

Dr. Erskine Clarke Lecture Index

Segment 01

The discussion starts with an introduction of Dr. Erskine Clarke. After being introduced Dr. Clarke connects his lecture and discussion to the morning session with Dr. Alexander Byrd by commenting on the question of how we engage students in the topic of slavery. Dr. Clarke then tells two personal stories to introduce his topic. He explains that we can learn about the deep culture of American life by turning the mirror on ourselves.

Segment 02

In this segment, Dr. Clarke explains how he came across the topic of Charles C. Jones and what his motivations were for writing *Dwelling Place*. Dr. Clarke introduces his thesis that by examining the very best in reformed slave ownership best shows the extreme oppressive nature of the system of slavery. He gives two examples of Whites whose “good intentions” were no match for the system of slavery.

Segment 03

In this segment Dr. Clarke discusses how he researched and tried to tell the story of both worlds living on the plantations of Charles C. Jones. He speaks to how the voices of the enslaved, namely Phoebe and Patience, came through in the primary source material. Dr. Clarke also ventures to explain how Charles C. Jones and his wife were turned from their original abolitionist leanings by the “seduction of the familiar.”

Segment 04

In this segment, Dr. Clarke discusses how he attempts to use the British “Upstairs, Downstairs” model of historical analysis to plantation history. The two viewpoints Clarke analysis is from the piazza or porch, and the communal camp fire. Dr. Clarke challenged the scholars to think of the Low Country as having two competing landscapes, and two competing memories.

Segment 05

In this segment, Dr. Clarke reads a section of *Dwelling Place* that best illustrates his attempt to tell the story of both competing landscapes and memories. The selection speaks of the different views on the Montevideo plantation, one from the piazza, and one from the slave community. Dr. Clarke then leads into a question and answer portion of his discussion and fields questions on what daily life was like for the enslaved population including a discussion on the task system unique to the Low Country.

Segment 06

The Question and Answer portion of Dr. Clarke’s presentation begins in this segment. Dr. Clarke fielded questions from the scholars about the daily life of the enslaved population. The first scholar asked to what extent the enslaved population had to provide their own sustenance. Another scholar brought up the “performance theory” and how it relates to the relationship between slave and slave owner. Finally a discussion began on the issue of “home.” What is home to the enslaved population?

Segment 07

The discussion on the theme of “home” continues at the start of this segment. What was home to the African-American Community in North America in slavery and emancipation times? Dr.

Clarke also discusses issues from some of his new work on African-Americans that went back to Africa after the Civil War and the issues they had of establishing a home there amongst the indigenous population. Dr. Clarke also addresses how we should approach studying the Gullah – Geechee story. Finally Dr. Clarke asks the scholars to share particular scenes from the book they want to discuss.

Segment 08

The question and answer portion of the book continues for the final three segments. In this segments issues of Protestantism and slavery, politics impact on slavery, and the faith of Charles C. Jones are all discussed.

Segment 09

During the segment the scholars began to link the topic to our modern society asking how we today strive to “see the water in which we swim.” The scholars also discussed the issues of the system of power in place under the system of slavery and the struggle to recognize the “otherness” in those around us.

Segment 10

Dr. Clarke asks the scholars what has been the most important learning they gleaned from the session. Scholars discuss the idea of agency and the complex relationship between the enslaved population and the children of the slave owners.

Segment II

In this concluding segment, the summer scholars bring the discussion to modern day and how the topic of slavery impacts our relationships in American and especially in the American South.