

University of Houston-Downtown Fall Symposium

Reflecting Black: 400 Years of African American Life and History



Thursday, October 24, 2019

The University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of History, Humanities, and Languages, and Center for Critical Race Studies is hosting a Symposium commemorating 400 Years of African American Life and History. This year, 2019, marks the four hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the first documented Africans to the North American continent. Undoubtedly, the past four centuries of African American life have been replete with trauma, struggle, and resiliency. The Symposium will examine the centrality of race and racism throughout United States history and ongoing efforts to dismantle structural systems of oppression. We will also highlight the myriad achievements and contributions African Americans have made to various sectors in the United States.

The Symposium aims to provide undergraduate students interested in Africana studies opportunities to engage and network with graduate students performing cutting-edge research in Africana studies. We also seek to provide graduate students opportunities to engage UHD faculty concerning transdisciplinary pedagogical strategies and creative methods that enrich educational experiences of students of color, especially transfer and first-generation college students.

2019 Call for Papers

The Symposium Committee welcomes undergraduate and graduate students to submit paper proposals and abstracts on any of the following topics:

Slavery and Resistance	Citizenship and Armed Forces
Race and Racial Formation/Identity	African American Literature and Creativity
Black Language/Dialect	African and African American Art
Entertainment (Music, Film, Dance)	Civil Rights Movement
Black and Brown Coalitions	Education
Afrocentrism	Pan-Africanism
The African Diaspora	Black Greek Fraternities and Sororities
#BlackGirlMagic	#BlackBoyJoy
Black Masculinity	Black Feminism
Queer Black Studies	Race and Politics
Black Religion	Race and Sports
Black Lives Matter	Afrofuturism
Including Other Related Topics	

Eligibility:

Any students registered for undergraduate or graduate courses in Fall 2019.

Call for Papers Timetable:

Timely submission of papers is critical to the success of the Symposium. The procedures and timetable enumerated below will apply.

1. *Deadline for Proposals and Abstract*

By **September 6, 2019**, authors should submit a one to two-page proposal for their papers including: 1) the title of the paper; 2) a 500-word abstract. The abstract should provide a brief summary of the paper and include the paper's purpose, methodology and design, major interpretations, and conclusions. Proposals, along with authors' contact information, should be submitted via the [Symposium Website](#).

2. *Notification of Acceptance of Proposals*

To enable out of town presenters to make travel arrangements, the Committee will contact authors regarding their proposals and presenting their papers at the Symposium on a rolling basis, starting August 1. By **September 19, 2019**, the Committee will make a decision on all proposals.

3. *Symposium Registration*

Students whose proposals have been accepted should register to attend and present their papers at the Symposium by emailing the following information to Dr. Jonathan Chism (chismj@uhd.edu) by **September 23, 2019**.

- Your Name
- Paper Title
- Institutional Affiliation
- Short Biography
- I am interested in having my paper considered for publication in an edited volume.
___Yes ___No (Please check)

4. *Paper Presentation Details*

For undergraduate students, the paper presentation should be between 12-15 minutes (approx. 1200-1500 words, 6-8 pp.), with 5-10 minutes reserved for questions and discussion.
For graduate students, the paper presentation should be between 15-20 minutes (approx. 1500 – 2000 words, 8 – 10 pp.), with 10 minutes reserved for questions and discussion.

Prize Competition and Publication Opportunity

All papers accepted for the Symposium that meet the minimum standards established by the Committee will be included in the **Reflecting Black Competition**. To be eligible for the Competition, students need to submit their complete papers for consideration by **October 1, 2019** and present at the Symposium. The undergraduate and graduate students with the best papers will receive prizes at the conclusion of the Symposium: **\$1,000 Best Graduate Student Paper and \$500 Best Undergraduate Student Paper**. The criteria for evaluation will be based on the following: 1) Critical Engagement, Interpretation, and Analysis of Academic Sources; 2) Originality of ideas; 3) Clarity of presentation; and 4) Creativity. In addition, the Committee will invite selected students to include their papers in an edited book manuscript.

Please address questions to Dr. Jonathan Chism via e-mail at chismj@uhd.edu.