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CHARLESTON AS A CLASSROOM: STUDYING ABROAD IN OUR HOMETOWN

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE | SPRING 2019
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

INSTRUCTOR: DALE ROSENGARTEN

Designed to introduce first year students to the historical resources housed on every street in the city, “Charleston as a Classroom” engaged students in fieldwork, archival research, and the practice of museum studies. We explored the history of Charleston, focusing on its ethnography and economy, using its streets and buildings as our classroom. Tuesdays were reserved for lectures, guest speakers, document study, and discussions; Thursdays for field trips to historic sites, archives, museums, cemeteries, churches, synagogues, and fellowship halls. What follows is a compilation of excerpts from my students’ field trip logs.

January 10
Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South
Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, St. Philip and Calhoun Streets

Lauren O’Steen
The Southbound exhibit at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art holds a special place in my heart. The photographs were extremely diverse and represented many different aspects of the southern experience. The picture that resonated the most with me was “Lakeshore Marina” (2011) by John Lusk Hathaway.

My grandparents used to have a boathouse exactly like the one photographed. I remember the smell of muskrat feces left to dry on the floorboards; my brother and I would knock the little piles into the water with an old broom handle as soon as they hardened from the kiln-like nature of the intense heat. I spent many afternoons as a little girl trying to capture the small fish that congregated in the old Christmas trees PawPaw had tied underneath the pontoons. I had this green, longer-than-me net meant to help haul up the catfish. Many of the minnows were so small they’d slip through the webbing, leaving my eight-year-old-self empty handed at the end of my adventure. This memory stands in stark contrast to Lakeshore Marina. The woman sits in her position as if naturally posed, just looking towards the fish. It is human nature to try to interact with them, but she does not; she only carefully watches, almost as if trying to make the decision if she wants to
interfere with their casual swimming by introducing the tip of her toe. This timidity might be a reflection of her life as a whole, or it could simply have only come in this moment. Either way, the entire perception of the serenity in the boathouse will change once her toe reaches the water.”

When I first viewed this and many of the photographs in Southbound, I felt this twinge of familiarity, a connection to the picture that my mind registered before I actually knew why. Whether it was a storefront, the inside of a restaurant, or a butcher’s shop that was pictured, I could see aspects of my childhood, and the personal memories would come flooding back with them. It almost validated my experiences to an extent, as the places, people, and objects that I had always considered important to my memories, but almost stuck in an old place, unimportant to the outside world, actually have the beauty and social clout to be featured in a traveling show.

Amy Vella

“Dock Worker, 1980,” c. 2010, taken by Keith Calhoun and “Eliza’s Birthday Party,” 2004, by Alex Harris, both play a role in remembering my childhood. When I first saw “Dock Worker” my eyes were immediately drawn to the empty top half of the picture. The bland grayish colour that blends down to yellow and red, until it meets the man's face, reminds me of a water- damaged picture. When I was a freshman in high school, I found a picture of a few of my friends and I in preschool. I had no recollection of this picture; therefore I was more than ecstatic when finding it. I brought it to school to show them, only to find our faces blurred when I pulled the picture from my backpack.
Earlier that day, my water had leaked onto the picture. I was devastated to find that we were unrecognizable. The water damage had taken our identity….

“Eliza’s Birthday Party” brings me to a happy childhood memory. This picture perfectly depicts what used to be. July 2005, it was my older sister’s 8th birthday. She had about ten of her friends over for hot dogs, cake, and a sprinkler in our backyard. I say this depicts what used to be because the children in this picture are satisfied with a plastic pool, a sprinkler and a couple of hula hoops. I honestly cannot remember the last time I saw kids playing outside. This picture is so lively and colourful, it almost makes me feel like I’m there on a hot summer day. This picture also portrays socioeconomic levels. Their adolescent minds are hidden from reality. Therefore, they are so grateful for what they have and are truly enjoying and living in the moment.

Molly Dougherty
We started our field trips in the beginning of the semester at the Halsey with the first part of the Southbound exhibit and I thought it was a great way to start the semester. I had never heard of this exhibit, nor seen photographs like this anywhere, so I was definitely amazed at how incredible these photos are and how well they encompass the New South. This is a picture of my favorite photograph in the exhibit of the little girl walking “South.” I love what it represents and something about the openness and the water catches me every time. I love the Southbound exhibit and I definitely want to go back before it heads to its next location.
January 17
The Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon
122 E. Bay Street

