

This syllabus is your guide to the course. It lists readings, describes assignments and spells out expectations. Look here first for answers to your questions.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Fall 2011

HIST 398 - "Internship in History - History Harvest: North Omaha"

Professor Patrick Jones

Class Meetings: T-Th 2-3:15pm

Classroom: 308 Business Admin.

Office: 632 Oldfather Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:30am and 12:30-1:30pm

Mailbox: 612 Oldfather Hall (History Department's Main Office)

Email: pjones2@unl.edu or democracy8888@yahoo.com

Office Phone: 472-3250

a history quote:

"American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful, and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it." (James Baldwin)

a teaching vignette:

In the early 60s, the state version of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC) in Wisconsin, ever on the look-out for signs of "communist infiltration" and other forms of "subversion," summonsed noted UW-Madison History professor, William Appleman Williams, to interrogate what exactly he was teaching all of the students that flocked to his classes on modern American history up at the University each semester.

Williams replied, "I teach my students to think."

Course Overview:

In HIST 398 a team of advanced undergraduate History majors will work directly with the professor and community groups to organize, promote and execute the History Harvest in North Omaha; collect oral histories with local people; and process the interviews and artifacts we collect for the History Harvest website. Students will also be spending time working with the Great Plains Black History Museum's collection. The idea is to give students a more hands-on and community-connected experience in History.

Class Format:

This is a unique, hybrid class. Over the first several weeks, we will be doing some traditional “book learning” and classroom work to develop a basic understanding of the history of North Omaha and some of the relevant themes in African American history. For the remainder of the semester, we will be working as a team planning, executing and processing the North Omaha History Harvest and working with the Great Plains Black History Museum collection. As we move through the semester, the class will become increasingly improvisational. Our work schedule will be dictated largely by the demands of completing the History Harvest, conducting oral history interviews and processing materials for the website. It is critical that each member of the class take seriously her/his responsibility to the project and the group. We are relying on our collective power to make the History Harvest a success!

Readings:

In the “Topics and Assignments” section of this syllabus you will find a list of class topics and the corresponding readings/resources for each date. It is your responsibility to have all readings completed by the start of class on the dates indicated. Please come to class prepared to discuss readings and other assignments.

The following books are required and are available at the University bookstore:

- Wright, *12 Million Black Voices*
- Stalvey, *Education of a WASP*
- Marantz, *The Rhythm Boys of Omaha Central: High School Basketball at the '68 Racial Divide*

Reading Quizzes:

Students will take a brief reading quiz on each of the three required texts. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each “book discussion” day. Reading quiz questions will be short-answer format.

Participation:

Your active participation is critical to the success of this course. In general, I will be looking for you to be consistently and enthusiastically engaged in the class. There will be many different ways to get involved and take a leadership role in the History Harvest project and our work with the Great Plains Black History Museum. Each student should seek out opportunities to get involved and contribute.

African American Newspaper Assignment:

Each student will complete an assignment working with historic Omaha black newspapers. Details of this assignment will be provided in class.

Oral History Interview Assignment:

Each student will conduct and process at least one oral history interview with a member of the community. Details of this assignment will be provided in class.

History Harvest Contribution:

Each student will be evaluated on their overall contribution to the History Harvest project, including the planning, organizing and execution of the harvest, as well as the processing of harvested materials for inclusion in the History Harvest web-archive. There are a number of ways students can be involved and take a leadership role in this project over the course of the semester, Further details will be provided in class.

Grading:

Here is the breakdown of your final course grade and the overall grading scale that I use:

• In-Class Participation:	10%
• 3 Reading Quizzes:	10%
• GPBHM Archival Processing:	10%
• Oral History:	10%
• African American Newspaper Assignment:	10%
• History Harvest Contribution:	50%
	100%

A + = 99-100%; A = 93-98%; A- = 90-92%; B+ = 88-89%; B = 83-87%; B- = 80-82%; C+ = 78-79%; C = 73-77%; C- = 70-72%; D+ = 68-69%; D = 60-67%; F = 59% and lower

Other Key Info:**Office Hours:**

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or problems during the semester, please feel free to come speak with me. Open communication is crucial to our success. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-10:30am and 12:30-1:30pm.

Students With Special Needs:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

“Topics & Assignments”

- T (8/23) **Course Introduction**
- TH (8/25) **North Omaha’s “Street of Dreams”**
- Resource Search: *Where* is the history of North Omaha? What books, scholarly and popular articles, websites, archives, public records, newspapers, museums and other resources are out there and available?
- T (8/30) **Book Discussion: Richard Wright, *12 Million Black Voices***
- How does Wright use images and text to tell the story of the great migration? What are the major themes and issues that Wright writes about?
- TH (9/1) **The Segregated City, part 1**
- “Suburbia” documents (posted to Blackboard)
 - Jones, “Ethnic Milwaukee and the Black Community” (posted to Blackboard)
- T (9/6) **Confronting Racial Violence: The “Crucifixion” of William Brown (1919)**
- Menard, “Lest We Forget: The Lynching of Will Brown, Omaha’s 1919 Race Riot” (posted to Blackboard)
 - Please watch the play, “Minstrel Show, or The Lynching of William Brown,” on YouTube:
 - part 1: <http://youtu.be/vDqm-0MCulo>
 - part 2: <http://youtu.be/OJH2ZJaS3G4>
 - part 3: <http://youtu.be/GtdOrbXMKc4>
 - part 4: <http://youtu.be/DYrujm9nMMg>
 - part 5: http://youtu.be/GN3YTX_w-y8
- TH (9/8) **Confronting the Past: The Case of Ed Poindexter and Mondo we langa (formerly David Rice)**
- resources posted to Blackboard
- T (9/13) **Introduction to the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection**
- meet at State Historical Society of Nebraska
 - Forss, “Mildred Brown and the De Porres Club: Collective Activism in Omaha, Nebraska’s Near North Side, 1947-1960” (posted to Blackboard)
- TH (9/15) **“A Community Within a Community” Newspaper Assignment**
- in-class presentations

T (9/20) **Learning to Build the Website**
• Meet at the New Media Center

TH (9/22) **Brainstorming Session with graphic designer, Justin Kemerling**

T (9/27) **Book Discussion: *Education of a WASP***

TH (9/29) **Working with the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection**
• meet at State Historical Society of Nebraska
• browse Bertha Calloway's *Visions of Freedom on the Great Plains: An Illustrated History of African Americans in Nebraska*

**** SAT (Oct 1) – Great Plains Black History Museum Work Day – in Omaha ****
(plan to be in Omaha most of the day)

T (10/4) **HH Work Day: Working with Artifacts**
• resources posted to Blackboard

TH (10/6) **Working with the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection**
• meet at State Historical Society of Nebraska

T (10/11) **HH Work Day: A Primer on Oral History Practices**

TH (10/13) **Book Discussion: *The Rhythm Boys of Omaha Central: High School Basketball at the '68 Racial Divide***

T (10/18) **No Class – Fall Break**

TH (10/20) **HH Work Day: Final Preparations**

**** Saturday, October 22nd – HISTORY HARVEST in North Omaha ****
(Plan to be in Omaha all day!)

T (10/25) **TBD**

TH (10/27) **TBD**

T (11/1) **TBD**

TH (11/3) **Working with the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection**

T (11/8) **TBD**

TH (11/10) **TBD**

T (11/15) **TBD**

TH (11/17)

T (11/22) **Working with the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection**

TH (11/24) **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

T (11/29) **TBD**

TH (12/1) **TBD**

T (12/6) **TBD**

TH (12/8) **Final Class: Public Presentation of the Website**