

Senior Seminar: African American Social and Political History (Reading Assignments Updated 1/13/15)

HIST 407/507
Tuesdays 2-4:50pm

Winter 2015
475 McKenzie

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Stuckey

Contact information:
mstuckey@uoregon.edu
Office: 323 McKenzie Hall

Office Hours:
M/W 2-3PM
and by appointment

Course Description

History 407 is a capstone course designed for senior history majors and minors. The major requirement for the course is to write a historical research paper based on primary sources. The paper length for undergraduate students is 15-20 pages. **Students in this course will focus their research on the social and political history of African Americans.** Your goal is to choose a topic and write a paper that:

- 1) Asks a good historical question
- 2) Is based on primary sources
- 3) Tells how its interpretation connects to previous work by other historians, and
- 4) Offers a well-organized and persuasive thesis of its own.

In addition, students will also complete and hand in weekly assignments that are designed to contribute directly to the final paper and critique each other's rough drafts in small groups.

Grades

As in most research seminar courses, the bulk of your grade for this course will depend on the quality of your final research paper. Keep in mind, though, that since each of the smaller assignments will help you write your final paper—and because all the students in the class will benefit from your participation—I will lower the grades of students who do not attend class regularly, complete the assigned readings, participate in class discussion, or complete each assignment by the due date. The due dates for weekly assignments are clearly marked on the syllabus, and I expect to receive all final papers in their most polished form on Monday, June 9 at 5p.m.

Readings

The following books are required and will be available for purchase at the Duck Store.
Charles Payne and Adam Green, *Time Longer Than Rope: A Century of African American Activism, 1850-1950*
Mary Lynn Rampola, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*

William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style* (optional)

Assignments

The following assignments are due on the dates listed below. Except for the Article Report assignment (which is oral only), these assignments will be handed in each week in class. In order to keep a running record of your progress in the class, I will hold on to all of them until the end of the quarter, so be sure to keep an additional copy of each assignment you hand in to me. See course Blackboard page and/or handouts for additional details on assignments.

See deadlines below

Article Report Assignment
Primary Source and Paper Topic Assignment
Annotated Bibliography Assignment
Introduction Assignment
Outline Assignment
Topic Sentence AND Citation Assignment
Peer Review of Draft Assignment
Final Paper

Class Rules and Policies

Attendance

Attendance will be taken and unexcused absences will lower your class participation grade. Properly excused absences (with documentation like a doctor's note) will not harm your grade.

Email

All email communications will be sent to your University of Oregon email address. Please use only your university email address when contacting me. I will not respond the messages sent via commercial email accounts (i.e. Gmail or Yahoo).

Late work

Late work will not be accepted.

Assignments

All assignments must be typed, double spaced, and in Times New Roman font, with standard margins.

Academic Integrity

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments, presentations, and examinations are to be completed independently.

Plagiarism is using others' ideas and/or words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course and will be reported. Please ASK if you have any questions.

Classroom Civility

In this classroom people and ideas are respected. Interrupting and other outbursts will not be tolerated. Please put turn your cell phones off prior to the start of class. Absolutely no text messaging. No computer use without prior permission. No eating or gum chewing in class, beverages are acceptable. Please attempt to use the restroom before or after class.

Disability Statement

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability related barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu.

This syllabus is subject to modification as necessary.

Week 1

January 6

Introduction to the course

Choose articles for article report assignment

Discussion of general topics of interest

Sign up to meet individually with professor during Week 1 or Week 2.

Schedule individual meeting with David Woken, history librarian. His email address is dwoken@uoregon.edu

Week 2

January 13

Article report assignments in class

Individual meeting with professor to discuss paper ideas and sources this week

If you met with me to discuss your paper topic during Week 1, you must now make an appointment to meet with history librarian David Woken, dwoken@uoregon.edu for your one on one library resources orientation. Try to meet with him during Week 2.

Readings:

A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, Chapter 1 and

Assigned reading from *Time Longer Than Rope*

Week 3

January 20

Reading assignment:

A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, Chapters 2 and 3 and
Choose two favorite articles from *Time Longer Than Rope* (from those we haven't yet read) and come to class ready to explain what you like about them.

If you met with me to discuss your paper topic during Week 2, you must now make an appointment to meet with history librarian David Woken for your one on one library resources orientation. Try to meet with him during Week 2 or 3.
Email: dwooken@uoregon.edu

Week 4

January 27

Reading:

A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, Chapters 4 and 5

Primary Source and Paper Topic assignment due in class.

Everyone should have met with David Woken by class time of Week 4.

Week 5

February 3

Reading:

A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, Chapters 6 and 7

Annotated Bibliography assignment due in class

Time management tip: If you are not already doing so, beginning this week you should be devoting significant time each week to researching, taking notes, and beginning to draft your paper. The process is one that builds momentum over several weeks.

Week 6

February 10

Introduction assignment due. Bring copies to class for your group members and the professor.

Week 7

February 17

Outline assignment due in class

Week 8

February 24

Topic sentence assignment due in class

And

Citations assignment due in class

Reading Assignment:

Rampolla, *Pocket Guide*, Ch. 6

Week 9

March 3

No class, work on your drafts

Exchange drafts with partners and email to professor no later than Sunday, June 2.

Week 10

March 10

Discussion of drafts

Final paper due March 18 by 11:59pm. Hand in at 323 McKenzie Hall. If turning in after 5PM, you will need to take the elevator to the 3rd since the stairwell doors are locked at 5PM.