Katie Nazaridis
At the Old Exchange as I entered the building I stopped and looked out onto Broad Street. Before I entered the building, I had no prior knowledge of the Old Exchange, but I knew it was an important building at the end of the block overlooking the busy street. We started off the tour on the second floor with our tour guide and Nic Butler. This is where they did business and trading in the past. There was a painting and cross stitches of the founders of Charles Town on the wall when you walk in. Then we went downstairs into the dungeon. The smell was musty and dusty; I was sneezing. It was very dark and cool, and the ceilings, walls, and ground were made out of bricks that were made by slaves. You can see fingerprints in some of them. This is where pirates and prisoners were held and chained up. There was a guard outside and there was a lot of sickness and rats. In the basement we could also see the half-moon where the bay used to come up to. This was the first building you saw when arriving at Charles Town in a boat. There were no other streets
beyond East Bay Street. After the basement we went to the third floor which is where they held balls and meetings and now you can even get married there. George Washington has been here multiple times. Also, next to the parking lot under the tree they would have slave sellings, but it eventually was banned because it was causing too much commotion and congestion on the streets for the tourists.

Lauren O’Steen
Our field trip to the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon was one of my favorites. You could feel the age and history of the place as soon as you first walked up the great front steps. Later, I learned that the Declaration of Independence was read to the colonists and George Washington stood on that very place, solidifying this feeling. Once inside the doors, I was reminded of a colonial house, because the place sported Georgian architecture from top to bottom, with much symmetry and large rooms. In the basement was the “dungeon” which felt unlike a dungeon in the fact that it was very open and had large doors on both sides. The ballroom upstairs hosted events attended by the likes of George Washington. My favorite part of the visit was the street tour given afterwards. Our leader was an actual historian and archaeologist who helps in researching the old walls of Charleston. He also gives a weekly podcast about the history of Charleston, and I can’t wait to hear more from him. There was one way that the trip seemed limited in scope. When the tour guide said “we” (in referencing historical events of the founding of Charleston), he did not mean Native or African Americans, whose history has played a shaping role in the city. It would have been interesting to attend the same tour from one of these other perspectives.

Vance Lupton
The Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon was one of my favorite tours of the year. The building was built in 1771, serving a multitude of purposes over the years. One thing that specifically stood out to me was the Half-Moon Battery that can be seen while in the dungeon. This wall is a part of the original Charles Town city wall and is over 300 years old. Another interesting thing about the building is it is where South Carolina officials approved the U.S. Constitution. This was one of my favorite tours due to the immense historical history behind it.
Madison McNamara
The Old Exchange was a great experience for me and the program. The small building at the end of East Bay Street was white on the outside with stairs on both sides leading the door. The inside of the building on the first floor was the original flooring with artifacts all around. Going down into the dungeon was very cool; being able to see the original bricks implanted to build and the different stations about what was happening made it feel like you were there. One very remarkable thing that stood out to me was the original picture of Charles II. He stood out to me most because when reading under the picture of him the first thing I read was he was born in London, where I traveled abroad my first semester.

Amy Vella
The Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon was publicly used as a slave trade site, a Revolutionary War prison, and was the place the Declaration of Independence was read to the town’s citizens. Before entering the building, I noticed that in the front hung the American Flag as well as the British. When entering the building, below your feet sit the original stone floors. In the left room stands a portrait of King Charles II, the founder of “Charles Town.” Immediately after walking down into the cellar, I could feel and smell the moldy damp sensation I recognize when walking into any old basement. One artifact that really caught my eye was the Half-moon Battery. It is the only standing portion of the original Charles Town city wall. It is amazing how such poorly handmade bricks still stand.
Something that really intrigued me is how the prisoners lived like prisoners, in the muggy boiling hot “dungeon” with little to no food. Compare this to how prisoners live nowadays. One thing I would have liked to see was the doors in the back of the dungeon open. One of our guides, Nic Butler, said that the doors were once at ground level and over time we have risen it to about 3–4 feet. I would have liked to see a visual of that. Overall, I really enjoyed this trip and learned more about Charleston. I cannot wait to see where the next one takes us.

Lauren Coggins
I enjoyed visiting the Old Exchange and learning all the history that had happened in the building. Going into the dungeon and seeing where prisoners were held was surreal. We learned how it was very hot and muggy and they had lots of rats that carried diseases. It was cool to see the model of the walled city of Charleston and to see how much the city has changed. The top floor was very pretty with a nice view and I thought it was very intriguing that George Washington had been entertained inside of the building.

Emma Baker
Today my class and I went to visit the Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon. This building is very important to our city’s history because it was the main place of trading and exchanges in the 18th century. I found it interesting that the first president of the United States, George Washington, visited the site on a number of occasions. The dungeon area was an especially cool place to walk around in because of the thousands of authentic bricks that make up both the floor and ceiling. I had a good time listening to the history of the building and being able to look at and take pictures of the things that caught my attention.
Bella Arcoria
This place was filled with a lot of history as soon as you walk in. There were historical artifacts all around the building and including the building itself that had been first built in 1767. This building was used for people to make exchanges in land, slaves, and crops. There were several events held in this building including balls, George Washington's reading of the Declaration of Independence, and the signing of the Declaration of Independence that was signed by the four people from South Carolina, Edward Rutledge, Arthur Middleton, Thomas Heyward Jr. and Thomas Lynch Jr. Going to this building held a lot of significance in it and taught me a lot about the place where I live and how important Charleston is in the history of The United States. Being in the dungeon was also a great experience because it showed how enclosed and cramped prisoners back then would have been. It also gave more insight into how structures of homes were built when they had hidden basements to keep refuge in.

