

Three-Day Seminar

FHC Teachers Center Seminar

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE QUEST FOR FREEDOM: RECONSTRUCTION TO CIVIL RIGHTS

A Workshop Created for Brevard County History Teachers
By the Florida Humanities Council
Funded by a USDOE *Teaching American History* Grant

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Eckerd College

Lead Scholar: Dr. Raymond Arsenault, John Hope Franklin Professor of History, University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Seminar Questions: How have race and racism influenced the evolution of freedom in the United States? How has the African-American freedom struggle changed over time, from emancipation and Reconstruction to the civil rights movement of the post-World War II era? To what extent and in what ways has the African-American struggle for freedom and civil rights reshaped and redefined the American democratic ethos? How can we acquire and communicate a subtle and informed understanding of the interrelated histories of American racism, freedom, equality, and democracy?

Seminar Texts: *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* by C. Vann Woodward ; *St. Petersburg's Historic 22nd Street South* by Jon Wilson and Rosalie Peck; *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice* by Raymond Arsenault; Anthology of brief selections from various texts provided upon arrival.

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Questions: What was the primary motivation for Harriet Beecher Stowe's relocation to Florida during Reconstruction? How did her attitudes toward and relationships with African Americans change during her years in Florida? What did she envision when she contemplated a "reconstructed" Florida?

10:30 am	Check-in Lobby, West Lodge <i>Continuing Education Center, Eckerd College</i>
11:15 am	Welcome and Introductions <i>Activity Room, West Lodge</i>
Noon	Lunch <i>CEC Dining Room</i>

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1:15 – 3:15 pm	Each participant will share an object, photo, song, article or story that connects the participant to the topic. <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 – 5:30 pm	Overview and Introduction: Dr. Arsenault initiates our exploration of race and freedom during the post-Civil War era, describing the format and content of the workshop. <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
6:00 -7:00 pm	Dinner <i>Dining Room</i>
7:00 – 8:30 pm	“Harriet Beecher Stowe in Florida: On Reconstruction” The author of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> moved to North Florida after the Civil War, hoping to help freed slaves. Wanting to escape publicity, she instead became one of the most notorious figures along the St. John's River, partly because she continued to take controversial stands. Betty Jean Steinshouer, independent scholar, author, Chautauqua performer, shares Stowe's influence on Reconstruction in Florida and Florida's influence on Stowe. <i>Activity Room, West Lodge, CEC</i>
<p>Readings for Tomorrow: Woodward, <i>The Strange Career of Jim Crow</i>, pp. v-109; Eric Foner, <i>A Short History of Reconstruction</i>, pp. xi-xvi, 35-54; John Hope Franklin, “<i>The Birth of a Nation: Propaganda as History</i>,” in Franklin, <i>Race and History</i>, pp. 10-23; Valerie Boyd, <i>Wrapped in Rainbows</i>, pp. 350-351; Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Dust Tracks on a Road</i>, pp. 177-192; Al Burt, <i>The Tropic of Cracker</i>, pp. 79-86; Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, <i>Cross Creek</i>, pp. 189-214; Raymond Arsenault, Review of <i>Rosewood</i>, <i>Journal of American History</i> (December 1997): pp. 1173-1174.</p>	
<p><u>Wednesday, August 1, 2007</u></p>	
<p>Questions: How was the death of slavery transformed the birth of freedom? What roles did African Americans play in the attempt to reconstruct the American South during the 1860s and 1870s? How did the mythology of “Black Reconstruction” affect the character and tone of race relations and politics during the half century following emancipation? How did African Americans respond to the maturation and codification of Jim Crow segregation and discrimination during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries? Why did the racial situation in Florida produce an inordinate number of lynchings and racial massacres such as Ocoee (1920) and Rosewood (1923)? What does the relationship between Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings tell us about the nature, influence, and limitations of interracial cooperation and understanding in Florida and the South during the era preceding the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s?</p>	
7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast

