2013

HIST 242-01 Cincinnati in the Civil Rights Era

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Recommended Citation
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course traces the Northern Civil Rights Movement by examining local racial injustice and civil rights activism. The course will include readings on the general history of the Northern Civil Rights Movement as well as sources reflecting local events. A community engagement component of the course will focus on collecting oral histories and/or archival research. Students will present their research in a public forum.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. Understand the past on its own terms
   Students will be able to articulate how early societies differed, sometimes fundamentally, from contemporary societies.
2. Change over time and historical processes
   Students will be able to comprehend the significance of change over time and be able to explain the historical processes that have transformed the past into the present world we inhabit.
3. Interpret sources
   Students will be able to work individually and in groups to analyze and interpret a variety of texts, images, objects, and artifacts within their historical context.
4. Oral, written, technological expression
   Students will be able to express historical and historiographical arguments clearly and persuasively orally, in writing, and through technology.
5. Research
   Students will be able to locate and identify primary and secondary texts.
6. Articulate trends and make historiographical arguments
   Students will be able to articulate and explain major trends in historical thought and thereby craft historiographical arguments.

THREE COURSE TOPICS: Each student in this course will choose one of the following topics as a focus for research in primary sources and a group public presentation.

- King Record Company
  - Research will include oral history interviews; indexing existing interviews with King artists; and tracing the postwar history of Evanston. The group will present to Xavier students or Evanston Community and/or add a page to the King Studios education web site.

- Radiation Experiments
  - Primary source research will include archival collections at the Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions. The group will present to first-year Xavier students whose common reading experience was based on The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.

- Cincinnati Civil Rights Activists
  - Research will include oral history interview with Freedom Rider Betty Daniels Rosemond, indexing existing interviews with local activists, research at the Cincinnati Historical Society Library and designing an oral or written presentation for Harriet Beecher Stowe House as a follow up to Rosemond’s appearance there.

READINGS AND DISCUSSIONS: On your "Schedule of Assignments," common reading assignments are listed for each class. Please be sure to complete each assignment before the class for which it is assigned so that you will be prepared to participate in class. This class is an intellectual community; we depend on each other to collaborate and respond to our work.
ASSIGNMENTS:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: I will post discussion questions for each of the secondary source reading assignments. Each student will turn in a two or three-sentence answer to each of the discussion questions and turn it in in class.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND PAPERS: After choosing topics, students will work with groups and/or individually preparing public presentations based on primary sources. Detailed instructions provided separately.

MAKE-UP POLICY:
If for any reason you miss a class, please contact me as soon as possible to find out what work you have missed. In the event that you absolutely cannot complete an assignment on the date it is assigned, please contact me immediately to discuss the problem and the possibility of making up the assignment. Late assignments are accepted at the discretion of the instructor, and grades on late assignments may be lowered.

You are responsible for all materials covered in readings, discussions, and lectures. If you do not understand a course requirement or material in readings or class discussions, please ask about it. I will be happy to meet with you to become better acquainted and to discuss any aspect of this course.

GRADES will be computed as follows:
- Discussion Questions and Participation 30%
- Group Projects
  - Preliminary Group Proposals + Bibliographies 10%
  - Final Proposals + Bibliographies 10%
  - Progress Reports 15%
  - Final Class Presentation 10%
  - Final Public Presentation 25%

A NOTE ON ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Please be considerate of other students and the instructor. Come to class prepared to stay until class is over. If you have a medical condition or emergency that requires you to leave class, please talk to the instructor in advance. You cannot receive credit for class participation if you are asleep, using your computer for unrelated tasks or leisure, or text messaging.

PLAGIARISM:
All papers in this course will be submitted electronically to “turnitin.com” an online service that detects plagiarism. Students are also expected to turn in a paper copy of each paper in class the day that it is due.

The Xavier University Handbook contains the following statement on academic honesty:

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation. All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an "F" in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignment, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS
HISTORY 242: XAVIER UNIVERSITY, FALL 2013
CINCINNATI IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA – Dr. Christine Anderson

Wed., 8/28  Course Introduction
            Class Discussion: Challenging the Conventional Narrative

Fri., 8/30  King Records Month Kickoff (Evanston Recreation Center)
            Students who are able to assist at this event should discuss with the instructor.

Wed., 9/4   Reading:

Fri., 9/6   Reading:
            Sugrue, Thomas J. “Northern Lights: The Black Freedom Struggle Outside the South.” OAH

            Jones, Patrick D. “‘Selma of the North’: The Fight for Open Housing in Milwaukee.” OAH


Wed., 9/11  Submit topic and specific interests in class. More on this in separate handout.

Fri., 9/13  Tentative: Visit to Cincinnati Historical Society Library
            Review sources on African American History at the CHS Library beforehand
            http://library.cincymuseum.org/aag/guide.html

Wed., 9/18  Before class, please view Freedom Riders (American Experience documentary)
            http://video.pbs.org/video/1925571160/

Fri., 9/20  HISTORIANS AGAINST SLAVERY CONFERENCE (FREEDOM CENTER)
            http://historiansagainstslavery.org/confprogram.htm

Wed., 9/25  Groups based on focus topics present proposals and preliminary bibliography in class. More on this
            in separate handout.

Fri., 9/27  Reading:
            Michael Washington, “Stirrings of the Civil Rights Movement in Cincinnati, 1943-1953” in
            Groundwork: Local Black Freedom Movements in America, Eds. Jeanne Theoharis and Komozi Woodard

Wed., 10/2  Reading:
            Charles F. Casey-Leininger and Students of the Public History Practicum, Going Home: The Struggle
            for Fair Housing in Cincinnati, 1900-2007 (University of Cincinnati, 2008).

Fri., 10/4  Revised group proposals, including individual topics within the broad topic, with bibliographies

Wed., 10/9  Reading:


Wed., 10/16 Tentative: Meet at Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions Review Guide to Eugene Sanger Archive at the Winkler Center beforehand http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtfead/view?docId=ead/OhCiUWC0023.xml;query=;brand=default


Wed., 10/23 Group and individual progress reports due in class. More on this in separate handout.


Fri., 11/8

Wed., 11/13 Preview of final group presentations in class. More on this in a separate handout.

Fri., 11/15 Preview of final group presentations in class. More on this in a separate handout.

Wed., 11/20

Fri., 11/22

Wed., 11/27 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, CLASS DOES NOT MEET

Fri., 11/29 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, CLASS DOES NOT MEET
Wed., 12/4   Group presentations of primary sources
Fri., 12/6   Group presentations of primary sources
Wed., 12/11 Group presentations of primary sources
Fri., 12/13 STUDY DAY, CLASS DOES NOT MEET

FINAL PAPERS DUE BEFORE 3:50, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18