Molly Dougherty
For our second field trip we went to the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon. I thought that this tour was very interesting and especially cool to see that a lot of it is still original, including the stone floors on the main floor of the building. All of the things that they have in the rooms really give you a good idea of what it was like back then. The most fascinating item to me was in one of the cases (pictured) they had original shackles that the slaves would have worn around their arms or legs. Seeing that made the whole experience really realistic. My favorite part of the whole tour was when we went downstairs into the dungeon and got to see all of the cool architecture of the ceilings and how we could see some of the original fortifications. The fact that they had a full set up of people who were in the dungeon was scary but very realistic. I also loved the view of Broad Street from the top floor!
January 24
The Old Slave Mart Museum
6 Chalmers Street

Amy Vella
After listening to the discussion at the Old Slave Mart and visually seeing the slave documents, I could put myself in that time period and see how they treated black people as property. Something that really caught my eye was how the prices of the slaves fluctuated due to their age. I saw how a 15-year-old boy was worth $1,350 while a 70-year-old man was worth about $750. It is so crazy to me that human beings were being auctioned off like cars. When we finished the discussion inside the museum, something came to mind when we were standing outside the back of the building. Christine told us that the second you step outside the back of the building, the property is simply a parking lot owned by someone else. It made me wonder if there are untouched remains under the asphalt. Christine said it had never been researched or dug.

Asia Williams
On this field trip, I learned the most. In school, I always learned about the history of slavery and the slave trade and my family did their part in not sugar coating the truth. But being in the actual space that was once used for slave auctions gave me a new perspective. I also learned that there was more to slavery than just selling and buying slaves. There were many different economic deals in buying slaves that are not usually discussed that I found very interesting. There are dark twisted parts of that history and going to the museum helped me realize there is still a lot to learn about this time.
Lauren O'Steen

The Old Slave Mart Museum tour introduced me to a viewpoint of the history of Charleston that I had never heard before but would later encounter many more times over the course. Our interpreter (a term which I had never heard before), Christine Mitchell, first explained the history of the physical site, then dove into a beautiful explanation of complicated history of slaves and slavery in Charleston. She described enslaved people as “the attic of the aristocracy,” hidden away, but present in every aspect of Charleston history, the foundation of the city’s colonial empire of wealth. It is the goal of Ryan’s Mart to depict enslaved people no longer as supporting characters, but the force of colonial Charleston. The most impactful part of the tour for me was seeing the fingerprints of the enslaved people who made the bricks forming the walls of the building. These remnants connect their viewers to the physical past of the city, leaving no question of the horrible atrocities committed on the people who were forced to form every brick by hand.

Danyel Meahan

Knowledge of the once enslaved people in South Carolina can be gained at the Old Slave Mart Museum. The Old Slave Mart was where enslaved people were bought and sold. The building holds tremendous history and is run by people that bring light to a very dark time. It was fascinating to stand in the very building where so much devastating history took place. At the end of the visit, the class was brought out to the back parking lot where enslaved people once worked. Our visit to the Old Slave Mart allowed us to step into the past and to see how different society is today.

Katie Nazaridis

At the Old Slave Mart we started out the first hour upstairs sitting down while historian Christine King Mitchell told us the history of the location. The Old Slave Mart is an enclosed building and has one room on the bottom and top floor. Before it was not an enclosed space it was an alleyway where they would sell slaves. She passed around documents of workhouse receipts. The workhouse is where they would take slaves to be punished. This could result in beatings, whippings, the treadmill, or other punishments. They were sent here if their master did not want to do the punishing themselves. She also had lists of slaves and the age, name, qualities, and how much they were sold for. The parking lot behind the Old Slave Mart also most likely contains human remains under the pavement.
Madison McNamara
I really enjoyed visiting the Old Slave Mart Museum and learning what went on there. The feeling of walking through the brick building that is very close to the original was an amazing experience. The Old Slave Mart was decently small because it had been said it was a little bit reconfigured since it was used as a slave mart. The building smelled old, the floors creaked, and the bricks were original. Walking through the downstairs, it is filled from wall to wall with facts and information all about what was happening at the time. The most interesting part about the field trip to me was being able to see and hold original paperwork from buying and selling slaves. Looking at the range of ages, it amazes me there are newborn babies who have no idea what is coming for them in the future. This was a great experience that I highly recommend. This is something everyone needs to learn about.

