



ENGAGING HEARTS & MINDS (EH&M) 1.0 AND 2.0

GRADUATE CREDIT OR CONTACT HOUR CREDIT AVAILABLE

JANUARY-MARCH 2026

SPONSORED BY MARTHA HOLDEN JENNINGS FOUNDATION
AND HARRY C. MOORES FOUNDATION

FACILITATED BY ELLEN ERLANGER AND KATHY MEYER

These unique (**free**) courses are designed to help teachers vividly see, feel, and reflect upon the impact of authentic learning strategies in new and different ways. Toward that end, **each course provides a six-session online (Zoom) “film festival” with accompanying discussions that will be lively, collaborative, thought-provoking, and uplifting.** (We can all use that, right?)

EH&M 1.0 has been an extremely popular and successful class for the past several years. Many participants have encouraged us to offer an additional course featuring a new set of films/videos. **So, for the first time, we are pleased to offer both EH&M 1.0, featuring most of the same films/videos used in the past, and EH&M 2.0, introducing all-new film/video selections.**

EH&M 1.0 is not a prerequisite for 2.0. These are simply two different course offerings. **You may register for either or both,** depending on your interests and schedule. However, if you have taken EH&M before, we certainly encourage you to register for 2.0. If you also repeat 1.0, we hope you will watch the suggested alternate films to gain additional perspectives. Ashland University will be giving us new course numbers for both 1.0 and 2.0, so you can enroll again for credit if you choose. EH&M offers 2 graduate credits (or 25 contact hours); EH&M offers 2 graduate credits (or 25 contact hours); and participants who take both will receive 4 graduate credits (or 50 contact hours) in total. There are some sessions where the 1.0 and 2.0 cohorts meet together. Participants are responsible for payment of Ashland credit, and contact hour credits are free.

The Driving/Essential Questions for both series will be: *How can we use service-learning and other authentic instructional strategies to enhance emotional engagement, strengthen*

community-building, and support academic success? How can we use these strategies to integrate rigor, relevance, and relationships throughout students' experiences? What can we learn from colleagues/exemplars who have succeeded in these areas?

Sessions will feature film/video segments designed to inform and inspire teachers re: the use of authentic instructional strategies (service-learning, PBL, STEM/STEAM, design thinking, etc.). In the case of longer films/videos, participants will be asked to view these in advance so that class time can be devoted to discussion and reflection. Related readings may also be recommended in connection with each session.

Schedule of sessions (Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.)

Please note that participants in EH&M **1.0 and 2.0 will meet together on January 8 and March 12** and will view the same films. We believe that these films will provide an excellent beginning and conclusion for both courses. In addition, this schedule will enable us to complete both courses before spring breaks begin.

Engaging Hearts & Minds 1.0

January 8—Films featuring Ron Berger

January 15—Virtual Visit to Eminence KY

January 29—The Last Lecture

February 12—Paper Clips

February 26—Freedom Writers

March 12—Film by Ted Dintersmith (Multiple Choice or Most Likely to Succeed)

Engaging Hearts & Minds 2.0

January 8—Films featuring Ron Berger

January 22—Virtual Visit to Tallmadge OH (excerpts); Edutopia research video(s)

February 5—Films featuring Sir Ken Robinson

February 19 – How to Dance in Ohio

March 5—Films by Sam Chaltain

March 12—Film by Ted Dintersmith (Multiple Choice or Most Likely to Succeed)

Film/Video Descriptions

Films featuring Ron Berger

Ron Berger is a senior advisor for teaching and learning at EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning), where he has been instrumental in promoting project-based and

service-oriented learning models that engage students in meaningful, real-world work. A former public school teacher with more than 25 years of classroom experience, Berger is known for pioneering high-quality student work, authentic learning experiences, and a culture of craftsmanship and character in schools. He is the author of several influential books, including *An Ethic of Excellence* and *Leaders of Their Own Learning*, which emphasize the power of student ownership, collaboration, and purpose-driven education. We will select 2–3 of Berger’s films to view and discuss.

Eminence—School on F.I.R.E.

In this film, you will “travel” to Eminence Independent Schools (KY) for a special building tour and to meet with Superintendent Buddy Berry. Some of you have met him at the Summer Institute—amazing! You will also hear from Eminence teachers and students as they discuss how they are “making learning irresistible.”

