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

READING DAYS (FRIDAY-TUESDAY): SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP **Seventh Week** Topic: The Plight of the Precariously Housed Assignment: Desmond, Evicted **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
Assignments:
Fee, "A Lost Generation"
Nunez & Sugie, Beyond the Shelter Wall
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:
Homelessness Veterans & Their Families
Assignments:
Fee, "A Dereliction of Duty: Homeless Veterans in America"
Fee and Stewart, "Too Many Veterans with Children are Still Homeless"
Fee and Stewart, "Housing Our Homeless Vets is a Duty We'll Always Owe"
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 FXAM	