

HIST 298, Collective Racial Violence in the United States
Spring 2001

Prof. Walter Greason
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Office: McAllister 5036
Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Required Texts:

Robin D. G. Kelley, *To Make Our World Anew*
Thomas Slaughter, *Bloody Dawn*
David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness*
Stuart Tolnay, *Festival of Violence*
Paul Gilje, *Rioting in America*

Course Description:

History 298 is a discussion-based seminar course. We will examine the political, economic, and social impact of collective racial violence in the United States. The basic themes of this course will include: changing political and economic relationships among racial and ethnic groups; evolution of violence within these relationships; intersection of violence and segregation; race riots, lynchings, and state violence.

At the completion of this course, the student should demonstrate a knowledge of the different types of racial violence through the twentieth century. The student must also understand the various ideas, strategies, and events which transformed American race relations. This course will also sharpen the student's reading comprehension and written expression skills. Discussions, lectures, and interactive exercises combine in each weekly meeting. This class will introduce more detailed conceptions of social formation and evolution. The basic elements of critical thought (summarizing, contextualizing, and conceptualizing) are the foundation for all assignments and classroom work in this course. Creative thinking exercises will help students develop their own analysis of racial violence and strategies for preventing it in the future. At the end of the term, each student should understand how collective racial violence evolved and what role it played in this nation's history.

Course Requirements:

There are four requirements for the successful completion of this course: a research paper (or three reaction papers), a mid-term exam, a final exam, and class participation. Both exams will pose essay questions which require familiarity with and reference to homework assignments and classroom activities. In both cases, essay responses must present a clear, concise, and well-organized arguments. Each exam will constitute 25% of the final grade.

The research paper must be typed, double-spaced, page-numbered, with 1" margins, a cover page, and using a font-size 12 (Times or Arial). It must be 10-15 pages (not including cover page). The research paper must include a

bibliography and parenthetical citations, using the Modern Language Association format. A handout specifying topics and resources for the research paper will be distributed at a later date. The research paper will constitute 30% of the final grade. You have the option of writing three (3) reaction papers in place of the research paper. Reaction papers must be 3-5 pages in length with the same specifications (except citations and bibliography) as the research paper. Handouts specifying topics for reaction papers will be given out at least one week before the papers are due. Reaction papers are worth 10% of the final grade each. Student must do either ALL three reaction papers OR the research paper – no other combination will be accepted.

Class participation consists of two components – attendance and activity – making up 20% of the final grade. Over two absences (excused or unexcused) will result in a reduction in the student's grade by one level (e.g. B to C, C to D). Over four absences (excused or unexcused) will result in a failing grade for the student. As discussions and activities are central components of this course, students who offer their perspectives and support their classmates will be rewarded with higher grades for class participation. Chronic lateness and eating in the classroom will not be tolerated. With few exceptions, I do not give Incompletes in this course.

Schedule of Assignments:

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|-------------|---|--|
| Mar. 29 | Introduction and Syllabus Lecture: Foundations | Kelley, 199-226 Slaughter, 3-42 Roediger, 3-19 |
| Apr. 5 | Lecture & Discussion: 1820s-1850s | Slaughter, 42-93 Roediger, 95-114 Reaction Paper 1 |
| Apr. 12 | Lecture & Discussion: 1850s-1880s Reaction Paper 1 DUE | Gilje, 87-93 Tolnay, 17-54 Roediger, 115-166 |
| Apr. 19 | MOVIE: <i>Rosewood</i> and discussion | Tolnay, 55-86 Kelley, 281-344 |
| Apr. 26 | MID-TERM EXAMINATION | Reaction Paper 2 |
| May 3 | Lecture & Discussion: 1900s-1930s Reaction Paper 2 DUE | Kelley, 345-408 Gilje, 93-115, 123-130 Tolnay, 202-238 |

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| May 10 | Lecture & Discussion: 1940s-1970s | Kelley, 426-444 Gilje, 144-176 Research Paper Reaction Paper 3 |
| May 17 | MOVIE: <i>A Great and Mighty Walk</i> and discussion Research Paper DUE Reaction Paper 3 DUE | Kelley, 479-542 |
| May 24 | Lecture & Discussion: 1970s-present | Gilje, 177-181 Kelley, 573-583, 604-613 Portes handout |
| May 31 | Applications and Activities | Final Exam Preparation |