FYS 198-2: Tryin' to find a way back Home:

An Introduction to the Literature and Legacy of Homelessness in America



Course Schedule

First Week

Course Introduction:

The Origins of the Contemporary Homelessness Crisis in America

Assignments:

Glasser & Hirsch, "Understanding Homelessness: From Memoir to Pathways Home"

Kusmer, Down & Out, on the Road

Second Week

Topics:

The Dustbowl, the Great Depression, and the Birth of the Modern American Concept of Homelessness

Assignments:

Fee, "Yes, Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S."

Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath

MOVIE ONE

Third Week
Topic:
The Hobo as an American Icon
Assignment:
Kennedy, Ironweed
Fourth Week
Topic:
Iconoclasm: The Faces of American Homeless Women Today
Assignment:
Liebow, Tell Them Who I Am
MOVIE TWO
Fifth Week
Topic:
Prepare for Reading Days Service-Learning Trip
Assignments:
Fee, "These Kids Today"
Hilfiker, Not All of Us Are Saints
ORGANIZATION PAPER DUE AT THE START OF CLASS ON FRIDAY OF WEEK FIVE
Sixth Week
Topic:
Prepare for Reading Days Service-Learning Trip
Assignment:
Egger, Begging for Change

Seventh Week Review for Midterm Exam **ORGANIZATION PRESENTATIONS DURING WEEK SEVEN MOVIE THREE Eighth Week** Topic: Mental Illness and Homelessness Assignment: Failer, Who Qualifies for Rights? MIDTERM EXAM ON FRIDAY OF WEEK EIGHT **Ninth Week** Topic: Home is where the Heart is: Keeping a Family Together on the Streets in the '80s Assignment: Kozol, Rachel and Her Children MOVIE REVIEW ONE DUE AT THE START OF CLASS ON FRIDAY OF WEEK NINE **MOVIE FOUR Tenth Week** Topic: Home is where the Heart is: Families in the Shelter Today Assignment: Nunez & Sugie, Beyond the Shelter Wall

READING DAYS (FRIDAY-TUESDAY): SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP

SERVICE PAPER DUE AT THE START OF CLASS ON FRIDAY OF WEEK TEN

Eleventh Week
Topic:
Addiction, Homelessness, and Voices from the Urban Wilderness
Assignments:
Flynn, Another Bullshit Night in Suck City
Stringer, Grand Central Winter
SERVICE PRESENTATIONS DURING WEEK ELEVEN
MOVIE FIVE
Twelfth Week
Topic:
Welfare Reform and Homelessness
Assignment:
Fee, "A Lost Generation"
Hays, Flat Broke With Children
Thirteenth Week
Topic:
The Working Poor in America Today
Assignment:
Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed
MOVIE SIX

Fourteenth Week

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS DURING WEEK FOURTEEN

Assignment:

Fee, "Our National Shame"

Review for Final Exam

MOVIE REVIEW TWO DUE AT THE START OF CLASS ON FRIDAY OF WEEK FOURTEEN

Finals Week

RESEARCH PAPER DUE DURING FINALS WEEK

CHECK FINALS SCHEDULE FOR DATE OF FINAL EXAM