Bella Arcoria
The Old Slave Mart Museum focused on how the slaves in Charleston had felt, lived, and been through. This place was filled with newspaper articles, documents, and thoughts of slaves during this period of Charleston. They have had this building there for a very long time because this property held a lot of significance to the city of Charleston and the history of the African Americans in Charleston. It was a small and creaky place with posters, picture frames, memories, and thoughts of slaves. It also had shackles slaves wore and a chair from the church African Americans went to. This was cool for me to see because it showed me what it was like for African Americans during this time and all the hardship they went through.
Valentina Granada
The Old Slave Mart was an eerie place to be in, so much dark history in one place could be felt in the atmosphere. Seeing the slave made bricks and learning about how the system of sale of slaves worked was very interesting. It began being used as an auction house for slaves after the ordinance was passed. At the time it had no roof and a dirt floor leading to a morgue, a pen, and a kitchen house in the back to keep the slaves in. It was interesting seeing how they had a whole system and basically treated the people like cattle when being sold. They “fluffed” the slaves as one would a house before it goes on the market. They separated families and assessed the skills and looks of the people in order to figure out a base price. Also, like a house, one could take out loans, bonds, or rent a slave and they would even be repossessed if you missed your payments. They had such an intricate system, it really shows you how economically valued slaves were and how terrible the treatment was.

Emma Baker
Today my class and I took a trip to The Old Slave Mart Museum. This location was interesting in several ways but mainly because of the building’s history. Our tour guide, Christine Mitchell King, explained to us that the walls of the room we were sitting in were original structures to an alleyway where slaves were bought and sold. I enjoyed looking at the newspaper articles that were passed around and reading the headlines and looking over the names of the people that were bought. After listening to our guide, we made our way downstairs and I was able to take a few pictures.

McKenzie Heaton
The Old Slave Mart explored the lives of enslaved people in Charleston. I really enjoyed this fieldtrip because it helped me understand what their lives were like. We learned that slaves had these badges and that if they didn’t have them on them, they would get in trouble. There aren’t many of these in existence—some people try to make replicas and sell them as originals.
January 31
Historic Charleston Foundation
Captain James Missroon House
40 East Bay Street

Katie Nazaridis
Here we started out at a room on the bottom right of the first floor. Instead of a tour of the building, we had a presentation upstairs in one of the meeting rooms. Our presenter, Katherine Saunders Pemberton, started talking to us about monuments in the South and more specifically, in Charleston. Historic Charleston Foundation has documented every monument in Charleston and put them into categories. There is a big debate about which monuments should be taken down, and if any at all. The solution that was talked about was evening out the numbers of African American and women statues with the amount of Confederate men monuments. The topic about the Confederate flag also came up. The flag was recently taken on the Capitol building in South Carolina. Some famous monuments in Charleston that tourists will see without even trying are the John C. Calhoun monument in Marion Square and the Confederate Defenders of Charleston at the Battery. There is
also another option that was discussed to create more justice for the unheard such as the African Americans and their ancestors that were unfortunately used as property in the creation of South Carolina and its wealth: it’s to place plaques under these statues and monuments stating the whole truth of the persons history, including if they were slave owners.

**Madison McNamara**
Going to the Historic Charleston Foundation was a really great experience and I learned so many new things about Charleston. One thing that I found particularly interesting was the conversation about taking down the statues with a “bad history” meaning. My personal opinion is we all need to know about the good and the bad history of our past. The good history is something to be proud of and the bad history is something to think back to and learn from.

**Amy Vella**
While listening to Katherine Saunders Pemberton’s presentation, I realized that this question did not apply to the majority of the classroom. The question being, “should we take down and destroy these monuments?” These items clearly represent history, so personally I don't think they should be taken down, but my opinion is irrelevant. It makes sense for any black group to say it is offensive and or insulting. Their opinion is what matters. I believe that we should not praise the statues of these people that encouraged slavery by having 10-foot-high statutes of them. But merely addressing who they were and what they did in history books because it is something that happened that needs not to be forgotten about. While listening to these two students argue during the discussion, I realized that it’s not really up to either of them and maybe we should have asked an African American student how he or she feels about it.

**Bella Arcoria**
This week we went to the Historic Charleston Foundation, an old building that still had remnants from back when it was first built. It also had new add-ons. It was built right next to what is now the High Battery. On this field trip we learned about old statues not only just in Charleston but also in other Southern states. It was really cool to learn how people in today’s society feel about old historic statues—finding out that people want these cool pieces of history removed just because of the ways social media can change our views.