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	<i>CEC Dining Room</i>
9:00 – 10:30 am	Emancipation, Reconstruction, and the Meaning of Freedom <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 -12:00 am	Black Reconstruction: Myth and Reality Excerpts from and discussion of <i>The Birth of a Nation</i> (1915) <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Lunch <i>CEC Dining Room</i>
12:45 – 3:00 pm	Free time for reading, reflection, recreation or to visit the many museums in St. Petersburg <i>Bus departs from front of West Lodge</i>
3:00 pm	Bus departs from pre-determined site to return to Eckerd College
3:15 – 4:30 pm	The Age of Jim Crow: Accommodation and Resistance <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
4:30 – 4:40 pm	Break
4:40 – 5:40 pm	The Age of Jim Crow: History and Memory Excerpts from and discussion of <i>Rosewood</i> (1997) <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
5:40 pm	Ann Schoenacher speaks about FHC teacher-grant opportunities and introduces us to the NEH funded FHC Florida website, public television documentary and teacher web projects <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Dinner <i>CEC Dining Room</i>
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: a Bi-racial Friendship in Jim Crow Florida. These Florida writers are brought to life by Phyllis McEwen and Betty Jean Steinshouer, independent Chautauqua scholars , who discuss the impact of Jim Crow on the authors' lives, their work, and their relationship with each other. <i>Pelican Room, CEC</i>

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Readings for Tomorrow: Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*, pp. 111-232; Peck and Wilson, *St. Petersburg's Historic 22nd Street South*; "The Civil Rights Era, 1954-1965," *Forum* (Winter 1994-95): 4-42 (see especially Gregory Padgett, "Tallahassee 1956," pp. 14-21; "Black, White, and Brown," *Forum* (Spring 2004): 8-42; Selection of articles on Harry T. Moore; Arsenault, *Freedom Riders*, pp. 1-10, 93-258, 317-325.

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Questions: How did the Great Depression, the New Deal, and World War II affect the prospects for freedom among African Americans? What do the careers of Harry T. Moore and the Reverend C. K. Steele tell us about the changing nature of the civil rights struggle in Florida and the South during the 1940s and 1950s? How did the post-*Brown* movement for racial integration affect the quality of community life among African Americans in Florida and the South? What precipitated the flowering of nonviolent direct action and belief in the "beloved community" during the 1960s? Why did nonviolence and interracialism give way to the politics of Black Power, white backlash, and racial separatism during the mid- and late-1960s? What happened to the "freedom struggle" in the post-1960s era? To what extent is the dream of the "beloved community" still alive today?

7:15 - 8:30 am	Breakfast CEC Dining Room
9:00 – 10:30 am	Race, Region, and the American Civil Rights Struggle, 1925-1955
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – Noon	Harry T. Moore , a leading Florida civil rights activist murdered by Ku Klux Klansmen in 1951, is brought to life by Bob Devin Jones. Discussion follows the Performance. <i>Activity Room, West Lodge, CEC</i>
12:00 - 1:00 am	Lunch <i>CEC Dining Room</i>
1:00 - 2:15 pm	Civil Rights Activism Comes to Florida, 1956 - 1964 <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
2:15 – 4:15 pm	Free time for reading, reflection, recreation
4:15 – 6:00 pm	Bus Tour of St. Petersburg's African-American community, including Jordan Park and the historic 22 nd Street South district, with authors Rosalie Peck and Jon Wilson . <i>Depart from front of West Lodge</i>
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Dinner <i>Savannah's</i>

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7:00 pm	Depart for USFSP
7:15 – 8:30 pm	The Freedom Struggle Comes of Age: The 1960s Conversation with Kredelle Petway, a civil rights activist , who participated in the 1961 Freedom Rides through the Jim Crow South <i>William's House, University of South Florida St. Petersburg</i>
8:30 pm	Depart for Eckerd College
<u>Friday, August 3, 2007</u>	
Questions: How can we acquire and communicate a subtle and informed understanding of the interrelated histories of American racism, freedom, equality, and democracy? To quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Where do we go from here?"	
7:15 - 8:30 am	Breakfast <i>CEC Dining Room</i>
8:30 – 9:00 am	Check out of rooms
9:00 - 10:30 am	Freedom, Race, and American Democracy: We revisit the questions for the week. Spoonbill Room, CEC
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – Noon	Reflective discussion of workshop, classroom applications, and web projects. Evaluations and Distribution of in-service certificates and mementoes <i>Spoonbill Room, CEC</i>
Noon	Boxed lunch and departure