

ALLISON COHEN

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL

MCLEAN, VA

Teacher: AP US Government

2005 – Present

Nature of Knowledge

Design instructional objectives and teaching strategies to meet assessed needs of students.

Sponsor, **Case Day Program**

- Responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with the Supreme Court of the United States to support a student mock oral argument of a case on the Court's current docket.
- Responsible for planning a day of presentations by outside scholars and professionals on issues related to the selected case.

Created, designed, and implemented a new elective course, **Nature of Knowledge.**

- Nature of Knowledge is a one-year introduction to philosophy elective which asks students to confront some of the big questions in philosophy.
- Curriculum focuses on questions surrounding: epistemology, ethics, applied ethics, metaphysics, logic, and political philosophy.

Design and provide training in **Argument Mapping** to improve the critical thinking skills of all students.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

Adjunct Professor

2015 – 2020

EDU 463/663 Principles of Effective Instruction. Instruct prospective teachers in best teaching practices.

BRUTON HIGH SCHOOL

WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Department Chairperson and Teacher

1996 – 2005

Department Chairperson:

1998 – 2005

Management of all aspects of the Social Studies department including interviewing potential candidates for teaching positions, mentoring new teachers, and evaluating the social studies faculty.

Coordinate efforts of the Social Studies Department to raise student achievement and their performance on standards-based testing.

Analyze testing data to target areas of need. Recommend and implement programmatic and instructional changes to meet the needs of all students.

Teacher:

1996 – 2005

Design instructional objectives and teaching strategies to meet assessed needs of students in the following subjects:

- Advanced Placement United States history, Virginia and United States history, International Relations, Introduction to Logic and Philosophy, United States government, and World History

Mentor, instruct, monitor, and evaluate student teachers during their training process.

Sponsored the Model United Nations team and the National Honor Society.

Designed an online course for United States history.

CONSULTING:

Thinker Analytix (2019 - Present)

Aid with the development of curricular materials and teacher training programs in argument mapping.

National Math and Science Institute (2017 – 2020)

Curriculum Specialist. Hired to write and lead teacher professional development and student study sessions to support New York City schools' 'AP For All' initiative. Work with New York City public school teachers and students to implement AP Government courses in underserved schools to diverse student populations.

**Intellectual Humility in Higher Ed.: Summer Institute in Philosophy (2017)
University of Connecticut**

Invited to teach one day of a summer seminar, organized by Mitch Green at the University of Connecticut, for high school teachers on political philosophy and the philosophy of law.

**National Humanities Center: Humanities in Class: A Guide to Thinking and Learning in the Humanities (2017)
Durham, NC**

Selected to serve on a team of teachers and professors to develop materials emphasizing the skills and scholarship of an exemplar philosophy course.

Maryland State Department of Education (2017) Cambridge, MD

Led a one-day professional development for Maryland educators using Street Law resources on three Supreme Court cases added to the Maryland state social studies curriculum. Provided teachers with content and strategies to effectively teach these three new cases.

National Endowment for the Humanities (2016) Washington, DC

Served on committee to review summer seminar and institute proposals and make recommendations as to which proposals should be accepted and funded.

CIEE College Study Abroad (2015, 2016, 2017) Washington, DC

Taught a one-day session on US Government and the rule of law to a group of international college students participating in this summer study abroad program.

Epic Questions: Mind, Meaning, and Morality (2013) Charlottesville, VA

Responsible for aiding teachers participating in this National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute to both synthesize the material presented and help them develop lesson plans based on that material.

CONFERENCE

PRESENTATIONS: Facilitating Productive Philosophical Discussion Using Argument Mapping (2017) Chicago, IL

Presented most recent data on the use of argument mapping to improve students' critical thinking skills with a focus on its impact in improving the quality of discussions on controversial issues.

Taking Determinism Seriously (2017) Chicago, IL

Presented a paper at the PLATO (Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization) biannual conference on the potential impact free will skepticism can have on rethinking our criminal justice system.

Professorial Presence**Grand Rapids, MI**

Invited to participate in a panel discussion exploring the importance of the professor in a student-centered classroom. From modeling norms to generating intrinsic interest in a subject, professors teach as much by what they do as by what they say.

Using John Rawls to Motivate Questions of Social Justice and Genetic Enhancement (2016)
Salt Lake City, UT

Delivered a paper at the SEAC (Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum) annual conference discussing how university professors can use Rawls' veil of ignorance as a method to motivate classroom discussions on the ethics of genetic enhancement with a focus on resource distribution.

The Capability Approach: How will we define human well-being as science redefines human potentiality? (2015)
Greenville, SC

Presented a paper at the SEAC (Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum) annual conference discussing Martha Nussbaum's capability approach and the potential impact scientific advancements will have on how we define human well-being as it relates to relevant functionings.

Using Argument Mapping to Improve Students' Critical Thinking Skills (2014)
Sedona, AZ

Selected to present a paper at the SEAC (Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum) annual conference on the use of argument diagramming. Presented research findings on improvement in student critical thinking using this method of instruction.

Incorporating Philosophy into the AP Government Curriculum: Affirmative Action (2013)
New Orleans, LA

Selected to present a paper at the PLATO (Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization) biannual conference on improving student critical thinking skills by incorporating philosophical concepts into the standard high school curriculum.

BOARD**MEMBERSHIPS:**

Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization, President, Board of Directors

Serve as the President of this national organization dedicated to nurturing young people's curiosity, critical thinking, and desire to explore big questions, through philosophy and ethics programs for students, educators, and families.

Street Law, Executive Board

Serve as a board member and consultant for this organization dedicated to enhancing and preserving civics education in this country and abroad.

- Developed lesson plans in conjunction with the launch of the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index.
- Conducted lessons on citizenship and law to international students participating in the CIEE exchange program.
- Introduced teachers to Langley's Case Day program as part of Street Law's Supreme Court Summer Institute for teachers.

Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum, Executive Committee

Support and facilitate the organization's goal to stimulate scholarship on ethics and the teaching of ethics in all academic disciplines and to afford an opportunity for the exchange of research.

COMMITTEE**Minority Student Achievement Task Force**, member**MEMBERSHIPS:**

Analyzed county division data to determine areas of need and developed strategies to reduce the achievement gap at all levels of instruction.

Instructional specialist, York County Public Schools

Responsible for conducting professional development in York County Schools targeted at improving the performance of NCLB subgroups on state SOLs using research based best practices for teachers.

Educational Operating Plan, Chairperson of Student Achievement

Analyzed Bruton High School's testing data to develop a two year action plan aimed at improving student achievement. Targets for improvement included providing a curricular safety net for underachieving students and improving divergent higher-order thinking.

GRANTS:**National Endowment for the Humanities**, participant 2011

Epic Questions: Mind, Meaning, and Morality Summer Institute

York Foundation for Public Education

Received grant funds to implement a remediation program for students in danger of failing the Virginia Standards of Learning.

National Endowment for the Humanities and Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy

Graduate Administrative Assistant for Dr. Brian Blouet, Huby Professor of Education and Geography at the College of William and Mary. Edited the project narrative, contacted participating scholars, prepared the budget, and researched the bibliography for a grant entitled *The Colonial Chesapeake*

EDUCATION:**THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY WILLIAMSBURG, VA**

MAED Secondary Social Studies Education: Aug. 1996

Honors: President, Graduate Education Association
Graduate Assistant to Dr. Ronald Wheeler

BA Government and Philosophy: May 1994

Honors: Dean's List, Student Leader's Council**Interests:** yoga, travel, trekking, and scuba diving