HIST 5603

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University of New Orleans

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HIST 5603

Researcning New Orleans History

Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:40 pm

Overview

The purpose of this course is to introduce advanced students to the latest research in the history of New Orleans. The class will, primarily, consist of extensive reading and discussion of recently published work in the field. Each student will also choose a branch of the historiography on New Orleans to explore fully—such as, Americanization, colonial politics, women’s roles or race relations in a given period, immigration, or class struggles before or after the Civil War—and write a substantial essay exploring the history of those themes.

Goals

The aim of this course is to make students familiar with and conversant on the state of the field of New Orleans historiography. It will also introduce them to the multiple research agendas, methods, and strategies being used by contemporary historians, and the debates that inspire their work. While we will be familiarizing ourselves with the questions historians are asking, our inquiries will also open avenues for further research.

Requirements

Participation is mandatory in this class. Students will write a short 4-page essay, a 4-5 pp. book review, submit a proposal for the final paper and conclude with a 15-20 pp. historiographical essay (plus bibliography). All assignments should be written using Chicago style.

Grades

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historiography</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Proposal</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
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Required Books

To Read for FIRST CLASS MEETING:
Campanella, Bourbon Street: A History

Required Fall Reading
Dawdy, Building the Devil’s Empire: French Colonial New Orleans
Hanger, Bounded Lives, Bounded Places
Scott, Freedom Papers: An Atlantic Odyssey
Johnson, Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market
Rothman, Beyond Freedom’s Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery
Wetta, The Louisiana Scalawags
Landau, Emily Spectacular Wickedness
Armstrong, Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans
Vaz, The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition
Hill, The Deacons for Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement
Souther, New Orleans on Parade (2nd ed.)

Important Dates
Sept 17 Short essay due [paper copy]
Dec 3 Final Paper Due [paper copy]
Policies

Students are expected to arrive on time and participate in class discussion. Late papers will be docked one-half letter grade for each day the paper is late, including weekend days. All communication with the professor should come through Moodle’s email system or Webstar.

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should notify the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code online for further information: http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/accountability.cfm

Schedule of Classes & Assignments

Readings subject to change, with advance notice.

Aug 20  Introduction

HNOC Lecture, Erin Greenwald & Melissa Carrier: “Ties that Bind: Louisiana and Senegal”

Aug 27  Discuss HNOC lecture, Accidental City, syllabus, develop research questions

Sept 3  Colonial Enterprises

Hall, Africans in Colonial Louisiana


Sept 10 Building a Colonial City

Dawdy, Building the Devil’s Empire


Emily Clark, "By All the Conduct of Their Lives": A Laywomen's Confraternity in New Orleans, 1730-1744. The William and Mary Quarterly, 54 (Oct., 1997), pp. 769-794.


Supplemental Readings:

Sept 17  Building a Slave Society  

**Short Essay Due**

Chose one of the required articles below and write an essay that examines the debate or debates the author is engaging, how the author’s work contributes to that debate, what sources the author uses, how effectively they are used, and what questions remain.

Sophie White, “‘Wearing three or four handkerchiefs around his collar, and elsewhere about him’: Slaves’ constructions of Masculinity and Ethnicity in French Colonial New Orleans,” *Gender and History* 15 (Nov 2003)

Jennifer Spear, “Colonial Intimacies: Legislating Sex in French Colonial Louisiana,” *William & Mary Quarterly* 60 (Jan 2003)

Kimberly Hanger, “‘Almost All Have Callings’: Free Blacks at Work in Spanish New Orleans,” *Colonial Latin American Historical Review* 3 (Spring 1994)


**Supplemental Readings:**


Sept 24  A New Empire in the Atlantic World

Clark, *The Strange History of the American Quadroon*


*Bienville’s Dilemma*, 159-192

**Supplemental Readings:**


Oct 1  New Orleans & the Antebellum South

Johnson, *Soul by Soul*

*Bienville’s Dilemma*, 200-22; 229-236.

**Supplemental Readings:**


Oct 8  The Civil War & Reconstruction


[excerpts] Caryn Cossé Bell, *Revolution, Romanticism, & the Afro-Creole Protest Tradition*,


*Bienville's Dilemma*, 237-299.

Supplemental Readings:


Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South* (2012)

Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba After Slavery*

Oct 15  Presentations of Proposals

Oct 22  Fighting Jim Crow

One-page proposals due plus working list of 8-10 books


Keith Medley, *We as Freemen: Plessy v. Ferguson* [excerpts]


*Bienville’s Dilemma*, 303-335.

Supplemental Readings:


Oct 29  City of Sin

Long, *The Great Southern Babylon*

Judith Schafer, *Brothels, Depravity, & Illegal Sex in Antebellum New Orleans* [excerpts]

Supplemental Readings:

Emily Epstein Landau, *Spectacular Wickedness: Sex, Race, and Memory in Storyville, New Orleans*

Nov 5  New Orleans Reimagined

Stanonis, *Creating the Big Easy*

WPA Staff, *New Orleans City Guide*

Supplemental Readings:

Christopher Morris, *The Big Muddy: An Environmental History of the Mississippi and Its Peoples from Hernando de Soto to Hurricane Katrina* (2012)

Nov 12  The Social History of Mardi Gras

Vaz, *The “Baby Dolls”*


Supplemental Readings:

Sharon Frystak, *Our Minds on Freedom: Women & the Struggle for Black Equality in Louisiana*

Nov 19  Creating the New Society

Moore, *Black Rage in New Orleans*

Supplemental Readings:

Kent Germany, *New Orleans After the Promises*

Adam Fairclough, *Race & Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana*

Nov 26  Day before Thanksgiving

Dec 3  Last Class—Final Papers DUE