

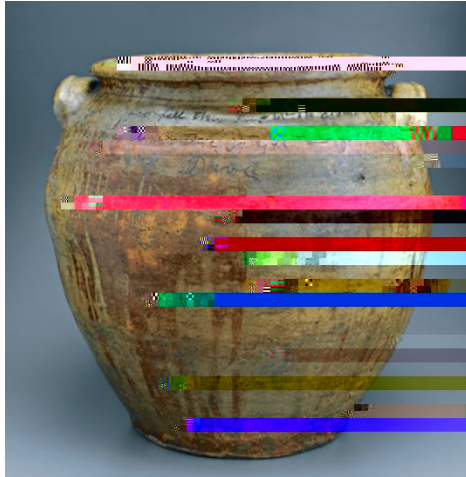
# HIS 195 WRITING FROM THE MARGINS

GRINNELL COLLEGE FALL 2021

Mon 7:00 – 9:50 p.m. • 8/30/21 – 10/11/21 • HSSC N1118

KELLY MAYNARD

office hours T/R 10-11:00 a.m. and by appt • ARH3244



*L: Dave the Potter, storage jar, 1858 (Lewis Miles Pottery, photo Gavin Ashworth)*

*R: Agnes Richter, the little jacket, 1895 (Prinzhorn Collection, Heidelberg)*

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Whose lives get preserved in the historical record? How? Why? This short course incorporates autobiography and material culture to explore the stories of people who lived at the very margins of their social contexts. Through the ceramic work of an enslaved person in the U.S. named Dave and the embroidered jackets of a German psychiatric patient named Agnes Richter, we consider how, despite the odds, first credit short course are:

- to familiarize ourselves with some of the ways that historians – as well as scholars in other disciplines – approach material culture, social positioning, and writing about the past
- to cultivate speaking and listening skills and the clear presentation of our ideas in writing and weekly class discussions
- to become familiar with the work, lives, and contexts of Dave the Potter and Agnes Richter in early-to-mid nineteenth-century South Carolina and late nineteenth- to twentieth-century Germany, respectively
- to develop research and writing skills to contextualize and analyze individual case studies of “writing from the margins”
- to present case studies at the end of the course clearly, thoughtfully, and engagingly

## PRINCIPLES

As we navigate together the weirdnesses of higher education during a global pandemic, please bear in mind the THRIVE principles codified at the College in the spring of 2020. These are:

- Talk to improve transparency,
- Health and safety must remain a top priority for our entire campus community,
- Re-imagine and reconsider what is possible and necessary,
- Inclusion requires flexibility,
- Value all experiences of vulnerability,
- Empathy requires all of us to be aware, sensitive, and responsive.

This means that above all, we are working TOGETHER as a community to learn, to push each other, to respect each other, to empathize with each other, and to be humans together. So I am doubling down here on the necessity for us to embrace mutual support and grace as we move through this first half of the s fi ( )10 (e)4-1 (3 ( a)[10 (su)-3 (p))4 ( th)3 (r)5.1 (ou)-3 (g)1 (h)3 ( th)T2 ((lu

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- Russell, Heather (excerpt) Chapter 2: "The Poetics of Biomythography: The Work of Audre Lorde" in *Legba's Crossing: Narratology in the African Atlantic* (2009), pp. 59-65
  - AHR Conversation: Historians and the Study of Material Culture in *American Historical Review* (December 2009): 1355