

HIST 309, Spring 2017

Essay #2, due May 16, 2017 by noon

Choose one of the following. Your essay should be 4 pages long, double-spaced. Please don't forget to include your name and number your pages. If you quote directly from the text, please include page references.

1. Long before her death in 2005, Rosa Parks was transformed into an American icon. In 1999, the U.S. Congress awarded Parks a medal for her "quiet dignity" and called her "the first lady of civil rights." What is Danielle McGuire's perspective on Parks' iconic status? What does she think about the stories that made Parks' civil rights activism legendary?
2. "The Montgomery bus boycott, frequently regarded as the spark plug of the modern civil rights movement, was actually the end of a drive chain that ran back into decades of black women's activism." What does Danielle McGuire mean by this claim? What evidence does she offer to back it up? What difference do you think it makes to revise the chronology of the civil rights movement so that the Montgomery bus boycott is a culminating event rather than an origin point?
3. Evaluate the evidence that Danielle McGuire offers for her argument that the movement to overturn racial segregation in the U.S. was a women's movement to demand bodily integrity and respect. Does that evidence change the way you think about the historical relationship between race and gender?
4. Interracial sex was at the heart of campaigns to maintain white supremacy and also to destroy it. Explore this argument by comparing Ida B. Wells' perspective on lynching in "Southern Horrors" with one of the cases McGuire documents in her book.

No matter which essay you select, read the documents carefully, use specific extracts and examples to illustrate your points, and proofread.

## Guidelines

Here are three questions to keep in mind as you write because we will keep them in mind as we read.

- Are you addressing the questions and/or comparison completely? (Can you identify the author's perspectives and claims accurately?)
- Are you addressing the questions and/or comparison persuasively? (Do you formulate an argument and offer concrete evidence to support it? Is your essay organized in a way that is easy for the reader to understand and follow?)
- Are you addressing the questions and/or comparison clearly? (Are your grammar, punctuation, and spelling free of errors? Is your word choice as effective as possible? Is your sentence construction smooth?)

## **Grading Rubric**

- A-range papers: These papers will be complete, persuasive, and clear. They will address all the issues raised in the prompt above; they will not leave out any significant elements. They will back up arguments with evidence. And they will be well written.
- B-range papers: We will be able to answer two out of the three questions above affirmatively. The essay may, for example, leave out one critical element. Its arguments will be persuasive but not complete and the essay will be well written. Or the essay may be complete and persuasive, but the writing may have some problems.
- C-range papers: We will be able to answer at least one of the questions above affirmatively. The essay may address the prompt completely, but lack evidence and clarity. Or the essay may not be complete or well written, but offer concrete examples.
- D-range papers and below: We will not be able to answer any of the questions above in the affirmative. Essays will be incomplete, lacking in evidence, and poorly written.