

# Creative Inquiry in History: The Cemetery Historic Preservation Project



## Course Information

HIST 3890.002 – Spring 2024  
Clemson University  
Thursdays, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Dr. Sara Collini – CI Team Leader

CI Team Support:  
Dr. Rhondda Thomas  
Dr. Mandi Barnard  
Deborah Robinson  
Marquise Drayton

## Course Overview

In this course, you will conduct research and participate in community engagement activities to assist with the development of the preservation plan and memorial for the African American Burial Ground, AP Calhoun Family Plot, and Woodland Cemetery. In February of 2020, two Clemson students visited the “Fort Hill Slave and Convict Cemetery” and found it in a state of disrepair. They worked with faculty and staff to clean up the site and install a memorial. Further research led the team to learn that there was a larger African American burial site on the west side of the cemetery. Using ground penetrating radar, more than 500 anomalies believed to be unmarked graves of African American enslaved persons, sharecroppers, tenant farmers, domestic laborers, convicted laborers, and wage workers and their families, were recovered in the cemetery. Clemson Trustees established a trustee task force and Legacy Council in late summer 2020 to develop a preservation and memorialization plan for the burial ground. As a CI Team Member, you will conduct archival research, help recover names of who may be buried in the cemetery and build family trees, participate in cemetery tours, assist with developing memorial design, and engage with campus and local communities.

## Learning Outcomes

- Develop historical research skills
- Research, analyze, and synthesize primary and secondary sources
- Develop community engagement and collaboration skills through doing local, public history
- Communicate research in a clear way to various audiences
- Develop skills in digital media
- Think critically about campus history, African American history, and US history

## Required Course Materials

- Website for the cemetery project, [www.clemson.edu/cemetery](http://www.clemson.edu/cemetery)
- Visual History of the Cemetery, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5a1941fdb17443d0a09f96d31f9e2ca8>
- Cemetery Tour Guide Manual

Note: All required readings and websites will be posted on Canvas.

## Course Assignments:

- Attendance and Class Participation-----15 points
  - Built Environment Reflection-----10 points
  - Cemetery Tour-----10 points
  - Community Engagement Activity-----10 points
  - Historical Research-----35 points
    - Primary Source Analysis Worksheets – 15 points (3 at 5 points each)
    - Research Check-Ins – 14 points (2 at 7 points each)
    - CI Research Showcase Presentation – 6 points
  - Final Reflection-----20 points
- 100 Total Points

Note: All assignments will be posted on Canvas.

### Attendance and Class Participation

You are expected to come to class, participate in discussions and activities in class, and work together as a team toward our shared goal. This semester we will be presenting at the Creative Inquiry Research Showcase in April and your participation is required. Over the course of the semester, if you have more than three unexcused absences from the class, your participation grade will then be lowered 1 point per absence. If any issues arise relating to class attendance and participation, please don't hesitate to contact me via email ([collini@clemson.edu](mailto:collini@clemson.edu)) to discuss and work toward a solution.

The **Notification of Absence module in Canvas** allows you to quickly notify instructors (via an email) of an absence from class and provides for the following categories: court attendance, death of immediate family member, illness, illness of family member, injury, military duty, religious observance, scheduled surgery, university function, unscheduled hospitalization, other anticipated absence, or other unanticipated absence. The notification form requires a brief explanation, dates, and times. Based on the dates and times indicated, instructors are automatically selected, but you may decide which instructors will receive the notification. This does not serve as an “excuse” from class. It is a request for an excused absence and you are encouraged to discuss the absence with instructors, as the instructor is the only person who can excuse an absence. If you are unable to report the absence by computer, you may reach the Office of Advocacy and Success via 864.656.0935. Students with excessive absences who need academic or medical assistance can also contact the Office of Advocacy and Success.

### Built Environment Reflection

For the first part of this semester, we will be learning about the cemetery and campus history in the context of race and the built environment. These discussions are meant to encourage CI Team Members and other students to start thinking about where and how to tell the story of Black history at Clemson. After our discussions and campus tours, you will be required to write a 500-word reflection on this topic.

### Community Engagement Activity

You are expected to engage with the campus and local communities by attending a cemetery team event, visiting a local museum, attending a public community meeting, volunteering in local communities, or another approved activity. This semester we have several events planned, including cemetery tours, Black History Month events, Carrel Cowan-Ricks Remembrance Day in March, and the Black Business Expo in April. The activities will be listed on Canvas.

### Cemetery Tour Activity

You are expected to participate as a guide in one cemetery tour for Black History Month. We will have tour guide training in class. You can either share a fact about the cemetery's history on the tour or be a walking guide.

### Historical Research

For the last half of class, we will work together to locate, read, and analyze various primary sources related to the cemetery's history, including plantation documents, the census, death certificates, and Clemson College employee records. Working in groups, you will conduct this historical research in the campus archives and digital collections. You will analyze the sources with worksheets, research different collections together, and input information from those sources into spreadsheets for the project database. This research is meant to develop your skills in the historical research process, data collection, and to help the cemetery team recover names of individuals who may be buried in the cemetery, which contributes to the design of the memorial. Throughout the semester, you will also be required to complete two Research Check-Ins in which you will discuss your research process. These assignments are meant to keep you on track, as well as brainstorm ideas and think through challenges with your team members. You will present your research at the CI Research Showcase in early April. You will also share about your research and community engagement experiences on the last day of class with the cemetery team.

