Class Information
HONR 401: Study Away in Mississippi: Exploring Race, Poverty, and Civil Rights
Classroom:
Class time:
Credits: 4
Prerequisites: None

Professor
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Phone: (507) 389-1248
Office hours:

Class Description
This is a study away class to Mississippi during which students will visit sites where civil rights activists fought against the racial discrimination that barred the state’s black citizens from voting, securing decent jobs, eating at local lunch counters, and accessing the other rights of citizenship. Before the trip, students will study the geography, history, and culture of the state focusing on the intersections of race, gender, geography, and poverty. The road trip will include visits to Memphis, Tennessee; the Mississippi Delta; and the state capital of Jackson. During the trip, we’ll visit museums and memorials; we’ll travel across rural fields; and we’ll engage in discussions with locals to gain a better understanding of how the state memorializes its difficult history. After the trip, students will reflect on their research through informal class discussions and formal reflection exercises. The class will culminate with a multimedia class project where students examine questions posed throughout the semester and consider how their research contributes to the answers to those questions.

Student Learning Outcomes
Student Learning Outcomes represent the knowledge and skills students are expected to attain by the end of this course. The following table shows the learning outcomes and course activities aligned with Honors Competencies:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Honors Competencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the issue of race in Mississippi; contrast the notion of race as a</td>
<td>Analyze readings and documentaries related to race and intersectionality.</td>
<td>Global Citizenship: Culture</td>
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<td>biological reality versus a social construct; and classify various factors that</td>
<td>Participate in class discussions on issues of race, gender, class, and</td>
<td>Emerging Level One:</td>
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<td>contribute to the construction of race. Analyze how race intersects with</td>
<td>geography. Draft an informal reflection on how these issues affect the</td>
<td>Identifies basic concepts related to global citizenship and cultural competency.</td>
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<td>gender, economic status, and geography.</td>
<td>student’s world view.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distinguish important features and components of Mississippi culture;</td>
<td>Analyze readings and documentaries related to Mississippi's history.</td>
<td>Global Citizenship: Culture</td>
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<td>illustrate how place helped to shape the state’s culture; and synthesize this</td>
<td>Participate in class discussions on these issues. Draft an informal</td>
<td>Developing Level Two:</td>
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<td>information to generate conclusions about regional culture.</td>
<td>reflection on how race has affected Mississippi’s history.</td>
<td>Uses discipline specific concepts to identify other social conditions and cultural</td>
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<td>Examine the important civil rights events, individuals, and developments in</td>
<td>Visit civil rights sites and museums. Interview and listen to scholars,</td>
<td>realities.</td>
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<td>Mississippi. Assess the significance of these events to the national civil</td>
<td>legislators, and other Mississippians who shape the way history is</td>
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<td>rights movement.</td>
<td>understood in Mississippi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze how Mississippi memorializes historical individuals and events related</td>
<td>Students will develop a research question or set of questions they plan to</td>
<td>Research: Original Research</td>
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<td>to race, culture, and civil rights; compare and contrast various museums and</td>
<td>research and develop on the trip. Students will document their research</td>
<td>Emerging Level One:</td>
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<td>memorials; and question the state’s approach to historical memory.</td>
<td>on the research question during the trip. Students will verbally reflect</td>
<td>Identifies research question or creative proposal that extends knowledge or practice</td>
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<td>on cultural interactions in Mississippi with classmates and faculty.</td>
<td>of their disciplines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribute essay or other creative activity to a multi-media online class</td>
<td>Class will design online website; research, write, edit, and rewrite</td>
<td>Research: Information Synthesis</td>
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<td>project in which students reflect on their understanding of the readings and</td>
<td>essays; assemble images to go with essays; synthesize the work product of</td>
<td>Developing Level Two:</td>
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<td>activities in this class.</td>
<td>individual class members to formulate a coherent message.</td>
<td>Develops ability to evaluate and synthesize perspectives on a given topic.</td>
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<td>Research: Information Synthesis</td>
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<td>Developing Level Three:</td>
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<td>Exhibits ability to draw upon multiple sources to present a coherent and</td>
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<td>integrated thesis statement or hypothesis.</td>
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Readings
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (copies of this book are available at Memorial Library)

Other readings include articles and book excerpts that will be available to students on D2L as well as websites students can access online. Students need to complete all reading assignments before class and be prepared to discuss the readings in class.

Online Requirement
The professor will post any alterations to this syllabus, additional readings, and announcements on Desire2Learn (D2L). Students may also access their grades and attendance on D2L. It is each student’s responsibility to ensure access to D2L. If you have trouble with D2L, contact the IT Help Desk at (507) 389-6654 and located on the third floor of Memorial Library.

Grading
Grading is based on the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Assignments</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimedia Project</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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Final grades will be based on the following point ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Point Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-599</td>
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</tbody>
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**Attendance/Participation**
This course involves a lot of interaction in class and a lot of participation from students. Students are expected to attend and pay attention in class. Students should only miss class if they have an urgent excuse and need to provide an excuse for any absence. Students with excused absences should still submit assignments in a timely manner and keep up with readings and class activities.

The most significant feature of this course is the Spring Break trip to Mississippi. Students need to plan to complete this trip and to
participate fully in activities on the trip. Any student who is not physically present or who does not participate completely in class activities will receive a reduced attendance/participation grade.

