

WWP Lesson Plan - History of Workers World Party

This template was created to help those planning and teaching Party classes to make those interactive, interesting and consistent so that they can be reproduced in the future.

*Teacher preparations and *Essential Understandings	*Consider accessibility and accommodation needs. The party's militant history of struggle and theoretical Marxist-Leninist positions that set us apart from other groups on the left.
Overview of class	Using either the audio or youtube interview with Deirdre G, a founding member of Workers World Party and editor of WW newspaper, listen to her describe the principled process, and the political reasons, why founding members split from the Socialist Workers Party in 1958 and founded Workers World Party in 1959. She describes with engaging anecdotes the political approach and cultural climate early comrades developed.
Motivating Question	To jump start discussion at the beginning, ask: What do you know right now about the history of WWP?
Readings, Materials, Links for further study	Deirdre Griswold on the History of Workers World Party, July 2018 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBPzJ9roG2k OR History Of Workers World Party With Founder Deirdre Griswold, interviewed by Scott W, Dec. 18, 2020 https://soundcloud.com/scott-w-162087375/history-of-workers-world-party-with-founder-deirdre-griswold/s-dDPNs , Further reading, to be assigned after the class: Sam Marcy, "Fundamental Problems of Our Party: From Ideological Tendency to a Political Party of the Working Class" (1972)
Methods of learning: (Should have several methods: people learn in different ways)	Participants could either watch as a group the video interview, stopping regularly to discuss parts of the presentations OR The class leader could pre-assign the podcast for participants to listen to individually, and have them prepare questions and discussion for an in-person meeting. <i>Both audio and video are nearly 2 hours long.</i>
Discussion Questions	1. Which of the struggles WWP has led, or been part of, are you most interested in? 2. What political positions taken by Workers World Party attracted you to the Party? 3. Are there any WWP positions you have questions about or disagreements with?
Organizing	Discuss how what you've learned about the history of the Party relates to your organizing now--locally, nationally or internationally.
Skill Building	After learning about WWP actions, what skills do you bring to this organizing and what skills do you want to develop?
Reflection	Save time at the end of class for participants to answer these questions: 1. What will you remember/be useful for you? 2. What would you change, spend less time on, or have be less confusing?