**Emma Baker**
Today my class and I took a trip to the Historic Charleston Foundation. I enjoyed listening to our guide talk to us about all the factors that go into the placement of monuments. I can tell she put a lot of time and consideration into the navigation sheet that she handed out to us. I would like to, in my free time, make an effort to look at some on the monuments and markers that she showed us in her slide show.
February 7  
Aiken-Rhett House  
48 Elizabeth Street

Madison McNamara  
Going to the Aiken-Rhett house on such a beautiful day was an unforgettable experience. From walking into the front doors, I had no idea the house was as big as it was. Every room was so different and came with so many different facts. One thing I enjoyed most was the progression of the house and from year to year it got bigger and bigger. In 1820 it started as a refined house on Judith and Elizabeth Street, by 1835 they added a grand villa to one side, then by 1858 they expanded it into “the artistic expansion.” It smelt old and looked very old, but they have kept everything original—from original paintings on the walls all the way to the original art gallery in the home. Pictures from this place speak a thousand words. I enjoyed this field trip very much and hope to go back to learn more in the future.

Valentina Granada  
The Aiken-Rhett house is a beautiful property rich with history, owned at one time by one of the richest men in South Carolina, with real estate, a plantation, and ties to the railroad industry. It sure shows throughout the house, with its Greek revival architecture and French detail and furnishings. The house is over the top—even in its condition, you can tell how lavish they lived.
My favorite part of the house had to be the art gallery and the yard. Just being out in the yard you can really picture the help at work and everyone out and about doing their jobs around the house. Usually it’s hard to imagine how people lived and worked visiting a site like this but I didn’t have a problem with that here. The smell of the house is hard to describe other than dust, a mixture of fresh and musty. Even though he was a slave owner, Aiken was a progressive and allowed his slaves to read and write. One even had bank accounts for her and her family. Being smart and a good businessman allowed Aiken to be successful even after the Civil War. He made sure to pay all his workers and even did so at a good price.

Mallory Poston
The Aiken-Rhett was by far my favorite house we went to this semester. I loved how everything in the home was original, even the wallpaper. The house has many interesting things about it. The art museum was very pretty and had so much to look at. The outside courtyard was huge, it had one of the biggest slave quarters I have ever seen.
Alec Cohen
Visiting the Aiken-Rhett House was one of my favorite tours. I am currently studying historic preservation and to see a building built in 1820 that is still very well preserved amazes me. I never was able to look at a building and feel any sort of connection until now. Hearing the story of the Aiken-Rhett House made me appreciate it even more. The house stayed within the Aiken family for over 140 years. It was finally sold to the Charleston historic museum in 1975 and is now open for tours. All the original furniture and paintings are still in the house which is something you don't see a lot in these house tours. Most of them are renovated greatly and most of the original items that were once there are gone. The Aiken family was at the time one of the richest people in the South and this house is viable proof of that.

Amy Vella
During this tour, I experienced the most realistic tour yet. I received the opportunity to step inside the home and lifestyle of a slave. My family and I love to house hunt and explore very old homes/buildings. To me, this house had all of the key aspects of a well-kept historic house. It felt cold, smelled like an old basement and the vintage crown molding still sat. One thing that caught my eye the most about the sight, was when our guide Valerie Perry said someone could tell that someone lived in the house during the 1940s just by looking at the wall colour—a woman named Mary Middleton. This to me has so much meaning because when my sisters and I look at houses we guess what year they were built by the crown molding, wall colours, and outlets/phone lines.

Vance Lupton
After reading about the Aiken-Rhett House, I was extremely excited to actually visit it. I was curious to explore such a well-preserved building and learn more about its history. The house was built in 1820 and sold to the Aiken family not long after. The house stayed with the Aiken's for 142 years until being turned into a museum in 1975. After visiting the house, I felt that it told a story of what life was like during these years. Being able to see original furniture, paintings, and the Aiken-Rhett slave quarters really puts antebellum life in Charleston into perspective, as a lot of these “survived virtually untouched.”
Emma Baker
These people are in love. You can tell by the way they’re holding hands. Fingers interlocked with each other. The way he rests his face on her shoulder. They don’t look like they have much. The car in the background has strange, reckless looking graffiti on the windows. Something that probably won’t be coming off any time soon. In the distance, I notice what looks like a trailer. I can’t tell if this is a home or just an abandoned storage place. I don’t feel like this couple needs much more than what they have. All they need is each other.

