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Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies Brochure, 2012

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Memphis and the Mid-South region afford unique opportunities for academic research. From the foothills of the Appalachians to the foothills of the Ozarks, from the cotton fields of West Tennessee to the battlefields of Vicksburg, the region encompassing an approximately two hundred mile radius from Memphis has figured prominently in the social, cultural, political, and economic life of the nation. The area's racial and cultural diversity, its significant contributions to literature and music, its pivotal role in the history of civil rights, the prominence of its national political leaders, and its growing importance as a commercial and distribution hub make it an ideal laboratory for research.



The Rhodes Institute is an innovative program that capitalizes on the liberal arts tradition of the college, the research expertise of its faculty, and its location in one of America's great cities. All Rhodes Institute fellows receive housing, research expenses, and \$3,000 stipends while they pursue their academic work. Over the course of the program, Institute fellows spend their first week together engaged in an intensive regional studies seminar; six weeks working on their own projects, interspersed with weekly group meetings; and a final week presenting and discussing their research. By the end of the program, all fellows submit research papers and reports on their work.



In addition, Rhodes Institute fellows will be encouraged to continue their research beyond the summer by enrolling in a directed inquiry, pursuing an honors research project, or preparing their research for publication.

Rhodes Institute fellows do not earn academic credit for their work, but participation in the Institute does fulfill Foundation requirement 11 (connections) under the Foundations Curriculum.

Interdisciplinary Study

Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, the 2013 Rhodes Institute brings together faculty members from Art, Urban Studies, Philosophy, Music, Archaeology, History, Religious Studies and Film Studies. These faculty members team teach the regional studies seminar, as they provide information and insight from their own disciplinary perspectives through lectures, readings, and discussions. Although each fellow works under the supervision of a faculty mentor within a specific discipline, all members of the Institute faculty take part in discussions of all of the projects during weekly meetings. During these sessions, fellows begin to see the relationships and make the connections among their various topics.

Independent Research

After gaining a broad, interdisciplinary perspective in the seminar, students embark on their own specialized research. Institute fellows leave the confines of the classroom and venture into the community to work in libraries and archives or in collaboration with businesses, government, or non-profit institutions and organizations. Encouraged and advised along the way through individual meetings with faculty mentors, as well as in the weekly group sessions, fellows produce papers and projects that conform to the rigorous standards of the Institute faculty.

Regional Immersion

Because the program focuses on the Mid-South, the Rhodes Institute serves as a cultural immersion experience. Much in the same way that students go abroad to imbibe the culture of a specific country, the Rhodes Institute provides fellows the chance to get to know the Memphis region in ways that few Rhodes students ever do. Fellows engage not only in "academic immersion" during the regional studies seminar, they also take a variety of field trips to experience first-hand the things they have studied in the classroom. In doing so, Institute fellows develop a sense of the unique attributes and contributions of the city and region.

Application Guidelines

- Rising juniors and seniors (members of the classes of 2014 and 2015) with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 can apply to be Rhodes Institute fellows. A limited number of Rhodes Institute fellowships may also be awarded to members of other classes. All majors are welcome.
- Interested students should consult with a faculty mentor from the 2013 Institute, and submit a proposal for a specific research project. Proposals should include a clear articulation of a research problem, along with a plan for exploring and investigating that issue. Project proposals should be 1000-1250 words in length.
- Students should submit one letter of recommendation from a Rhodes faculty member. The recommendation letter should not come from one of the 2013 Rhodes Institute faculty listed in this brochure.
- The deadline for submission of proposals and recommendations is Friday, February 15, 2013. Students should submit electronic versions of proposals (Word documents or PDF files preferred) via email to rirs@rhodes.edu, and recommendation letters should be submitted in hard copy to Prof. Milton Moreland, 404 Clough Hall. Students will be notified of their acceptance in late February.



Milton C. Moreland, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the Program in Archaeology, is the Director of the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies. He teaches courses in the Search and Life curricula. An archaeologist and scholar of early Christianity, Prof. Moreland has worked on excavations at ancient archaeological sites in Israel and Cyprus. His publications include articles on Roman period Galilee and Jerusalem and two books on the sayings of Jesus. Prof. Moreland also co-directs the Rhodes archaeology field school at the Ames Plantation in Fayette County, Tennessee. Research opportunities in the 2013 Institute include projects on the history, material culture, environment, or economics of Memphis and the local area; and studying economic development issues related to slavery and plantation life.



