Puett

Dr. Puett explains how she uses her work at IDCL to envision and create a more diverse narrative of Texas.

Practitioner Highlight: Farina King

Dr. King describes her work as an indigenous oral historian and discusses her passion for talking to the elders in her community.



Course Pack Materials

Oral History and Social Justice By IDCL Team

Decolonizing "The Archive" By Elizabeth Melton

Is Sharing Authority a Cop Out? By Mary Rizzo

Community Centered Storytelling: The Relationship Between Oral Histories and Social Cohesion By Ahmed Flex Omar and Andrew McDonald

Discovering Lived Religion in Texas Through Oral History by Tiffany Puett
Oral History Resources



Featured Resources

Kimberlé Crenshaw ~ Sherna Berger Gluck & Daphne Patai ~ Diana Taylor ~ Oral History Review Blog ~ Groundswell Oral History for Social Change ~ Native American Oral History Project ~ Voice of Witness: Amplifying Unheard Voices



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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HUM 303: Oral History Project Planning

Review best practices for designing a new research project, including seeking consent, identifying and recruiting narrators, and pre-interview preparation.

KEY TERMS: informed consent, release form, copyright, pre-interview

KEY PEOPLE: Summer Cherland, Patricia Leavy, Doug Boyd



Instructional Videos

Oral History Project Design

Learn about the ethics of oral history research and explore templates to learn how to design a successful research project.

Informed Consent and Formal Agreement (Release Form)

Consider who owns oral histories and learn techniques for getting written and verbal consent. This video addresses the essential components needed for an Oral History Formal Agreement (Release Form). Essential components are based on best practices within the field of oral history. Many projects may require additional information to make sure narrators have the best information before proceeding with an interview and/or gifting their final interview to an archive.

Design the Pre-Interview

Examine techniques for conducting background research and review templates for running interviews.



Podcasts

More and More Everyday Podcast by Dr. Summer Cherland

- Writing the Questions
- Pre-Interview Research: What Do You Need to Know?
- Pre-Interview Research: Questions based on the pre-interview phase



Course Pack Materials

Project Planning Overview By IDCL Team

- Oral Histories are NOT Data
- High Risk Projects

Planning Your Project: Everything You Need to Do Before Your Interviews

By Eleonora Anedda and Tiffany Puett

Oral History Formal Agreement (Release Form): Case Study By IDCL Team

A Creative Commons Solution By Jack Dougherty and Candace Simpson

Resources and Further Readings



Featured Resources

Oral History Association Principles and Best Practices ~ Oral History in the Digital Age ~ Smithsonian Center for Folklife Sample Release Form ~ The Victims of November ~ The Story of Her Skin



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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HUM 304: Conducting Oral History Interviews

Learn interviewing techniques, including listening and questioning styles, time management, and recording equipment.

KEY TERMS: interview, subjectivity, self-care

KEY PEOPLE: Luisa Passerini, Rimsha Syed, Valerie Yow, Martha Norkunas



Instructional Videos

Historical Context: Preparing for an Interview

Learn the do's and don'ts of interviewing and how to historically contextualize narrator's life histories.

Practice Self-Care and Set Professional Boundaries

Discover why it's important to take care of yourself as an interviewer and how to establish boundaries during the interview process.

Special Interview Scenarios

Develop strategies for coping with the following scenarios: 1) narrators who give short answers, 2) narrators with high emotions, 3) narrators you know personally, 4) narrators who share others' stories or speak critically of other persons, 5) narrators who are minors, 6) narrators who speak about active court cases.



Podcasts

Practitioner Highlight: Rimsha Syed

IDCL Oral Historian discusses her training as a journalist and experiences conducting oral history interviews.

Scholar Highlight: "Subjectivity" by Luisa Passerini

Review Passerini's works, *Memory and Utopia* and *Autobiography of a Generation*, and familiarize yourself with subjectivity and its practical "interference" in the interview setting.

More and More Everyday Podcast by Dr. Summer Cherland

- Using the Five Senses to Ask Questions
- Nuts and Bolts: The Interview Checklist
- Grey Areas- Questions You Can't Get Answered
- Oral Histories with Family Members



Course Pack Materials

"Do You Have Another Question?" Oral History Interviewing: Ethics and Best Practices By Eleonora Anedda

Interviewing: Our Experience By Eleonora Anedda

Hug Your Plant! and Other Self-Care Tips for Oral Historians in Lockdown

By Eleonora Anedda

Further Reading

IDCL Interview Guidelines



Featured Resources

The Oral History Reader, 3rd Edition ~ El Tamal ~ Pachamama Oral History Project
~ Luisa Passerini's work: Multiple Memories of Europe and 1968: History, Memory, Autobiography.



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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HUM 305: Curating and Archiving Oral Histories

Learn how to process, transcribe, and code transcripts. Explore best practices for narrator follow-up, editing, and archiving. Identify engagement strategies for educating communities about your findings.

KEY TERMS: metadata, transcription, digital archives, creative curation

KEY PEOPLE: E. Patrick Johnson, Della Pollock, Van Wagner



Instructional Videos

Tips & Tricks: Creating Oral History Archives

Discover ways to process oral history interviews for the archive. Learn the importance of metadata and how to setup up and maintain a digital archive.

Transcribing Interviews: Part 1

Learn how to create accessible transcripts for your archives and explore a range of transcription software.

Transcribing Interviews: Part 2

In this video you will learn about poetic transcription and oral history performance, which can bring new life to a textual representation of an oral history interview.



Podcasts

Practitioner Highlight: Van Wagner

IDCL's Archival Coordinator talks to Eleonora Anedda about their work, eye for detail, dedication, and respect for the narrators.

Curating Oral Histories for Social Change

Projects highlighted in this video include podcasts, walking tours, digital and traveling exhibits, story maps, and performances.

Scholar Highlight: E. Patrick Johnson

Learn about E. Patrick Johnson's oral history collection and performance, *Sweet Tea* and *Pouring Tea*.



Course Pack Materials

Creating Your Own Archive: Where to Begin By IDCL Team

Oral History in the Digital Age: Suggested Readings By IDCL Team

From Website to Archive: Designing Metadata for the South Phoenix Oral History Project By Eleonora Anedda

Oral History Curation and Community Engagement By IDCL Team

"Performing Many Voices: Response-ability and Performing Others' Stories"

By Elizabeth Melton

IDCL Templates and Processing Guides

- Transcription and Uploading
- Metadata Information Template
- Post-Interview Guide for Narrators



Featured Resources

Marian Cheek Jackson Center ~ Midwest Queer Spaces ~ Holding the Baby ~ Muslims in Brooklyn ~ Yiddish Book Center ~ Baylor University Institute for Oral History Transcription Guide ~ Oral History Centre at University of Winnipeg Tutorials