February 12
City Gallery
Waterfront Park
34 Prioleau Street

An Evening with Nikky Finney

Madison McNamara
Visiting the City Gallery and learning about Southbound for a second time was truly a treat. My favorite photos were by Michelle Van Parys because you had to look for the focus in some of them. Looking at all the pictures and admiring the work that has been put into the Southbound project. Listening to Nikki Finney talk was truly an unforgettable experience.
Lauren O’Steen
I really enjoyed the beautiful presentation by Nikky Finney. I arrived late, so I had to stand in the back and entered mid-poem. I was amazed by the air in the room when I entered; no one in the audience was moving, much less speaking, and all eyes were focused intently on Finney. She was speaking on life as a black woman, growing up with her father working at the state house. The presentation went on for about another hour. My favorite was a poem from the perspective of the woman who spotted and turned in Dylann Roof, the Emmanuel AME shooter. Her words made listeners ride the emotions of the woman, seeing what she was seeing and thinking what she was thinking.
Kendall Tally
Nikky Finney's poetry brought us back to the time of the Civil War in the Lowcountry. We were given a real glimpse of what life was like after the war, and additionally, were reminded of the honor that not only soldiers but slaves gave during the war, the prosperity of our nation, and the removal of the Confederate Flag from State House grounds. I felt that Finney describing the South Carolina indigo sky, as a light we should follow towards refining ourselves and our nation, really exemplified the type of symbolism she was using to portray that our past is used as a reminder, and that we should always look toward bettering our future.

Molly Dougherty
Before going to the poetry night reading with Nikky Finney, I didn't expect myself to be very into it, because I have never been good at poetry. I loved all of her work in the South Bound exhibit, but I didn't know much about her poetry. This night taught me to have a more open mind about things that I am not used to because I am not good at them. I found some of Nikky’s poetry hilarious and I didn't expect myself to be laughing. She has an amazing way of delivery whether humorous or serious and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

McKenzie Heaton
Nikky Finney's poetry was very beautiful and moving. Although I've never really enjoyed poetry, I thought that there was something about hers that made it very enjoyable. Perhaps it was because of how much imagery her poetry has. It seems like she puts so much thought into every word and this is what leaves the audience speechless.

Alec Cohen
When I heard Nikky was going to be reading us poetry I got a little disappointed because I hate poetry. However, while sitting there I was getting more and more intrigued as she read on. I was mostly impressed with how passionate she was about her poetry and how she was able to tell her life story and keep everyone in the room focused on the words that were coming out of her mouth. When she was reading the poems, it helped me visualize and get a better understanding of what life was like for her growing up. Also, the way she related her poems to the Southbound images was very interesting.
**Amy Vella**  
Nikky Finney is clearly passionate about writing. Her poems came to life and made me feel like I was there. She took her time to make sure every word was perfected. I really enjoyed how she used some Southbound photographs to emphasize her work.

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**Bella Arcoria**  
After attending this poetry reading it gave me a new outlook. Her poetry was very intriguing and brought a new view into my eyes. She spoke with passion and interest and it showed in every word she said. Her poetry also had a very deep meaning behind each word she wrote. You could also tell she took a lot of time on her work and put a lot of hours and days into each piece of work. She used stories and past experience to write these pieces as well.

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**Emma Baker**  
“A New Day Dawns,” [Finney’s poem commemorating the removal of the Confederate flag from the South Carolina State House,] has a great deal of imagery. While reading I felt like I myself was at the site that she described. To me this poem was more like a question directed towards the readers. Nikky tells the past of the South by taking us back to the Civil War and then asks the reader to think about what it means to live in South Carolina today. Who are we and what do we stand for? How has the past shaped the present?

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**Valentina Granada**  
Finney's poems are very much at the heart of the Southbound exhibit. When reading her poems, it transported me to the site of the image. She told a story though even though it wasn't the original. It captured the image in a whole other way. This captures the exhibit because the south doesn't have one single meaning or story but multiple different experiences depending on where you are. For Finney, she told her version of the story, but it can be completely different from what someone else sees. That is the whole experience of this exhibit and these poems really capture it.
Anna Martin
Getting to see Nikky Finney was a very special thing. I had read her work for the Southbound book before hearing her speak and I wish I hadn't read it. After hearing her talk I recognized which pieces I had read and I felt that reading her work for the book before she was able to read it to me and present it how it should be read, ruined the experience for me. So when she read some of her other work, not included in the Southbound book, that I hadn’t heard before, I was blown away. Especially her “run-a-way slave” poem. That poem she read was truly incredible.

Vance Lupton
Although I had to leave slightly early during Nikky Finney's reading, I was able to listen to the majority of it. I was very impressed with her passion behind her writing, and this passion was heard in her reading too. I sat on the last row and was able to see how she captivated her audience, everyone was drawn in listening to what she had to say, including me. I also like how her poems related to the southbound images we have seen previously.

Danyel Meahan
Attending Nikky Finney’s poetry reading at the City Gallery was a very enjoyable experience. I had never attended a poetry reading prior to this field trip, especially one of a professional poet. Nikky Finney uses her unique past life experiences to create her loved poetry. She also uses photographs such as those in the City Gallery for inspiration.

