

2006

Interview of Francis J. Ryan, Ed. D.

Francis J. Ryan Ed. D.
La Salle University, ryan@lasalle.edu

Vincent Wisniewski
La Salle University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/histdeptohall>

 Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), [Cultural History Commons](#), [Educational Methods Commons](#), [Educational Psychology Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), [Intellectual History Commons](#), [Teacher Education and Professional Development Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ryan, Francis J. Ed. D. and Wisniewski, Vincent, "Interview of Francis J. Ryan, Ed. D." (2006). *All Oral Histories*. 58.
<http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/histdeptohall/58>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral Histories at La Salle University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of La Salle University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact careyc@lasalle.edu.

In Lieu of Field Notes

Interview of Francis J. Ryan, Ed. D., Professor of History and American Studies at La Salle University

Interviewed by Vincent Wisniewski, M.A. Student in History 650, Spring 2006

Location: Dr. Ryan's office

Date: 15 March 2006 (session 1)

Sessions 2-3 also spring 2006

Interviewee:

At the time of the interview, Francis J. Ryan was Director of American Studies and Professor of History at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. He was born in 1947 and grew up in Harrogate neighborhood between the Frankford and Kensington areas of Philadelphia. His father was a truck driver and outstanding athlete; and his mother worked for a time in a pharmaceuticals company. He attended St. Joan of Arc elementary school, North[east] Catholic High School, and graduated from La Salle College in 1969 with a B. A. in English. He taught English, History, and American Studies at Northeast Catholic High School from 1969 until 1987. He earned his doctorate in Education at Temple University in 1985 and began teaching full-time at La Salle University in 1987.

From the American Studies page on the La Salle University website (11/18/13): "Francis J. Ryan, Professor of American Studies, is a cultural and intellectual historian of American education. He is also the president of the Eastern American Studies Association. His research interests include the history of American education (particularly progressive education and Catholic education); American immigration and ethnicity; narcissism in American culture and literature; and the intersection of American history with American art and photography."

He is the co-author of *Drowning in the Clear Pool: Cultural Narcissism, Technology & Character Education* (with John Sweeder and Mary Anne Bednar). New York, Peter Lang Publishing, 2002. He has published articles in *Studies in the Humanities*, *The English Journal*, *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society*, *Vitae Scholasticae: Bulletin of Educational Biography*, *The Social Studies*, *Journal of Educational Thought*, *The Polish Review*, *The Clearing House*, *Educational Horizons*, *The British Journal of Educational Technology*, *The Education Digest*, *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education*, *Momentum*, and *The ALAN Review*.

Courses Taught:

- AMST 100: Introduction to American Studies
- AMST 200: Themes and Topics in American Culture
- AMST 400: Capstone Seminar in American Studies
- History 155: Themes in American History: American Biography
- History 333: The American Immigrant
- History 340: History of American Education

- History 640: Visualizing History
- History 700: American Intellectual History
- History 760: Seminar in American History
- History 761: Seminar in the History of Education
- History 770: Thesis Direction I
- History 780: Thesis Direction II
- Education 624: Images of Childhood, the Family, and Schooling in American History, Literature, Art, and Film

Education: B.A. La Salle University (English); M.A. Temple University (English); M.A. Villanova University (History-Education); Ed.D. Temple University (History and Philosophy of Education); Postdoctoral Study: Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania

Interviewer:

Autobiographical statement on the website of Franklin Towne Charter High School (11/18/13):

"Having lived in the Bridesburg area most of my life, I have a keen understanding of my students background as well as their needs. I am a graduate of Northeast Catholic High School for Boys. I am also a graduate of La Salle University, where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education/History. Having fulfilled the mandatory Pennsylvania state requirements for Level II certification, I am certified to teach in Pennsylvania. In keeping with the tradition of continuing education, I earned a Master of Arts degree in History with a concentration in American History from La Salle University. The 2013-2014 school year marks my eleventh year at Franklin Towne. During my tenure at Towne I have taught the following courses: World History I & II, American History, Police Procedures, and A.P. United States History. Last year the Social Studies Department brought back the A.P. United States History course as a way to maintain the rigor of our college prep expectations. The course and my syllabus have been approved by the College Board who administers the Advanced Placement Test and I successfully completed the A.P. Summer Institute course at Camden County Community College under the direction and guidance of Dr. Paul Dickler. The 2013-2014 school year also marks my 7th year as a moderator of the highly popular Towne Historical Society which exposes students to the rich history of the Philadelphia region through various field trips and presentations. Before I joined the Towne family in 2003, I taught American and World History at Father Judge High School for Boys in Northeast Philadelphia under the direction of Mr. Alex Schugsta and had the opportunity to observe and teach in the School District of Philadelphia at Central High School under the guidance of Mr. John Lafferty."

Typed by Barbara C. Allen