Alternate Selections: Additional Eminence videos will be provided in our Google Classroom.

Virtual Visit to Tallmadge City Schools (OH)

Educators typically love to visit other schools and classrooms because they see another way of doing something that they already do; or, they get a vision for new ideas they want to try. Some of our best teaching ideas come from observing other classes! This is why we’ve created a unique professional learning experience—a virtual visit to an amazing district that made authentic learning a reality for every Tallmadge City School (OH) student!

The Last Lecture

Focus on Mission, Vision, and Legacy... Lessons learned from an outstanding educator who used hope, humor, and authentic learning to make a difference in students’ lives. Participants will reflect on his mission and legacy, as well as their own.

Alternate Selections: Additional Randy Pausch videos that we will provide in Google Classroom. All films will be viewed prior to class.

Paper Clips

Focus on Community Involvement and Learning That Lasts... An award-winning documentary featuring an exceptional project about tolerance—an initiative that began simply, but led to remarkable, far-reaching, and lasting impact.

Alternate Selection: Interview with Linda Hooper that we will provide in Google Classroom. All films will be viewed prior to class.

Freedom Writers

Focus on Student Voice... A feature film based on the true story of a Los Angeles teacher who reached her disaffected students by building relationships, providing rich, authentic learning

experiences, and ensuring “voice” for students’ thoughts and feelings. The subject matter focuses on diversity, tolerance, and “coming of age.”

Alternate Selection: “Once in a Lifetime” (available via streaming). All films will be viewed prior to class.

How to Dance in Ohio (directed by Alexandra Shiva)

A first kiss, a first dance. These are the rites of passage of American youth that hold the promise of magic, romance and initiation into adulthood. For kids from all walks of life, these first steps toward intimacy are at once exciting and terrifying. For some teenagers and young adults on the autism spectrum, the transition can be nothing less than paralyzing.

In Columbus, Ohio, a group of young people with an array of developmental challenges prepares for an iconic event—a spring formal dance. They spend 12 weeks confronting and practicing their social skills as they prepare for the big event, to be hosted at a local disco. *How to Dance in Ohio* is a story of the universal human need to grow, connect, and belong as uniquely dramatized by individuals facing the deepest struggle toward social survival. Participants will view this film in advance.

Films by Sam Chaltain

Sam Chaltain is a writer, educator, and organizational consultant who focuses on creating learning environments that foster equity, innovation, and human potential. A former high school English teacher and director of the Forum for Education and Democracy, Chaltain has advised schools, districts, and Fortune 500 companies on culture and change management. He is the author of several books on education and democracy, and his work frequently highlights the intersection of storytelling, systems thinking, and the future of learning. We will select 3-4 of Chaltain’s films to view and discuss.

Films featuring Sir Ken Robinson

Sir Ken Robinson (1950–2020) was a globally renowned education expert, speaker, and author best known for advocating creativity as a central pillar of learning. His TED Talk, *Do Schools Kill Creativity?*, remains one of the most viewed in history, inspiring educators and policymakers worldwide to rethink how schools cultivate talent. Robinson argued for moving away from standardized, industrial models of education toward personalized systems that nurture imagination, curiosity, and diverse intelligences. His books, including *The Element and Creative Schools*, continue to shape conversations on transforming education for the 21st century. We will select 2-3 of Robinson’s films to view and discuss.

Film by Ted Dintersmith—Most Likely to Succeed OR Multiple Choice

Ted Dintersmith is a change agent focused on the impact of education and innovation on the future of civil society. His professional background spans technology, entrepreneurship, and public policy. He was ranked by Business 2.0 as the top-performing U.S. venture capitalist for 1995–1999. In 2012, President Obama appointed him to represent our country at the United Nations General

Assembly. More recently, he executive produced the acclaimed documentary *Most Likely to Succeed* and co-authored with Tony Wagner a book with the same title. In 2018, he received NEA's prestigious "Friend of Education" Award. Ted earned a PhD in Engineering from Stanford and an undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary, with High Honors in Physics and English. When he's not visiting schools, he lives in central Virginia.

To Register (no later than January 5th) for EH&M 1.0, [click on this link](#) and complete form.

To Register (no later than January 5th) for EH&M 2.0, [click on this link](#) and complete form.

(You may register for one or both courses.)

**For more information, contact Kathy Meyer at...
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