

Midterm Exam

Reconstructing New Orleans

Spring 2006

Description

With this exam you should demonstrate your familiarity with the program material. This includes books, articles, films, and lectures up through and including Monday April 24th. But you should refrain from using your research materials.

The goal of this exam is to produce a thematic, synthesis discussion of the program material that begins to explain the place Katrina hit, what Katrina revealed, and how New Orleans has been constructed politically, socially, culturally, economically and/or physically. A successful exam needs to be concrete and well-grounded in the program materials. This means you will need to carefully think through a way to frame and focus your essay so as to allow for a well-developed and plausible theme.

You should do your best to use and cite as many program sources as fit with your theme. This should include all books and some of the various articles, films and lectures.

You can work with other students in the program to brainstorm, dialogue, revise and proofread your midterm, but you must write your own exam. It must contain your work and your thinking.

Your final draft should be 7-10 pages of writing, footnoted & sourced, and with a works cited page at the end. Please see the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style or Kate Turabian's A Manual for Writers. You can find these manuals in the reference section of the library and on the writing resources webpage of program website. Your exam needs page numbers and a title. Be sure to spellcheck and proofread your exam thoroughly.

Due

Friday, April 28th at 10 AM. No Late Mid terms will be accepted.

Program Material

Books

Dyson, Michael Eric. Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster. New York: Basic Civitas, 2006.

Medley, Keith Weldon. We as Freeman: Plessy v. Ferguson. Gretna, La.: Pelican Pub. Co., 2003.

Gill, James. Lords of Misrule: Mardi Gras and the Politics of Race in New Orleans. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1997.

Harvey, David. A Brief History of Neoliberalism. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Articles, etc.

"Letter to the Movement" by Eric Mann

"Six Months After Katrina: Who Was Left Behind - Then and Now" by Bill Quigley

"Watermark" by Elizabeth Kolbert

"Who's Killing New Orleans" by Mike Davis

"A Feminist Perspective on Hurricane Katrina" by Loretta Ross

"Why did Hurricane Katrina Hit Women So Hard" by Laura Butterbaugh

"A Strategy for Rebuilding New Orleans" by the Urban Land institute

"Atchafalaya" by John McPhee

Selections WEB DuBois' "Black Reconstruction"

Also Handouts, maps, lectures, notes, etc.

Films

Storm that Drowned a City

Black Rage

Solidarity Not Charity

Gumbo from Ken Burns's Jazz

Huey Long

Selections from Ethnic Notions, Reconstruction: Second Civil War, Birth of a Nation, Ida B. Wells