

Research Methods in African Americans History: Focus on Jazz Historiography

A COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH COURSE

AFA 3850 Section 3456 - Class hours: Tues 11:45-1:40 /Thurs 11:45-12:35
Dr. Evans - Spring 2007



- **WHAT IS BLACK HISTORY & HISTORIOGRAHY?**
 - **WHAT IS JAZZ?** (Music, vocals, & dance)
- **WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF RESEARCH ABOUT JAZZ?**
(From a race & gendered perspective)
- **WHAT ARE THE INTEREST, USE, AND APPLICATION OF JAZZ FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES?**
(Like the Gainesville Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Center Project)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will explore various ways that African American history has been and can be researched. *Students will:*

- ✓ be introduced to research topics, themes, and methods in the field of African American history.
- ✓ discuss this content and structure in relation to collecting, preserving, and disseminating Black cultural, political, and intellectual history.
- ✓ in the first half of the course, use resources and methods within their academic discipline to formulate a question relevant to African American history, utilize primary and secondary sources to answer that question, and develop an argument based on their original research.
- ✓ in the second half of the course, explore the many ways jazz history (about musicians, singers, and dancers) has been written.

THIS IS A COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH COURSE. Students' final papers will be constructed to answer questions generated from and relevant to local, national, and international jazz communities. The final papers will be shared with members of two specific communities:

1. **Gainesville Cotton Club Cultural Center Project:** <http://www.cce.ufl.edu/cottonclub/story.htm>
2. **International Association of Jazz Educators:** <http://www.iaje.org/>

Community-based research involves partnership and collaboration with local communities, and employs multiple methods of collection and dissemination for the purpose of community building and social justice (Evans, 2007; Miller, 2008).

Guest speakers include historians, jazz musicians, DJs, singers, dancers, & community activists.

READING LIST INCLUDES:



UPON THESE SHORES: THEMES IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, 1600-PRESENT

A SHORT GUIDE TO WRITING ABOUT HISTORY

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED JAZZ?: AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSICIANS AS ARTISTS, CRITICS, ACTIVISTS

BLACK MUSIC

To register:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/>

(This is a junior-senior level course)

For more information:

Website: www.ProfessorEvans.com

(click "Teaching" to view syllabi)