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News Release

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NMCC to offer history course in the Valley

Aroostook County - Many St. John Valley residents may be familiar with the idea of being able to take an affordable class close to home through Northern Maine Community College's off-campus course offerings in Madawaska, Frenchville and Van Buren. That opportunity will be broadened a little this fall with the addition of a U.S. History to Valley course offerings.

Making its debut on the fall class roster, the three credit class, U.S. History (1500-1865), will include a survey of the political, social, economic and cultural forces that shaped American history from the beginnings of European exploration to the end of the Civil War. The course will run on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the St. John Valley Technology Center in Frenchville from August 29 to December 19.

“We’re very excited to be able to offer this class in the Valley,” said Karen Ouellette, coordinator of NMCC’s St. John Valley Off-Campus center. “This is a course that students in the area expressed an interest in taking locally. I’m glad we are able to accommodate that request. I am particularly pleased with the adjunct instructor we hired to teach the course. Erica Quin-Easter certainly has a rich background from which her students will definitely benefit.”

Quin-Easter holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from New College of Florida and earned her Master of Arts in American and New England studies in 2001 from the University of Southern Maine. She also served as a contract folklorist for the Maine Arts Commission Discovery Research Program. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Canadian and American history at the University of Maine, where she is a recipient of the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship through the Can-Am Center.

Her research interests are nationalism, language policy and how history intersects with the political, civic and private lives of people in the Northeastern U.S. and in the Atlantic Canada and Quebec regions. A choral composer and musician, Quin-Easter was awarded the Innovative Production Grant from the Maine Arts Commission for *(F)light: a Borderlands Song Cycle*, centering on the history and culture of the Maine-Canada and Arizona-Mexico borders.

Since the course is transferable, it is ideal for current high school students who want to get an early start on their college education through the High School Aspirations program. For just \$30 plus the cost of the textbook, they can take the history course and then transfer the credit to the college of their choice. For more information on the aspirations program, contact NMCC's On Course for College program at 768-2771.

To learn more about this course offering and other NMCC courses in the St. John Valley, contact Ouellette at 551-5781.

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