

**HON 320W: SIDEWALK U, HILTON HEAD/BEAUFORT COUNTY, SC:
INEQUALITY AND AMERICAN SOCIETY
Spring Semester 2015**

Course: HON 320W (3 credit hours)
Instructors/Leaders: Elizabeth Underwood and David Coleman
Student Trip Leader: Beth Spencer
Office: Keith Building 219 and Case Annex 169
Phone: (859) 622-1469 (Underwood); (859) 622-2926 (Coleman)
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-Mail: david.coleman@eku.edu; elizabeth.underwood@eku.edu

Course Description:

This course is an experiential, reflective, and proactive immersion into the issues of social and economic inequality in the contemporary United States. Our “real-life” laboratory will be the South Carolina “Low Country,” including Hilton Head Island, the city of Beaufort and environs, and St. Helena Island. Most of the classroom/instructional contact hours for the course will occur during our January 12–17, 2015 field trip to the region. Foci of our study will include the contemporary social and economic circumstances of the Low Country’s Gullah/Geechee populace, Hispanic migrant agricultural labor community, and retiree and tourist communities of Hilton Head and other area resorts.

All students must attend the 90-minute Orientation class on Monday December 1 or Tuesday December 2. After returning from our field trip, each student will complete a research paper project and make an oral presentation. Details and due dates for all elements of the research paper project are on a separate handout and available on Blackboard.

HON 320W: Honors Seminar in Diversity of Perspectives & Experiences (Element 6)

Students who successfully complete this course as HON 320W will:

1. Comprehend the major concepts of the course.
2. Gather, synthesize, and critically analyze information and present it in a well-written format.
3. Verbally articulate complex information in an interesting presentation.
4. Understand the methods used in the analysis and/or expression of the experiences and perspectives of historically marginalized or underrepresented groups.
5. Consider the role(s) played by relevant social, economic, literary, and historical forces in the depiction and positioning of historically marginalized or underrepresented groups.
6. Analyze the categories of one’s identity within the light of the issues raised in the course.
7. Demonstrate a writing process that produces effective documents appropriate to course level.

Writing Intensive Designation:

Students who successfully complete this course as either HON 320W will:

1. Demonstrate a writing process that produces effective documents appropriate to course level.

Grading:

Reflections/Responses:

Pre-Trip Readings Question Responses	10
Nightly Reflections on Trip(x4)	5 each (x4 = 20)

Participation/Attendance/Service Project: 20

Research Paper:

Research Question/Initial Meet	5
Initial Bibliography	5
Preliminary Text	10
Oral Presentation (8 minutes)	10
Final Paper	20

TOTAL 100 pts.

Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned based on the quality of work observed and turned in to the instructor. The assignment of grades will reflect the standard Eastern Kentucky University scale:

- 90%-100% = A
- 80%-89% = B
- 70%-79% = C
- 60%-69% = D
- 0%-59% = F

Required Common Readings: (On Blackboard)

Cohen, Andrew. "For Migrant Workers, Still the Harvest and the Shame." *The Atlantic* November 21, 2012. <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2012/11/for-migrant-workers-still-the-harvest-and-the-shame/265457/> (Includes links to two videos to watch).

Finewood, Michael Howard. "Feeling the Squeeze: A Political Ecology of Race and Amenity-Based Development in Coastal Bluffton, South Carolina." *Local Environment* 17: 9 (October 2012): 991-1011.

Massey, Douglas S. 2007. "How Stratification Works." Chapter 1 of *Categorically Unequal: The American Stratification System*. New York: Sage. https://www.russellsage.org/sites/all/files/Massey_Chap1_2.pdf

Low Country Gullah Culture: Special Resource Study and Final Environmental Impact Statement. National Park Service Report. Atlanta, 2005. (students to read pp. 14-54 and pp. 74-89). http://www.nps.gov/history/ethnography/research/docs/ggsrs_book.pdf.

Orientation (mandatory)

Trip orientation and course introduction
Monday December 1 or Tuesday December 2, 2014
4:30-6:00 PM, Case Annex 162

Trip Itinerary

Travel: January 12-17, 2015

Monday January 12:

Departure 8:00 am from Daniel Boone statue on ECU campus

Arrival at Penn Center around 7pm (Meals on the road)

(Arnett House at Penn Center will be our “home-base” in the Low Country. Breakfast there each day at 7:30am and supper at 6:30 PM. We will have class each evening for approximately one hour after supper)

Tuesday January 13:

Exploring Gullah/Geechee community issues on St. Helena Island (9:00-10:30 am talk by Dr. Majmah Thomas, 11:00-3:00pm exploring St. Helena; late afternoon 3:30-5:30pm at Hunting Island for consideration of environmental issues, fragility and preservation of region’s ecosystems.