### Final Reflection

At the end of class, instead of a final exam, you will individually write a final reflection on your experience as a CI Team Member. You will be required to discuss research and community engagement. The reflection should be **at least 1,500 words**, equivalent to 6 double-spaced pages.

## Grading Policies

| Letter | Points |
|--------|--------|
| A      | 90-100 |
| B      | 80-89  |
| C      | 70-79  |
| D      | 60-69  |
| F      | 0-59   |

### Evaluation

All assignments will be graded within one week of the assignment due date. Grades will be posted to Canvas, along with comments and feedback on your work. If you have a question regarding a certain grade, please reach out to me and we can discuss your concern.

## Late Work

Late assignments will be accepted up to 48 hours after the scheduled due date with a penalty reduction of 2 points on the grade. Failure to complete an assignment will result in 0 points for that grade. Please reach out to me as soon as possible if there are extenuating circumstances surrounding late work and a missed due date.

## Academic Integrity

As members of the Clemson University community, we will practice mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form. All infractions of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be reported to Undergraduate Studies for resolution through that office. Plagiarism includes the intentional or unintentional copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and attributing the work to one's own efforts. Graded works generated by artificial intelligence or ghostwritten (either paid or free) are expressly forbidden. See the [Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy](#) website for additional information and [the current catalogue](#) for the policy.

## Accessibility

Clemson University values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources. Students who experience a barrier to full access to this class should let the instructor know and are encouraged to request accommodations through SAS (Student Accessibility Services) as soon as possible. To request accommodations through SAS, please see this link: <https://www.clemson.edu/academics/studentaccess/register.html>. You can also reach out to SAS with questions by calling 864-656-6848, visiting SAS at the ASC Suite 239, or stopping by the office as a drop-in appointment.

## Title IX

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This Title IX policy is located on the Access and Equity website. Ms. Alesia Smith is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator, and the Assistant Vice President of Equity Compliance. Her office is located at 223 Brackett Hall, 864-656-3181 and her email address is [alesias@clemson.edu](mailto:alesias@clemson.edu). Remember, email is not a fully secured method of communication and should not be used to discuss Title IX issues.

## Academic Continuity

Clemson has developed an Academic Continuity Plan for academic operations. Should university administration officially determine that the physical classroom facility is not available to conduct classes, class will be conducted in a virtual (online) form. The university issues official disruption notifications through email, website, text notification and Social Media. When notified, use one of the following links to navigate to Clemson Canvas where you will find important information about how we will conduct class:

- Primary access link: <http://www.clemson.edu/canvas>
- Secondary access link, if needed: <https://clemson.instructure.com/>
- You can also use the Canvas Student App. [Visit the downloads page](#) for this app.

Course activities will occur through the Canvas course.

## Emergency Preparedness

Emergency procedures have been posted in all buildings and on all elevators. Students should be reminded to review these procedures for their own safety. All students and employees should be familiar with guidelines from [Clemson University Public Safety](#).

## Research and Tech Support at Cooper Library

Do you need library sources but don't know where to start, such as a book, article, or data to support your project? Not sure whether you know how to cite a source properly in your bibliography? Ask a librarian! Help is available in person at each of these locations: Cooper Library, Gunnin Architecture Library, and the Education Media Center. You can also chat with a librarian live from their website, by phone at 864.656.1557, or text 864.762.4884. Extended research assistance with librarians who specialize in subject areas is also available by appointment. A list of librarians and their areas of expertise are listed on the [subject librarians page](#). Check the Library's [Ask Us](#) page for details. For assistance with digital projects, the Adobe Digital Studio is located on the 5th floor and is staffed to support your needs. You can [download Adobe Creative Cloud](#) for free. If you are having hardware or software problems, CCIT's Service Desk may be able to help you. Contact them by emailing [ITHELP@clemson.edu](mailto:ITHELP@clemson.edu), calling or texting (864) 656-3494, or starting a live chat at [ccit.clemson.edu](http://ccit.clemson.edu). The help desk is located in Cooper Library.

