The greatest challenge facing humanity is the challenge of distinguishing **reality** from fantasy, **truth** from propaganda.

Michael Crichton



PSYCHOLOGY FOR DEMOCRACY

This course prepares young people to navigate our media-based culture — a *political* environment often driven by disinformation and propaganda. Training future generations to be discerning citizens is an indispensable requirement for *keeping* our Republic, as Ben Franklin put it. Self-government and deliberative democracy demand that participants acquire **core knowledge** so they're able to think *critically* about issues of popular concern. Few courses provide the information and skills needed to do that effectively. This one does: it's deep knowledge + deep thinking curriculum.[1]

It represents a truly American Education grounded in the science of learning, common sense realism, and doing good. It counters so-called "progressive" education that centers student *experience* and demotes core knowledge building — the primary purpose of sound, effective learning. Students pursue wisdom, knowledge, and virtue for the 21st century.

Course content draws deeply from recent developments in the social sciences that have helped us understand human nature as expressed by the behavior of people in various cultural contexts. Specific disciplines include **behavioral**, **cognitive**, **evolutionary**, and **moral psychology** as well as **neurobiology** and its underlying **genetic influences**. It *does not* treat humans as "blank slates." While decidedly science-based, it *does not* preclude the role of religious faith and theology, viewing them as compatible for the building of both intellectual *and spiritual* insight.

The module on Civics frames the United States as the product of a successful mix of Enlightenment *and* Christian culture — as John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and others saw it. It views the USA *properly* as a Liberal Democratic **Republic** — not a pluralistic social democracy, as political progressives aspire to remake it.

The course is designed to integrate with home school curricula involving both parents and educators. Material is challenging for young people {college level} yet made accessible. Class deliberation aims to equip students for good-faith engagement: intelligent conversation and warm, spirited debate with others. Students tap into current issues, focused on preparing CRITICAL THINKERS who can effectively navigate the information age, rise above partisan politics, flourish, and do good better in the 21st century.

Being Wise | Being a Good American | Being a Good Neighbor

[1] Developing Curriculum for Deep Thinking: The Knowledge Revival



Rob Schläpfer is a social science educator who spent over a decade conducting classes and community conversations to bridge our deep political divide. A former pastor, professor, and publisher, for 40+ years his focus has been teaching critical thinking, civics, and cultural studies. Rob is the Creator of the **Oregon Education Project**, designed to help restore high-quality American Education to Oregon K-12 schools. He's lived in Medford for 30+ years.

I have made a ceaseless effort not to ridicule, not to bewail,
not to scorn human actions, but to *understand* them.
Baruch Spinoza