Mallory Poston
This week we went and listened to Nikky Finney's ekphrastic poem. I really enjoyed listening to her. She made her poems come to life and you could actually feel like you were there. Her poetry really tied in with the Southbound images. We were given a deep description of what life was like after the war. When she was talking you could tell she was speaking from the heart and it was really important to her.
February 13
The Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street

Madison McNamara
I really enjoyed visiting the Charleston Museum because out of all the times I have been to Charleston it was something I had never done. I had always wondered what was inside the building, and now I know! One thing that I found most interesting was the pottery because it had secret messages written on them. The secret messages were about a girl but that is all they know. The other thing that amazed me about these big pots was how much money they go for today.

McKenzie Heaton
The Charleston Museum was the best fieldtrip that we went on. It explored so many different things, but mainly history about the Lowcountry. My favorite part was learning about the slave who carved poems on the pots he made. I also loved the clothing exhibit that explored the materials that females wore back in colonial times. There were even rings from the Citadel and College of Charleston in this exhibit.

Amy Vella
The Charleston Museum is one of the oldest museums in the United States. Its highly regarded collection includes historic artifacts, natural history, decorative arts, and two historic Charleston houses. During this tour we saw a lot of different items from iron pitchforks to woven baskets and ceramic jugs. I like how our tour guide, Grahame Long, discussed his career and what it’s like working in a museum. Everything matters from the climate, lighting and how many words to put on the descriptive panel.
Molly Dougherty
Surprisingly, I had never been to the Charleston Museum before this visit, but I’m so happy that I was finally able to go! I was blown away by the amount of items they have in their collection and it was by far the most out of anywhere we had been so far. I loved how they categorized everything by wings in the museum. One of my favorite things to learn about was Dave’s Pottery because I had never heard of it before, but it is so incredibly famous. I loved how [Curator Grahame Long] described them as going from worthless to priceless. I think that is a good analogy because when they were first made, no one thought anything of them until later when they were discovered and found only in such small quantities, but with such deep meaning to them. I thought it was so cool how they have the largest collection of Dave’s Pottery, but there is still not that much. I wonder how much more is out there. Everything in the whole museum was so fascinating, that I could never choose one favorite thing.
February 21
Grimké Sisters tour with Carol Ezell Gilson

Vance Lupton
Besides the fact that the Grimké Sisters Tour was outside in beautiful weather, I thoroughly enjoyed the tour given by Carol Gilson. Gilson was very informative and had so much intriguing history involving the Grimké sisters and Charleston as a whole. It was fascinating to learn about two of the most influential women in South Carolina’s history. My favorite part of the tour was being able to see John Rutledge’s grave (middle below), the husband of Elizabeth Grimké.

Danyel Meahan
The Grimké Sisters Tour was a very educational field trip. Prior to the field trip, the class was assigned reading about the Grimké sisters. It was very interesting seeing all that we had read about come to life on the walking tour. On the tour, we got to see where the Grimké sisters lived and a bunch of other spots in Charleston that are significant to the Grimké sisters. It’s not every day that you get to learn about the first female abolitionists while walking the beautiful streets of Charleston. This field trip was very helpful since our midterm assignment was about the Grimké sisters. In many parts of my essay, I used the knowledge I gained on the walking tour.
Madison McNamara
The Grimké Sisters tour really caught my interest because I did a project on them in high school and it really intrigued me. I had never heard of them before the project I did on them, but they deserve to be recognized a lot more than they have been. The Grimké sisters were so strong with what they stood up for. I think everyone deserves to learn about what these two did for the cause of abolition.

Emma Baker
Today’s tour with Carol Ezell-Gilson was one of my favorites. I enjoyed walking through some of the oldest parts of Charleston and listening to Carol talk about the history of the Grimke sisters. Some of the buildings that we stopped at today were very beautiful with lots of original detail and character. The old jail was especially interesting as its medieval architecture gave off a spooky feeling. I also noticed today that a strip of a sidewalk that we passed was being used to sell grass woven baskets. I found this to be ironic since it had been something that our class just finished discussing.

Molly Dougherty
Living in Philadelphia and Charleston, I had heard about the Grimké sisters before, but I never really knew what they did or who they were until reading the essay and doing the tour. It was fascinating to be able to trace the steps of the family throughout Charleston and learn all of the history behind them. I cannot even imagine what they were going through as young girls who didn’t like the idea of slavery, while they had slaves in their backyard and came from one of the most prestigious families in Charleston. I admire their immense bravery to be able to fight for what they believed in no matter what anyone thought.
February 28
Drayton Hall
3380 Ashley River Road

Valentina Granada
The Drayton plantation is beautiful and full of history and mystery. John Drayton didn’t show up in public records until he bought the land for this house. It is thought he was his own architect and built the house using slave labor. The house is beautifully preserved and has a lot of puzzle pieces surrounding it. One of the parts that interests me most was how they found intriguing brick work hiding under the stairs. Another quirk of the house is how lady bugs show up every February by the hundreds and live around the house.