# Class Schedule

Note: This class schedule may be subject to changes. Students will be notified of all changes in class announcements and on Canvas.

| Date                                                   | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Assignment Due |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Introduction to the Cemetery Project</b>            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                |
| Week 1<br>January 11                                   | Class Introduction<br>Special Guests: Cemetery Team<br><br>In Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team introductions</li> <li>• Overview of class and syllabus</li> <li>• Primary source storyboard activity</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                |
| <b>Campus History, Race, and the Built Environment</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                |
| Week 2<br>January 18                                   | History of Clemson Campus<br><br>Before Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the “African American Burial Ground” page and the “Timeline” page in the Histories tab on the cemetery website.</li> <li>• Optional: Read Rhondda R. Thomas, “Reconstruction, Public Memory, and the Making of Clemson University on John C. Calhoun’s Fort Hill Plantation,” <i>American Literary History</i> Vol. 30 No. 3, 2018, 584-607.</li> </ul> In Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief overview of Clemson history</li> <li>• Campus landscape exploration</li> <li>• Discussion of race and the built environment</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                   |                |
| Week 3<br>January 25                                   | History of the Cemetery<br><br>Meet at the entrance to the cemetery, located on Woodland Drive at the intersection of Williamson Rd and S. Palmetto Blvd (near the top of the hill by Memorial Stadium). The tour takes place outside on paved and unpaved pathways. Dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water. Bring your phone to take pictures if you want.<br><br>Before Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and explore the Visual History of the Cemetery: <a href="https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5a1941fdb17443doao9f96d31f9e2ca8">https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5a1941fdb17443doao9f96d31f9e2ca8</a></li> <li>• Optional: Explore the Virtual Tour</li> </ul> In Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cemetery Tour</li> </ul> |                |

## Community Engagement and Public History Tours

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Week 4<br/>February 1</p>  | <p>Community Engagement and Tour Guide Training<br/>Special Guest: Marquise Drayton, Community Engagement Assistant</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                          |
|                               | <p>Before Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the “Community Engagement” page on the cemetery website</li> <li>• Read the Cemetery Tour Guide Manual</li> </ul> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of community engagement</li> <li>• Cemetery tour guide training</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                          |
| <p>Week 5<br/>February 8</p>  | <p>Cemetery Tour for Black History Month</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                          |
|                               | <p>Meet at the entrance to the cemetery. Dress appropriately, warmly, and wear comfortable walking shoes.</p> <p>Before Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Cemetery Tour Guide Manual</li> </ul> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cemetery Tour for Black History Month</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |
| <h2>Historical Research</h2>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |
| <p>Week 6<br/>February 15</p> | <p>Research in the Campus Archives<br/>Primary Source Analysis: Plantation Records</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Built Environment Reflection Due by class time</p>    |
|                               | <p>Meet outside Special Collections and Archives on the ground level of the Strom Thurmond Institute building (behind the Watt Center and next to the chapel).</p> <p>Before Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings about Archives and Sources listed on Canvas</li> <li>• Optional: Read “Generation 1” on Call My Name website<br/><a href="https://callmyname.org/generation-1-2/">https://callmyname.org/generation-1-2/</a></li> </ul> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of team research project this semester</li> <li>• Introduction to the archives</li> <li>• Primary source analysis activity</li> </ul> | <p>Primary Source Analysis Worksheet #1 Due in class</p> |
| <p>Week 7<br/>February 22</p> | <p>Primary Source Analysis: The Census and Death Certificates</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Primary Source Analysis Worksheet #2 Due in class</p> |
|                               | <p>Before Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional: Read “Generation 2” and “Generation 3” on Call My Name website</li> </ul> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary source analysis activity</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                          |

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Week 8<br/>February 29</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Primary Source Analysis: Campus Atlas and Employee Records<br/>Special Guest: Dr. Mandi Barnard, Research Historian</p> <p>Meet at Learning Lab in Special Collections and Archives on the ground level of the Strom Thurmond Institute building (behind the Watt Center and next to the chapel).</p> <p>Before Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional: Read “Generation 4” on Call My Name website</li> </ul> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary source analysis activity</li> </ul> | <p>Primary Source Analysis Worksheet #3 Due in class</p> |
| <p>Week 9<br/>March 7</p>     | <p style="text-align: center;">Research Lab</p> <p>Before Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think about what sources you want to research for the remainder of the semester</li> </ul> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Lab</li> <li>• Uploading sources to team Box folder, file naming, and citations</li> <li>• Recording information from a source in a spreadsheet</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                    |                                                          |
| <p>Week 10<br/>March 14</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;">Research Lab</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          |
| <p>Week 11<br/>March 21</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NO CLASS – Spring Break</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                          |
| <p>Week 12<br/>March 28</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;">Research Lab</p> <p>Before Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think about what source you want to present at the CI Research Showcase</li> </ul> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share Research Check-In and source you want to present</li> <li>• Plan CI Research Showcase presentation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Research Check-In #1 due at start of class</p>        |
| <p>Week 13<br/>April 4</p>    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CI Research Showcase Presentation in the Watt Center</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |
| <p>Week 14<br/>April 11</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;">Research Lab</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          |
| <p>Week 15<br/>April 18</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;">Research Lab</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share Research Check-In</li> <li>• Research Lab</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Research Check-In #2 due at start of class</p>        |



|                                                                                                                                             |                               |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Week 16<br>April 25                                                                                                                         | <b>Final Class Discussion</b> |  |
| <b>Week 17 – Exam Week</b><br><b>Final Reflection Due</b><br><b>Community Engagement Activity Due</b><br><b>Wednesday, May 1 by 11:59pm</b> |                               |  |