

Clarissa Myrick-Harris, Ph.D.

Conducting Oral Histories: An Introduction—Online Course

1. Program
 - a. Conducting Oral Histories: An Introduction—Online
2. 3 PLU Minimum of 30 Contact Hours

2. Goals Addressed / Participants Will

- a. Gain an overview of the definitions and approaches to conducting oral history interviews
3. Gain an overview of the relationships between oral history interviews to public history
4. Gain an overview of how individuals can conduct oral history interviews
5. Gain an overview of how to develop community-based oral history interview projects

3. Improvement Practices

Anyone who has an appreciation of and curiosity about how people lived, what they thought and how they felt about the world of the past can be an oral historian. The goal must be to discover more about the human element of the past than the general overviews of history provided by textbooks. Although historians with years of experience often conceive and implement oral history projects, excellent oral history interviews have been conducted by students on all levels, as well as public school teachers, and community people. The key to conducting a successful oral history interview is the proper balance between skill and sensitivity. The skills every oral historian must possess can be learned through an external process of reading, instruction, and practice. Sensitivity is achieved by making a conscious effort to develop those aspects of one's personality and disposition that recognize, respect, and responds appropriately to the humanity of the person being interviewed.

4. Competencies / Participants will be able to:

- a. Identify the approaches to oral history interviews
5. Identify relationships between oral history interviews and public history
6. Identify reasons and methods for individuals conducting oral history interviews
7. Identify reasons and methods for communities conducting oral history interviews

5. Performance Indicators

As a result of this course, participants will demonstrate their ability to:

- a. Define and discuss the approaches to oral history interviews
6. Define and discuss relationships between oral history interviews and public history
7. Define and discuss reasons and methods for individuals conducting oral history interviews
8. Define and discuss reasons and methods for communities conducting oral history interviews

6. Preparation Phase

- a. This workshop will be a maximum of 30 clock hours;
- a. A signed Prior Approval Form must be faxed to One World Archives before participants are allowed to register. The OWA fax number is 1-800-450-4021
2. A short video explaining the registration process can be found at the "OWA Online" link at our website: <http://www.oneworldarchives.com> Questions about the course or about the registration process can be directed to Dr. Norman Harris at 404-384-3615. Our email address: nharris@oneworldarchives.com
3. After successful registration, participants will log-on to our course management site (<http://www.owa-online.org>) for instruction and assignments. Our course management software automatically generates a time log for online activity for each participant. Each participant must spend a total of at least 30 hours online during the length of the course.
4. Location: Online Course.
5. Instructor qualifications: Dr. Clarissa Myrick-Harris is the Co-Chair of the Public Education Committee of the Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot. Dr. Myrick-Harris is on the faculty of the History Department of Clark Atlanta University, and has taught at the University of Cincinnati and the university of Georgia. Currently, she is directing "Generations Talking: An Oral History Project documenting the history of inner city communities in NPU-V, including Summerhill, Pittsburgh, Mechanicsville and Peoplestown, neighborhoods reshaped in the aftermath of the 1906 Atlanta Riot. Dr. Myrick-Harris is also Vice-President of OneWorldArchives, a research and education institution devoted to documenting and raising public awareness of the history of local and global Black communities. She is the co-curator of "Red Was the Midnight: The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot," an exhibit that will premiere May 2006 at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site Visitor Center. She is also co-chair of the planning committee for the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot Symposium, which will be held September 22-24, 2006.
7. Course Assessment: Master verification will be used because this is an online course. Master verification will be demonstrated by:
 - a. Regular participation in threaded discussions;
8. Keeping an online journal
9. Pass two online quizzes at an 80% success rate
10. Using a rubric to develop a 1906 Atlanta Race Riot lesson plan
11. Dr. Clarissa Myrick-Harris, Vice-President of One World Archives, will assess master verification