This graduate-level independent study is offered to participants in the MN Humanities Center's week-long educator institute to increase student engagement through absent narratives. This course will provide participants an opportunity to reflect upon and develop authentic practices with tools that guide and increase instruction in four key learning areas. The four areas of focus will be on (1) building and strengthening relationships, (2) identifying strategies that support the power of student story, (3) creating engagements that help teacher and students learn from and with those representing diverse experiences/voices, and (4) how to connect with diverse communities in ways that amplify solutions that improve educational outcomes for students. The four key areas used to guide outcomes in this course are foundational and based on extensive research focusing on epistemology. Participants will learn to use the four key areas as essential strategies that allow for the assessment of a teacher's practice on the impact on student engagement. Participants will engage in self-reflection to identify personal areas of growth needed to fully engage in the learning and move it past the research/discussion format to active and increased engagements. **Note: this is a variable credit course with credit range of 1 - 2.