Spring 2-1-2018

AAST 391.01: ST: White Supremacy History-Defeat

Tobin Shearer

University of Montana - Missoula, tobin.shearer@umontana.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation

https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7503

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
AASS 391 – White Supremacy History-Defeat
Mondays, 4-7 pm.
Location TBA
Tobin Miller Shearer
Spring 2018
CRN: 38999

Instructor contact:
LA 262
406-662-8227 (voice or text)
tobin.shearer@umontana.edu

Office hours:
Wednesdays, 11:30 to 1:00 or by appointment

Course Objectives:
Students will be able to –
- articulate and identify the history and development of key white supremacist groups in the U.S.
- discuss the benefits and drawbacks of strategies used by key anti-racism groups in the U.S.
- implement and evaluate a project to dismantle white supremacy in the U.S.

This course is designed as a learning community. Although we will follow the general format outlined below, students will work with their professor to develop course details, rubrics, and project parameters. The class will integrate real-life organizing practice and scholarly literature through group projects that will constitute the major portion of class work.

Grading scale:
Participation and book talk(s) – 25%
White supremacy group presentation – 25%
Anti-racism group presentation – 25%
Organizing project – 25%

Readings:
Determined through class research.

The class is limited to 15 students. Admission by consent of instructor.

Meals:
Students will sign up in pairs and be responsible for providing two meals for the class in the course of the semester. Meal providers are encouraged to prepare simple, low-cost meals. Class members are responsible for bringing their own plate, cup, and utensils each week.
Possible resources to bring into class for Skype or in-person presentations:
- representative from the Montana Human Rights Network
- representative from the Montana chapter of the ACLU
- Professor Ashby Kinch (English) has offered to do a presentation on white supremacists’ use of medieval history
- Seattle-based anti-racism organizer Rick Derksen has offered to speak with the class via Skype about his work
- Professor Robert Balch (Sociology – retired) is an expert on white supremacy groups and may be willing to come and talk with our class
- other representatives of groups

Tentative schedule:

After week 1, each week will also have space for book talks by students

Week 1: January 22 - Course goals and design; develop reading list; set class expectations; develop rubrics for presentations and projects

Week 2: January 29 - History of Racism and White Privilege in the U.S.

Week 3: February 5 - Group 1 – Input and Discussion on white supremacy organization 1 (KKK 1)

Week 4: February 12 - Group 2 – Input and Discussion on white supremacy organization 2 (KKK 2) – Class will end early to allow participants to attend Presidential Lecture talk by African-American historian Darlene Clark Hine

Week 5: February 19 - No class – President’s day

Week 6: February 26 - Group 3 – Input and Discussion on white supremacy organization 3 (Aryan Nations)

Week 7: March 5 - Group 4 – Input and discussion on white supremacy organization 4 (Skin Heads)

Week 8: March 12 - Group 1 – Input and Discussion on counter efforts 1 (Black Panthers or other Black Power group)

Week 9: March 19 - Group 2 – Input and Discussion on counter efforts 2 (ACLU)

Week 10: March 26 - Spring Break – No class

Week 11: April 2 - Group 3 – Input and Discussion on counter efforts 3 (Southern Poverty Law Center)
Week 12: April 9 - Group 4 – Input and Discussion counter efforts 4 (Anti-racism training groups)

Week 13: April 16 - Group 1 – Project report

Week 14: April 23 - Group 2 – Project report

Week 15: April 30 - Group 3 – Project report

Finals week: May 7 - Group 4 – Project report (Class meets from 5:30 – 7:30)

**Meals:**
Students will sign up in pairs and be responsible for providing two meals for the class in the course of the semester. Meal providers are encouraged to prepare simple, low-cost meals. Class members are responsible for bringing their own plate, cup, and utensils each week.

**Possible resources to bring into class for Skype or in-person presentations:**
- representative from the Montana Human Rights Network
- representative from the Montana chapter of the ACLU
- Professor Ashby Kinch has offered to do a presentation on white supremacists’ use of medieval history
- Seattle-based anti-racism organizer Rick Derksen has offered to speak with the class via Skype about his work
- former School of Journalism dean Peggy Kuhr covered Aryan Nations members and white supremacists during her tenure with *The Spokesman-Review* in Spokane from the mid 1980s through the early 2000s. She has offered to speak with us and/or put us in touch with two of the top reporters from those years: Bill Morlin and Jess Walter. You can find out more about these reporters and their work at these links:
  - [http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/feb/12/journalist-was-eyewitness-to-tragedy-nightmare-of-/#!/0](http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/feb/12/journalist-was-eyewitness-to-tragedy-nightmare-of-/#!/0)
  - [http://thebluereview.org/most-say-aryan-nations/](http://thebluereview.org/most-say-aryan-nations/)