Thomas S. Bremer, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, teaches classes on American religious history, including courses on Religious Diversity in America, American Sacred Space, and The Music of Memphis Religions. He is author of the book, *Blessed with Tourists: The Borderlands of Religion and Tourism in San Antonio*, which recounts the history of religious tourist attractions in San Antonio, Texas. He also has authored articles on religious tourism, pilgrimage, sacred space, and displays of religion in museums, and is currently working on a college textbook of American religious history. Opportunities in the 2013 Institute include historical, sociological, anthropological, or phenomenological research on "religion" broadly construed in the Mid-South region.



John Bass, Director of the Mike Curb Institute for Music and Assistant Professor of Music, directs the Rhodes Jazz Ensemble and teaches courses on the Music of Africa and African-American Music. Dr. Bass holds two degrees in jazz performance from the University of Southern Mississippi (B.M.) and the University of Memphis (M.M.), and a Ph.D. in historical musicology from the University of Memphis. He has presented scholarly papers at national and international conferences, and his articles have appeared in *Early Music and Performance Practice Review*. He is also a contributor to the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music* (2nd edition). Opportunities in the 2013 Institute will focus on the musical traditions of Memphis and students will work with the Mike Curb Institute and local music organizations to research and preserve these traditions.



Elizabeth Thomas is Associate Professor of Psychology and Director and Plough Chair of Urban Studies at Rhodes College. She is co-author of the introductory text, "Community Psychology: Linking Individuals and Communities" and co-editor of a special issue of the *American Journal of Community Psychology* entitled "Children as protagonists: Participatory action research with children." Her research focuses on social and cultural contexts for learning, adolescent engagement in community-based settings, and the potential of arts-based and participatory strategies for community research and action. Opportunities for the 2013 Institute include research related to contemporary challenges and opportunities for young people in Memphis, the role of the visual arts and/or public spaces in the urban context, or efforts to increase livability/sustainability in Memphis and the Mid-South region.



Liz Daggett is an Assistant Professor in Art, and teaches courses in photography and filmmaking. She is also the Director of CODA, the Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts, rhodes.edu/coda, has made many award-winning documentaries and experimental films, and was named an "expert" in documentary film by the U.S. State Department. As part of the Rhodes Institute in 2013, she will supervise students interested in making short documentary, narrative, animated, experimental films, or audio documentaries that relate to Memphis or the region. Some video and editing experience required. Please contact daggett@rhodes.edu with questions.



Charles McKinney, Associate Professor of History, is a specialist in African-American history and twentieth century U.S. social history, particularly the history of the Civil Rights Movement. He is the author of *Greater Freedom: The Evolution of the Civil Rights Struggle in Wilson, North Carolina*, which chronicles a movement from the 1930's to the 1970's. His current research focuses on the impact of local leadership on civil rights activity in Memphis, and his regional interests include the history of segregation, civil rights, and social justice movements in Memphis. Opportunities in the 2013 Institute include historical research on civil rights activity in Memphis and surrounding communities; research on African-American political activity in Memphis; and gender dynamics within the Civil Rights Movement.

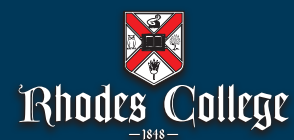


Leigh M. Johnson, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, teaches courses in social/political philosophy, ethics and contemporary European philosophy, including courses on Existentialism, Humanism and Human Rights, Feminist Theory and the Philosophy of Race. She is also a participating faculty member in Rhodes' African-American Studies Program, the Gender and Sexuality Studies program, and the interdisciplinary-humanities Search for Values program. Her research and publications primarily focus on issues of justice, democracy, human rights and their violation. In the 2013 Institute, she will direct research projects focused on "questions of (moral, political, or aesthetic) value." Students interested in philosophy, political theory, ethics, aesthetics, democracy and law should contact Professor Johnson for more information about her projects.



Charles Hughes, Andrew W. Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow at the Memphis Center at Rhodes College, teaches courses in the History Department. His current research focuses on race and the recording industry in the U.S. South from 1960 to 1980. His dissertation explored the relationship between country and soul music, and African-American and white musicians, in recording studios in Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, and Muscle Shoals, Alabama. As a faculty mentor and Scholar in Residence during the 2013 Institute, Hughes will oversee projects on Memphis' rich musical and cultural legacy.

The Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies is sponsored by
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The Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies

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