

The History of African Americans in Nashville

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Fall 2019

Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

The Temple

Faculty Information: Professor Learotha Williams
Tennessee State University
lwilli22@tnstate.edu

Professor Daniel J. Sharfstein
Vanderbilt University Law School
daniel.sharfstein@vanderbilt.edu

Course Description: The History of African Americans in Nashville explores the black experience in the city from its founding and settlement in 1779 to the end of the modern civil rights movement. The course will document the lives of the city's enslaved and free people of color as well as the cultural, religious, and educational institutions that they built. The course will also consider how black men and women in Nashville defined freedom and equality in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and developed and sustained protest movements starting before the Civil War. Finally, we will pay close attention to the ways this history has been recovered, celebrated, contested, and erased from the city's public memory.

Lecture & Discussion Schedule:

Week One (Oct. 10, 2019): African Americans in Frontier Nashville,
1779-1810

Week Two (Oct. 17, 2019): The Experience of Enslavement in Nashville

Week Three (Oct. 24, 2019): How African Americans in Nashville Defined
Freedom Before, During, and After the Civil War

Week Four (Oct. 31, 2019): Social and Cultural Institution-Building in Late
Nineteenth-and Early Twentieth-Century Black
Nashville

Week Five (Nov. 7, 2019): African American Educational Institutions

Week Six (Nov. 14, 2019): Nashville's Long Civil Rights Movement