

First Year Seminar Arts and Sciences
01:090:101 Section 61, Index 35412
Professor Angus Kress Gillespie
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Meets Five Mondays, 5:30 to 8:10 pm
Ruth Adams Building 018, Douglass

Twin Towers: The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center

It will take time and energy to be healed
from this most tragic community wound.
For the families there will be only grief & despair
For us as a community there can be healing...
By helping those who suffer and are in pain.
--Rabbi Steven E. Foster

Introduction

The World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City was best known for its iconic 110-story twin towers. The WTC was a part of New York's identity and recognized all over the world as an icon for the United States of America. All of the original buildings in the complex were destroyed in the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Course Synopsis

Students who are successful in the first-year seminar will earn one academic credit; therefore I am assigning only one book, one that I wrote called *Twin Towers: The Life of New York City's World Trade Center*. Our seminar will be organized around inquiry rather than around a specific academic discipline. This seminar is not directed toward getting you to absorb specific information. Rather, I intend to expose you to the mind of a research faculty member. I am aiming to engage you in the world of research and in creating new knowledge. By means of discussion, documentary films, and guest lectures, I hope that you will get some idea of what it is like for a faculty researcher to confront a problem.

Wednesday, September 19

Introduction by Professor Gillespie to the political background, design, and construction of the WTC. How the building was first criticized, and then later accepted. How business was conducted in the building, and how people went about their daily lives. This discussion is followed by personal reflections on how the book was researched and written. Finally, I present some information about expected future buildings & structures.

Wednesday, September 26

We begin class with a video presentation, “World Trade Center: A Modern Marvel, 1973-2001,” a production of the History Channel filmed just months before the towers’ tragic demise. We continue with guest speaker Greg Trevor, senior director of Media Relations on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. Mr. Trevor will give his first-hand account of surviving the attacks of 9/11/01. Before class be sure to read his story at <http://www.coping.org/911/survivor/race.htm>

Wednesday, October 3

We begin class with a video presentation, “Why the Towers Fell,” a Nova presentation that gives us the insights of some of the leading structural engineers in the world to explain exactly what happened on that fateful day. We continue with guest speaker Lieutenant William Keegan, Jr., of the Port Authority Police Department, who will speak about his book *Closure: The Untold Story of the Ground Zero Recovery Mission*. Prior to class, please see the website about this book <http://www.closure911.com/> In addition, he will talk about his new organization, Healing Emergency Aid Response Team 911, also known as H.E.A.R.T.911. Before class check out the website www.heart911.org

Wednesday, October 10

We begin class with a video presentation, “Aftermath: Unanswered Questions from 9/11,” a Guerilla News Production, delving into the troubling mass of issues that have arisen since the attacks of 9/11. We continue with a presentation by photographer Jonathan Hyman, who has traveled across the United States photographing the wide spectrum of American expression post 9/11 and has taken over 15,000 pictures of the personal tributes and memorials created in response to the attacks. From the painted barnyards and firehouses to elaborate tattoos and neighborhood murals, Hyman’s photographs depict a nation publicly coming to grips with a horrifying attack.

Wednesday, October 17

Essay examination. You will be given questions in advance so you can meet in study groups to analyze, interpret, and make critical judgments about the material you have learned. The exam itself will be taken by individual students and will be graded on Pass or Fail basis.