Wednesday January 14:

Exploring Hispanic migrant labor community and economic, educational, social and health care issues on St. Helena Island (8:30am-4:30pm)

Thursday January 15:

Exploring Hilton Head: economy, tourism, retirement communities, labor issues, environment and development; late afternoon (3:30-5:30pm) “City as Text” exercise at Harbor Town and on beach.

Friday January 16:

Service activity at St Andrews UMC Soup Kitchen (8:30am-2:00pm)

Saturday January 17:

Return to Kentucky (Meals on the road)

Last Day to Drop the Course

The last day to drop the course without receiving a “W” is available in the Colonel’s Compass at: www.eku.edu/compass.

Disability Statement

A student with a “disability” may be an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, seeing or hearing. Additionally, pregnancy or a related medical condition that causes a similar substantial limitation may also be considered a disability under the ADA. If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the office in the Whitlock Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format. For further information see <http://www.disabilities.eku.edu>.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic Integrity (AI) is a fundamental value for the Eastern Kentucky University community of students, faculty, and staff. It should be clearly understood that academic dishonesty and incidents of academic dishonesty will have serious consequences. Anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty shall be considered as responsible as the student who accepts such assistance and shall be subject to the same sanctions. Academic dishonesty can occur in different forms, some of which include cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication. For further information see <http://studentrights.eku.edu/academic-integrity-policy>.

Official Email Notice

An official EKU email is established for each registered student, each faculty member and each staff member. All university communications sent via email will be sent to this EKU email address.

General Helpful Information and Trip Rules

You should always be in groups of at least two. We understand that traveling in groups of more than two can be difficult (it will take longer to get seated in a restaurant, make decisions about where to eat, etc.). If you are moving in a group of four or more, be prepared to split into smaller groups when going to restaurants.

Be smart about your money and ID. Plan a way to keep them safe and with you. Be prepared for the outdoors. Even though we will be “on the beach” plan for cold and/or wet weather. We will be walking and outdoors a lot. You will want to have appropriate clothing including rain gear. Pay attention to meeting times. No one will be waited on when we are doing an activity. Make sure you have the instructors’ and student leader’s phone numbers saved in your phone and use them, when necessary.

Please pack wisely. We are traveling with limited space in the vans.

Some things to pack should include:

- warm and breathable clothes to layer and that are comfortable for walking
- rain gear
- shoes comfortable for walking (no flip flops!)
- camera and/or cell phone
- debit card and credit card (don’t forget to put the phone number you need to call to cancel your card should it get stolen or lost somewhere in your luggage, away from your wallet)
- cash needed for meals
- something to carry your toiletries
- A JOURNAL for notes and nightly reflections (will be turned in on trip home)
- Copies of the readings and copies of your pre-trip readings responses (for classes at night)

Finally: remember that you are a representative of EKU, EKU Honors, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Please act responsibly and be safe. If you don’t know something, ask us- or someone you trust.

Pre-Trip Readings Questions

Due: On Blackboard before we depart

Please submit your answers to these questions via the assignments folder on blackboard prior to our departure on Monday January 12.

ALSO: Print and bring copies of your answers with you for nightly class discussions. You will want to have access to the readings as well.

Cohen, Andrew

Using examples from the article and 2 films linked therein, identify and discuss two factors which help to explain the vulnerability of migrant farm workers (in two paragraphs, roughly 200 words each).

Finewood, Michael

This is a complex and “jargony” reading. Don’t get bogged down in the theoretical discussions – keep reading and I think you will be able to get the gist of his argument and will find his descriptions of locations and development history in Blufton enlightening. Despite the difficulty of the reading and his reasoning we do want you to address the following question in approximately two paragraphs of about 200 words each:

Identify and discuss two factors that contribute to the “squeezing out” of African Americans from the Blufton area.

Massey, Douglas

According to Massey, although the creation of boundaries and distinctions among categories of people is universal, the form those categories and boundaries take changes across different societies, cultures and historical moments. Using the terminology introduced in this reading, describe the boundaries in the social world with which you are most familiar (most likely your hometown). Thinking about our upcoming trip, what sorts of boundaries do you expect to encounter? (Approximately two paragraphs, roughly 200 words each)

National Park Service (Low Country Gullah Culture)

Using specific examples and evidence from the reading, develop two paragraphs (roughly 200 words each) in which you indicate what you (in your well-informed and evidenced opinion) find to have been the two most important factors OTHER than emancipation in shaping historical change among the Gullah/Geechee peoples of the Lowcountry over the past 300 years.