

History 495
Research Seminar in Historical Topics:
Race and the Modern Civil Rights Movement
Fall 2020

TTH 1:30 – 2:45 PM
UNIV 319

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Office Hours (Online Only):
Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 – 11:30 AM or by
appointment

Course Description:

History 495, Research in Historical Topics: Race and the Modern Civil Right Movement, is an undergraduate writing seminar focused on the people, events, and themes associated with the African American struggle for equal justice in the 20th century. Students in this course will read about and develop individual research projects on the problem of race and racism that has defined modern American society.

Assigned Readings:

Jefferies, Hasan. *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt* (New York: New York University Press, 2010).

ISBN: 978-0814743317.

Course Requirements:

Attendance:

Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of each class. Absences will only be excused on a case-by-case basis and only when the student provides sufficient documentation. Death of a family member, family emergency, serious illness, or officially sponsored university events (e.g. basketball, football, or softball game) are examples of excusable absences; absence due to travel plans for the Spring break will not be excused. If a student anticipates being absent from class, s/he should contact me in advance. If such advance notice is not possible, then s/he should contact me as soon as possible.

Class Participation:

Students are required to participate actively in all class discussions. Specifically, students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to in-class discussions and be prepared to offer insightful comments about these materials.

Assignments:

There are four primary assignments for this course: a) a research proposal with outline; b) a rough draft of the research paper; c) a research paper; and d) a twenty (20) minute in class research presentation. **All assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on due date.**

a) Research Proposal with Outline (Due Friday, September 11, 2020)

In no more than five (5) pages, the research proposal with outline should clearly explain the central themes of the research project. In so doing, the proposal should detail the essential question(s) the research project intends to address, explain the historical significance of this problem and why answering it is important, and situate the project historiographically through a critical survey of the existing literature on the topic. The proposal should also describe the primary sources the student intends to use and how/why these sources are appropriate for addressing the projects research question(s). Lastly, the research proposal should include a structured outline of the research paper the student intends to write. The research proposal with outline will constitute fifteen percent (15%) of a student's final grade.

b) Research Paper Rough Draft (Due Friday, October 23, 2020)

The rough draft should accurately reflect the state of the overall research project to that point. It should demonstrate that the research question(s) are viable and that the primary sources are both suitable and sufficient to address the research questions effectively. The rough draft will constitute twenty-five percent (25%) of a student's final grade.

c) Research Paper (Due Friday, December 4, 2020)

The final research paper should be no less than twenty (20) pages. Students should follow the basic guidelines outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style, formatting their citations (please use footnotes) and bibliography accordingly. The final research paper will constitute thirty percent (30%) of a student final grade.

d) Final Presentation (November 3 – 19, 2020)

In a twenty minute in class presentation, students will present their research project. Presentations should highlight project these, using key illustration and evidence to validate research conclusions. The final presentation will constitute thirty percent (30%) of a student's final grade.

