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

Assignment:

Rossi, Peter. Down and Out in America: The Origins of Homelessness

Second Week

Topics:

The Dustbowl, the Great Depression, and the birth of the modern American concept of Homelessness

Assignment:

Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath

MOVIE ONE

Third Week

Topic:

The Hobo as an American Icon

Assignment:
Kennedy, William. Ironweed
Fourth Week
Topic:
Iconoclasm: The Faces of American Homeless Women Today
Assignment:
Liebow, Elliot. Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives of Homeless Women
MOVIE TWO
Fifth Week
Topic:
Prepare for Reading Days Service-Learning Trip
Assignment:
Hilfiker, David. Not All of Us Are Saints: A Doctor's Journey With the Poor
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, Robert. Begging for Change.
READING DAYS (FRIDAY-TUESDAY): SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP
Seventh Week
Review for midterm exam

ORGANIZATION PRESENTATIONS DURING WEEK SEVEN

MOVIE THREE
Eighth Week
Topic:
Mental Illness and Homelessness
Assignment:
Failer, Judith Lynn. Who Qualifies for Rights: Homelessness, Mental Illness, and Civil Commitment
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, Jonathan. Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America
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: keeping a family together in the shelter today
Assignment:
Nunez, Ralph daCosta with Naomi Sugie. Beyond the Shelter Wall: Homeless Families Speak Out
SERVICE PAPER DUE AT THE START OF CLASS ON FRIDAY OF WEEK TEN
Eleventh Week
Topic:
Addiction, homelessness, and a voice from the urban wilderness

Assignment:
Stringer, Lee. Grand Central Winter: Stories from the Street
SERVICE PRESENTATIONS DURING WEEK ELEVEN
MOVIE FIVE
Twelfth Week
Topic:
Welfare Reform and homelessness
Assignment:
Hays, Sharon. Flat Broke With Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform
Thirteenth Week
Topic:
The working poor in America today
Assignment:
Ehrenreich, Barbara. Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America
MOVIE SIX
Fourteenth Week
RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS DURING WEEK FOURTEEN
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