**History 495**

**Research in Historical Topics: Modern**

**Civil Rights Movement**

Spring 2017

MWF 12:30 – 1:20 PM

University Hall 319

Instructor: Cornelius L. Bynum, Ph.D.

Office: University Hall 024

Office Hours: TTH 1:00 – 2:00 or by appt.

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Course Description:

History 495, Research in Historical Topics: 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 Reading:

Hasan Kwame Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama’s Black Belt* (New York, 2010).

McNeil, Genna Rae, *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights* (Philadelphia, PA, 1984).

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 sufficient documentation is provided by the student. 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 actively participate 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. Structured class discussions will take place on Fridays and student participation will be graded. Class participation will constitute ten percent (10%) of a student’s final grade.

Writing Assignments:

There are four primary writing 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.

a) Research Proposal with Outline (Due Friday, March 10, 2017)

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, April 7, 2017)

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, May 5, 2017)

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 (Due April 24 – 28, 2017)

In a twenty minute in class presentation, each student will present their research project. Presentations should highlight project these, using key illustration and evidence to validate research conclusions. The final presentation will constitute twenty percent (20%) of a student’s final grade.

**This syllabus is subject to change as dictated by class needs and at the instructor’s discretion.**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. **In the event of such an emergency, I will notify you of key schedule or policy changes by email.**

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Syllabus:

**Week One:**

Assigned Reading:

McNeil, *Groundwork*, pp. xv – xxiii, 3 – 85.

Monday, January 9, 2017 Course Introduction

Lecture: “Reconstruction and Its Demise”

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 Lecture: “Redemption and the Rise of Jim Crow”

Friday, January, 13, 2017 Class Discussion

**Week Two**

Assigned Reading:

McNeil, *Groundwork*, pp. 86 – 155.

Monday, January 16, 2017 No Class: MLK Day

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans and the Progressive Era”

Friday, January 20, 2017 Class Discussion

**Week Three**

Assigned Reading

McNeil, *Groundwork*, pp. 156 – 226.

Monday, January 23, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans and the Great War”

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 Lecture: “New Negro Comes to Harlem”

Friday, January 27, 2017 Class Discussion

**Week Four**

Assigned Reading

Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes*, pp. 1 – 80.

Monday, January 30, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans and the Great Depression

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans and the New Deal”

Friday, February 3, 2017 Class Discussion

**Week Five**

Assigned Reading

Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes*, pp. 81 – 178.

Monday, February 6, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans and World War II”

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans and the Cold War”

Friday, February 10, 2017 Class Discussion

**Week Six**

Assigned Reading

Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes*, pp. 179 – 252.

Monday, February 13, 2017 Lecture: “*Brown* and Beyond”

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 Lecture: “Student Sit-In Movement”

Friday, February 17, 2017 Class Discussion

**ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:**

**Research Proposal with Outline – Friday, March 10, 2017**

**Rough Draft – Friday, April 7, 2017**

**Final Presentation – Monday, April 24 – Friday, April 28, 2017**

**Final Research Paper – Friday, May 5, 2017**