

## Neil Houser

Dr. Neil Houser received his bachelor and master degrees in the arts, and his Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Washington State University in Pullman. He was an assistant professor of social studies education at the University of Delaware before joining the faculty in the College of Education at the University of Oklahoma. He has been teaching at the University of Oklahoma since 1996. Prior to entering the teaching profession as a classroom practitioner, he worked as a children's and adolescents' ward in a psychiatric hospital and as a guard and supervisor in a large juvenile hall in Central California.

Dr. Houser's teaching and scholarship focus on the intersection of the social studies (as citizenship education), various forms of social, cultural, and intellectual diversity, and the arts (in their capacity to promote aesthetic sensitivity, multicultural appreciation, social critique, and reflection, and the creative impulses required to cope with an ever-changing environment). He has also written and taught extensively on the relationships between humans and the environment, arguing that education needs to be contextualized within rather than outside or beyond vital organism-environment relationships. In addition to publishing in venues such as the *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, *Educational Policy*, *Urban Education*, and *Equity and Excellence in Education*, Dr. Houser has published seven single-authored or first-authored articles in *Theory and Research in Social Education*, the premiere research journal in his field.

With regard to teaching, Neil currently coordinates two programs: social studies education and integrated arts education. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate classes for his department, he has chaired sixteen successful doctoral dissertations and numerous master's projects and theses. He was awarded *Outstanding Professor* for the University of Oklahoma's College of Education in 1997, received the *Teaching and Advising Award* for the College of Education in 2007, and was named *David Ross Boyd Professor* for the University of Oklahoma in 2014.

Consistent with his research and teaching interests, Neil has long been involved in issues of local, faculty, and student governance. Seeking always to remember the fundamental direction of democracy, he has served multiple terms on the faculty senate at the Universities of Delaware and Oklahoma, maintains an active role in faculty governance in his department and college, and strives to function, as what Edward Said called an "organic border intellectual."

With regard to his personal life, Neil and his wife, Judy, have been married for 35 years, and they have two grown sons, Erin and Shaun. They live (with their two golden retrievers) on a wooded acreage approximately 20 miles southeast of Normal where they garden in the spring, travel in the summer, and split lots of wood to stay warm in the winter!