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AAST 391.01: ST: White Supremacy History-Defeat

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AAST 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)

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- 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/aug/20/shawn-vestal-tremors-of-ruby-ridge-in-todays-natio/>

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/feb/12/journalist-was-eyewitness-to-tragedy-nightmare-of-#/0>

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2014/feb/16/dave-oliveria-idaho-ignores-racist-image-ex/>

<http://thebluereview.org/most-say-aryan-nations/>