

2016

#BlackLivesMatter Email to Faculty 1

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From: Virginia Rutter
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 10:32 AM
To: FACULTY
Cc: Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz; Lina Rincon
Subject: Bring it to your classes: Black History Month teaching opportunity

Dear Colleagues,

In the past few weeks, faculty from all across FSU have begun conversations about a **#blacklivesmatter** teach-in; those conversations have made our FSU teach-in a reality. We write today to include you as faculty for this campus-wide, one-of-a-kind community event.

The idea is simple: participating professors dedicate one of their classes (or more!) during the week of February 22 (Mon 2/22 – Fri 2/26) to topics they see as linked to the #blacklivesmatter movement. For example, Elaine Beilin's students will make connections to performances of Shakespeare's plays while Biochemistry students of Ishara Mills-Henry will discuss the famous HeLa cells and the Tuskegee experiments. Bridgette Sheridan's history students will examine the Black Power movement in their course on the 1960s while Comm Arts' Leslie Starobin will focus Photojournalism students on *Life Magazine's* coverage of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. As Dawn Vreven's Cognitive Psychology students look at research on implicit bias, Robert Johnson in CommArts will draw students' focus to *Birth of a Nation*--and its racist progeny--in his Screenwriting class. Faculty determine their topics and approach to #blacklivesmatter through their areas of expertise and/or existing course content. We have a long list already of graduate courses, day courses and DGCE courses that are enrolled, and you are encouraged to join in.

The culmination of the teach-in will be a town hall meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 4:30-6 p.m. in The Forum. Everyone at FSU is invited. We will begin by asking students and faculty to speak about their experiences in their classes: what they learned, what else they seek to learn; and what people are considering doing further in connection with the work. A panel of students, faculty, and staff will facilitate the conversation, but, to be clear, the focus of our town hall is wide-open reporting and conversation *from* and *for* the FSU community—not a series of talks from the podium! We realize not all will be able to attend the 3/2 town hall. This is not a requirement or an expectation. Even so, we think it will be pretty amazing.

As of this writing, 35 professors from 20 disciplines have enrolled 66 classes. Please join the FSU #blacklivesmatter teach-in. All faculty who are participants are our planners—because you are planning your particular engagement of the topic! Please, sign on.

To join: Send an email to Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz (xguadalupediaz@framingham.edu), Lina Rincón (lrincon@framingham.edu), or Virginia Rutter (vrutter@framingham.edu) with the following information:

-Your academic discipline and your department

-Your class (or classes!) you plan to include (include the title, the course number, and if possible, the time, location, and approximate enrollment.)

-If you would like, please share your idea for what you might do with the class, so we can share with others for inspiration.

In January we will follow up with a list of *all* participating classes, any other related events during that time on campus, and also with a set of questions/prompts that you might consider giving your students as they think about speaking out and sharing at the town meeting.

Thanks for considering joining in! If you have questions, feedback, or ideas—please write us.

Sincerely,

Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz / Sociology

Lina Rincón / Sociology

Virginia Rutter/ Sociology

Emails:

xguadalupediaz@framingham.edu

lrincon@framingham.edu

vrutter@framingham.edu

FACULTY PARTICIPANT/PLANNERS (SO FAR!):

Sarah Adelman (History)

Joe Adelman (History)

Kaan Agartan (Global Studies)

Ben Alberti (Archaeology)

Elaine Beilin (English)

Lissa Bollettino (History)

Bart Brinkman (English)

Joe Coelho (Political Science)

James Cressey (Education)

Robert Donohue (Counseling Psychology)

Lisa Eck (English)

Vin Ferraro (Criminology)

Jayson Funke (Geography)

Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz (Criminology)

Elaine Hartwick (Geography)

Robert Johnson (CommArts)

Kelly Kolodny (Education)

Ke Li (Criminology)

Phoebe Lin (Psychology)

Vinay Mannam (Chemistry & Food Sciences)

Tim McDonald (Studio Art)

Larry McKenna (Geography)

Dave Merwin (Geography)

Ishara Mills-Henry (Biochemistry)

Lina Rincón (Sociology)

Luis Rosero (Economics)

Nicole Rossi (Psychology)

Virginia Rutter (Sociology)

Bridgette Sheridan (History)

Ira Silver (Sociology)

Vandana Singh (Physics)

Shadé Solomon (Education)

Leslie Starobin (CommArts)

Dawn Vreven (Psychology)

Ellen Zimmerman (Anthropology)

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