HIS 559/MST 559
Doing Visual History

Schedule
The class meets on Mondays from 3:30-6:20 in Carmichael 002.

Instructors: Matt Barr and Chuck Bolton

Barr contact info:
Office: Brown Building, 201
Office Hours: Mondays 9:30-11:30 or by appointment.
Phone: 334-3887; e-mail: mbarr@uncg.edu

Bolton contact info:
Office: Moore Humanities Bldg., 2135
Office Hours: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. M, or by appointment
Phone: 334-5204; e-mail: ccbolton@uncg.edu

Required Text/Readings

Donald A. Ritchie, Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2003)—available at the UNCG Bookstore and various other outlets

Additional required course readings are included on the course schedule and are available through blackboard.

Schedule

August 23: Introduction

August 30: Oral History: Definition and Theory; Conducting Interviews: Research Preparation, Shaping a Project, Treatments, Asking Questions


September 13 Conducting Interviews: Videotaping--Setting and Equipment

Readings: Doing Oral History, ch. 5

September 20: Conducting Interviews: Videotaping—Lighting; Practice Interviews

First essay due (see attached)
September 27: Legal Matters and Ethical Considerations


October 4: Introduction to Final Cut Pro Edit System; Capturing Raw Footage for Editing

October 18: Class Presentation of Raw Video Interviews

First video interview should be complete

October 25: Class Presentation of Raw Video Interviews

Book essay due (see attached)

November 1: Editing of Raw Video Interviews

November 8: DVD Production

November 15: DVD Production

November 22: DVD Production; Memory and Recall in Personal Narratives


Remaining video interviews should be complete

November 29: Personal Narratives and Documentary Film/Archiving of Oral Histories


December 6: Class Presentations of DVDs

DVDs due; Final papers due for graduate students
Grading and Evaluation (Undergraduates):

Three Video Interviews 25%
Menu-Driven DVD from Raw Interviews 25%
Book Essay 10%
Oral Report on Documentary 10%
Class Participation/Class Presentations 30%

Grading and Evaluation (Graduate Students):

Four Video Interviews 20%
Menu-Driven DVD from Raw Interviews 20%
Book Essay 10%
Oral Report on Documentary 10%
Class Participation/Class Presentations 25%
Final Paper 15%

Explanations of Assignments:

The major project for this class is to complete a series of video oral histories (a minimum of three for undergraduates and four for graduate students) and then develop a menu-driven DVD that highlights key themes from the series of interviews. Students will work in teams of two.

The book essay provides an opportunity for students to examine how various authors have used personal narratives to construct explorations of the past. Each student will be assigned a book from the list at the end of the syllabus, which also contains the question to answer in your essay.

For the oral report on a documentary film, you should go to folkstreams.net and choose a documentary film to watch. Among the films on this site are those of one of your instructors, Matt Barr. As you watch the film, you should take particular note of how personal narratives are utilized to tell the story. In your oral report, you should offer a critical analysis of the documentary film you watched, including the use of personal narratives in the film. You should be prepared to make this report beginning September 13, and we will have people make their presentations throughout the semester, as time permits.

Success in this class requires your active participation. Students should be prepared to participate fully in all class discussion, in-class exercises, and other activities.

Final Paper for graduate students: Your papers should discuss your interview experiences in this class in the context of what you have learned from the readings and from class about the theory and practice of collecting personal narratives and the documentary process. In short, you should process your experiences, readings, and our discussions in some creative and brilliant way. Of course, your papers should be well organized and well written. And your papers should be typed, double-spaced, with twelve-point font and one-inch margins (6-8 pages).
Academic Integrity Policy:

    Each student is required to adhere to the Academic Honor Policy on all major work submitted for the course. For additional information, see http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/

Attendance Policy:

    Since this class meets once a week, attendance at all class meetings is essential. Any unexcused absences will adversely affect a student’s grade.
Books for Essay


Minchin, Timothy, *Hiring the Black Worker* (1999)


Painter, Nell Irvin, *The Narrative of Hosea Hudson: His Life as a Negro Communist in the South* (1979)


Terkel, Studs, *Working* (1972)

Assignment: Read the book assigned to you. In a 3-5 page paper, offer a critical analysis of the book’s use of personal narratives to document the past.