

Spring 2016 University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Dr. Lisa Levenstein E-mail: levenstein@uncg.edu  
Office: 2145 MHRA Office Hours: M 2-3, 6:30-7:30, and by appt

## **HIS 524: Voting Rights in U.S. History**

This course will help students contextualize their participation in the 2016 election and share their knowledge with the public. In the first half of the semester, we will explore the history of voting in the U.S., paying particular attention to how the Voting Rights Act of 1965 expanded democratic participation while inspiring a counterrevolution that sought to curtail the voting rights of marginalized groups. Students will develop and enact a campus teach-in to present this history to the UNCG community. In the second part of the semester, students will examine the struggle for women's voting rights in the early twentieth century. They will conduct primary source research that will contribute to a national crowdsourcing project compiling the biographies of militant woman suffragists. Students will receive authorship credit for any biographies they contribute to this online project.

An eagerness to share history with the public and to work collaboratively with other students is necessary for success in this course.

The week of October 17-24, we will hold a "dress rehearsal" for the teach-in. This rehearsal will be mandatory for all students. You must commit to the rehearsal date on the first day of class. Anyone who misses the rehearsal or the teach-in will be penalized in their final grade.

### **Required Readings:**

Alexander Keyssar, *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States* (Basic Books, rev. ed., 2009).

Other course readings available online or through e-reserve.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures. (SLO 1)
2. Assess the central arguments of secondary readings. (SLO 2)
3. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting written and oral arguments. (SLO 3)
4. Link historical knowledge and thinking to contemporary political struggles through presentations and written analysis. (SLO 4)
5. Research a topic using web and library resources. (SLO 5)