**Reflection assignments**
Students will participate in different types of informal and formal reflection exercises before, during, and after the study away trip.

**Multimedia project**
Students will plan and complete a multimedia project focused on the themes of this class. The project will employ a class blog as well as various social media platforms. Although students will work on this project throughout the semester, most of the work will take place during and after the Spring Break trip. Students will complete this project as a class, but each student will be assessed on her individual contributions to the project, her leadership roles throughout the course of the project, and the quality of the final product.

**Class Schedule**

Week One: Introduction to Class

Week Two: Anne Moody, Race, Gender, Geography, and Poverty
   – Read Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Week Three: Race and History
   – Read “Race,” chapter 3 in *Southern Culture: An Introduction*, pp. 121-180

Week Four: Discuss Trip and Culminating Project
   – Read the University's social media policies on MSU, Mankato, Social Media page
   – Read the Farish Street Project online

Week Five: Intersections of Race & Gender

Week Six: The Mississippi Delta—Poverty & Civil Rights
   – Watch the HBO documentary *Lalee's Kin*. 
Week Seven: Mississippi, Civil Rights & Contested Historical Memory

- Review the online Sovereignty Commission files and identify a civil rights story documented by these files to discuss with the class.
- “Mississippi’s Flag: Not as Simple as it Looks,” The Economist, April 19, 2001.

Week Eight: Mississippi Culture

- Explore a few oral histories in “Jackson’s Iconic Restaurants,” “Hot Tamale Trail,” and “Chinese Grocers.” Be prepared to discuss the diversity of Mississippi cuisine.
- Check out the “Hot Tamale Trail” map.
- Watch the Mississippi Blues Trail Welcome Video.
- Explore some of the markers on the Mississippi Blues Trail, Delta Region.

Week Nine: Spring Break Trip

- Saturday—Drive Mankato-St. Louis
- Sunday—Drive St. Louis-Memphis
- Monday—Memphis, Tennessee—Visit the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel
- Tuesday—Mississippi Delta—Freedom Trail tour—Visit the Delta Center for Culture & Learning
- Wednesday—Mississippi Delta—Freedom Trail tour—Visit the Emmett Till Interpretive Center and the B. B. King Museum
- Thursday—Jackson, Mississippi—Visit Jackson State University
- Friday—Jackson, Mississippi—Tour Tougaloo College—Tour the Medgar Evers House
- Saturday—Drive Jackson-St. Louis
- Sunday—Drive St. Louis-Mankato

Week Ten—Informal reflection

Week Eleven—Formal reflection exercises and project planning

Week Twelve—Formal reflection exercises and project planning
Week Thirteen—Work on multimedia project

Week Fourteen—Work on multimedia project

Week Fifteen—Showcase multimedia project

Academic Honesty
As members of this University community, students assume the responsibility to fulfill their academic obligations in a fair and honest manner. This responsibility includes avoiding inappropriate activities such as plagiarism, cheating or collusion. Students found responsible for one or more of these activities may face both academic sanctions (such as lowering a grade, failing of a course, etc.) and disciplinary sanctions (such as probation, suspension, or expulsion).

It is the intent of Minnesota State University, Mankato to encourage a sense of integrity on the part of students in fulfilling their academic requirements. To give students a better understanding of behaviors that may constitute academic dishonesty, the following definitions are provided.

Plagiarism: Submission of an academic assignment as one’s own work, which includes critical ideas or written narrative that are taken from another author without the proper citation. This applies both to direct quotes and to critical ideas paraphrased by the student. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
   a) Submitting the work of others as your own;
   b) Submitting others’ work as your own with only minor changes;
   c) Submitting others’ work as your own without adequate footnotes, quotations, and other reference forms; or
   d) Multiple submission of the same work, written or oral, for more than one course without both instructor’s permission, or making minor revisions on work which has received credit and submitting it again as new work.

Cheating: Use of unauthorized material or assistance to help fulfill academic assignments. This material could include unauthorized copies of test materials, calculators, electronics, crib sheets, help from another student, etc.

Collusion: Assistance to another student or among students in committing the act of cheating or plagiarism.

If an act of academic dishonesty is suspected, the professor will handle it according to the procedures specified in the Academic Honesty policy at http://www.mnsu.edu/policies/approved/academichonesty.pdf. By remaining in this class, students assert they have read this policy and agree to abide by its procedures. Students will be asked to submit a survey to D2L confirming they have read the university’s Academic Honesty policy and agree to abide by it.
E-mail
MavMail is the official medium for student communication in this class. Students should use their MavMail account to communicate with the professor. The professor may not receive or respond to student email from outside accounts. Students are responsible for regularly monitoring and reading their MavMail accounts. If you have trouble with your MavMail account, contact the IT Help Desk at (507) 389-6654 and located on the third floor of Memorial Library.

Accessibility Resources
MSU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with Accessibility Resources (Memorial Library 132, telephone 389-2825, TDD 711) to establish an accommodation plan and then contact me as soon as possible.

Campus Security
MSU, Mankato values the safety of all individuals on campus. You are encouraged to review the campus Emergency Response Guide online (http://www.mnsu.edu/security/emergencies) or in your classroom. This information will help you create a personal safety plan and consider your options in the event of an emergency.

Images and Maps
These images and maps, among others, will help provide a basis for discussion about Mississippi this semester.