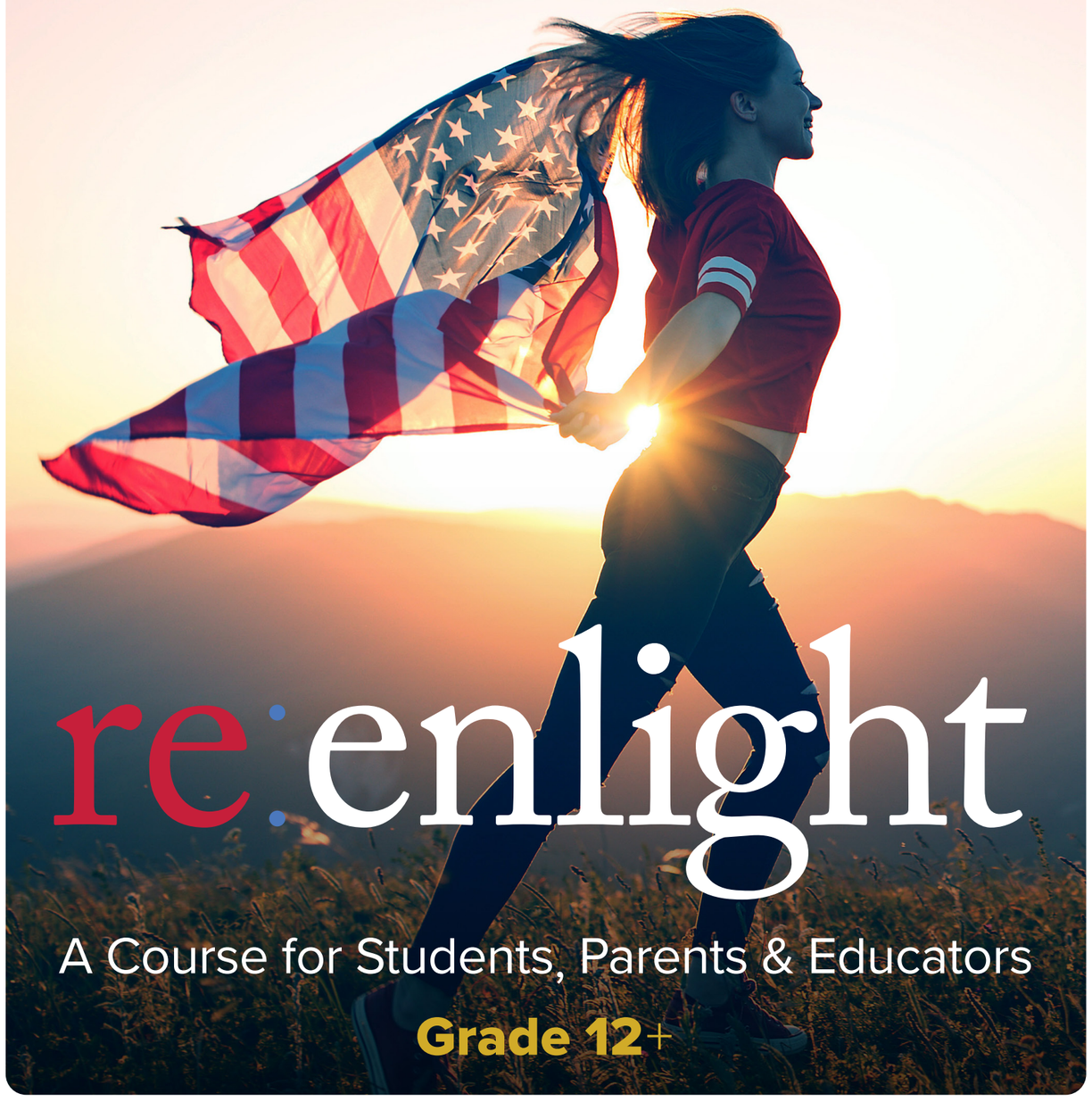


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Wisdom
Knowledge
Virtue

How do we prepare young people to become flourishing citizens of the American Republic?



re:enlight

A Course for Students, Parents & Educators

Grade 12+

How can young people navigate our media-based culture effectively?

How can they make sense of politics?

How can they use science to achieve progress and live a rewarding life?

re:enlight

PSYCHOLOGY FOR DEMOCRACY

This year-long course is designed for senior High School students — especially those who plan to attend college — along with parents & educators.

The focus is understanding the human mind in order to engage society with the **core knowledge** and **critical thinking skills** needed to flourish as adults.

It's a **CIVICS** PLUS course for the Information Age.

Students learn to avoid propaganda and use reason, evidence, and arguments to form good judgment as citizens of our *deliberative* Democratic Republic.

A unique feature of this course is a focus on bridging our political divide by bringing **Conservative** and **Liberal** perspectives together [concilience] to balance the Critical perspective of the Progressive Educators who govern the Oregon Department of Education.

COURSE DESIGN

3 Modules of **12 Classes** each with:
2 x 45 minutes of **explicit teaching**;
2 x 15 minutes of **active inquiry**;
1 hour of **engaged deliberation**.

Being Wise
Being a Good American
Being a Good Neighbor

Cherish therefore the *spirit* of our people,
and keep alive their attention.
Do not be too severe upon their errors,
but **re**claim them by **enlight**ening them.
Thomas Jefferson



MODULE **1**
CRITICAL THINKING



Learn To **Think**

Critical Thinking
Navigating the **Information** Age

1 How Do You Know?
2 Feeling Machines That Think
3 Stone Age Minds
4 Cognitive Bias
5 The Partisan Brain
6 Propaganda
7 Critical Perspectives
8 Being Wise

MODULE **1**
INTELLECTUAL FOCUS



Escape From Reason
The Pursuit of Knowing

1 Enlightenment 1.0
2 Postmodernism
3 Critical Theory
4 Enlightenment 2.0 — Re:Enlight

MODULE **2**
CIVICS & CULTURE



Understand **America**

Civics & Culture
Making Sense of Our **Republic**

1 What Is An American?
2 Conquest & Culture
3 Revolutionary Minds
4 Republican Foundations
5 Liberty & Justice
6 Belonging
7 Critical Perspectives
8 Being A Good American

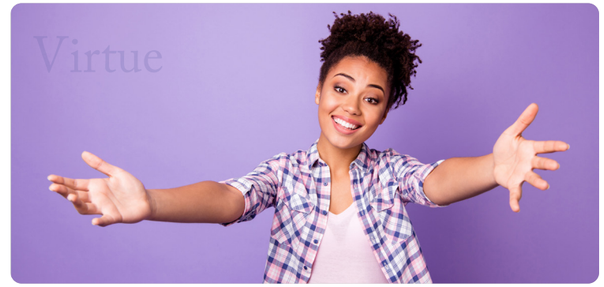
MODULE **2**
HISTORICAL FOCUS



American Dilemma
History in Black & White

1 Slavery: The Real History
2 Civil Rights: The Road to Freedom
3 Black Power: The Culture of Grievance
4 Race Reality: Colorblind Realism

MODULE **3**
EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM



Do Good **Better**

Effective Altruism
Using **Science** to Achieve Progress

1 Why Should We Do Good?
2 Concilience & Coöperation
3 The Limits of Empathy
4 The Case for Rational Compassion
5 Basic Facts of Life
6 Data, Fallacies & Statistics
7 Critical Perspectives
8 Being a Good Neighbor

MODULE **3**
ACTION FOCUS



Consilience & Cooperation
Effective Altruism in Action

1 Immigration
2 Crime & Punishment
3 Homelessness
4 Equity & Equality