Lauren Coggins
The preservation of Drayton Hall is remarkable. Being able to tour the house and land and to see it all very similar to how it appeared in history was very cool. The view and land were beautiful. The architect of the building was very interesting to learn
about and I really enjoyed the designs on the ceiling (I think the lady bugs did too). It was also very interesting to get to go into the old slave houses and see how small of a space a family had to live in.

Madison McNamara
Drayton Hall was such a historical, peaceful, and beautiful plantation. I learned so much on this field trip but my favorite part was the main house. What I found it particularly interesting was how they tell how old the paint has been there. I cannot imagine how much work this house is, due to all the maintenance required for a house this old. There are so many different parts of the house with different stories and even parts that are still under investigation for new information.

McKenzie Heaton
Drayton Hall was so beautiful! Drayton Hall was a plantation consisting of mainly indigo and rice. We got to explore the place where the head slave and his family lived. We learned a lot about historical preservation and what it takes to really preserve a structure as large as Drayton Hall. We got to see the new exhibit that was opened and got to see a lot of the cool artifacts dug up and some furniture that was in the house.
Molly Dougherty
Drayton Hall was by far my favorite field trip so far this semester. I had never been before our visit which is maybe why I was so stunned by the architecture and whole property. I was very interested in the archaeology projects and what they have found. My favorite thing in the exhibit was the slave branding tool. I had never seen one of those before, let alone knew they existed. I think it is so cool how they are still able to learn so much and find so much all these years later of searching. I love how they decide to keep the house preserved and have it very bare, with not much inside than what is already there. This really make you focus on the architecture and the stunning things of the house in each room. I love their ability to uncover new things all of the time, which makes it even more interesting. I will definitely be back!
Amy Vella
Drayton Hall was by far my favorite field trip. I felt that having three different tour guides kept me awake and involved. The change in tone and environment got me excited to learn. The land was so beautiful, and not only did we go inside the house to see the molding and architecture, but we also saw a layout drawing of what the house was supposed to look like. The second part of the tour included things that belonged inside of the house such as couches, paintings, and fine China. This made me understand the Drayton’s lavish lifestyle. What was disturbing and disappointing was seeing the lifestyle of the slave family that lived in the red house next to the mansion. Six family members lived in that house at once and it was literally the size of my dorm.
March 7
French Protestant (Huguenot) Church, corner of Church and Queen Streets, and Huguenot Society Library, 138 Logan Street

Madison McNamara
The bright pink Huguenot Church has so much beauty on the inside and out. The outside used to be grey about six years ago but they did more research on it and painted it pink. Inside of this breathtaking church, there is so much detail to recognize. The little booth chairs, the shape of the ceiling, the dates around the sides of the wall, and so much more! I went home this weekend and as I was getting my nails done the girl sitting next to me started talking to me. We got into where I go to school and all those questions; she proceeded to explain to me she spent her freshman year here as well and she is getting married in this church this weekend. I found that so interesting because we just visited it on a field trip!

Molly Dougherty
I really enjoyed going to the Huguenot church because I had never learned much about the Protestant religion and had definitely never been in a Huguenot church! I loved how we did the walking tour leading up to the church and then actually got to go in the church. Our tour guide explained the religious persecution of the Huguenots very well and was very knowledgeable. I thought it was interesting to be able to see their archives and all of the documents that they have there.
Lauren O’Steen  
Field notes taken March 7, 2019 at the Huguenot Society and Church  
• A lot of Huguenots had escaped to England. First in 1680 Carolina just established. In top 3 places they came to – Boston and NY, SC biggest  
• 1697 – the “naturalization”  
• Catholics: convert, leave, die  
• Lords Proprietors advertised Carolina well  
• A lot of Hugs had been artisans and merchants. So they had to learn to farm and build houses and create infrastructure when they got here – many indentured servants  
• West street, 1940s ballrooms and bordellos  
• Unitarian Church to Library Society to Gibbes Museum to circular to St. Phillips to Unitarian!  
• People were either French Protestant or Huguenot not French Huguenot, Huguenot was a derogatory term— the French, aliens, the French people. They would not have called themselves this.  
• Edict of Nantes revoked. Ministers had 15 days to get out or convert. Normal people had to become catholic. Many tried to escape. Could be killed for leaving. Children under 7 could be taken away and given to Catholic family  
• Edict of Toleration allowed religious freedom again  
• The Gutenberg bible printed in Common language let people read the Bible for themselves. Protestants said no to giving church money, made them mad  
• Only Huguenot church in USA
March 14
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE)
90 Hasell Street

Madison McNamara
I really enjoyed going into KKBE because I have never been into a synagogue. I found it very interesting that all synagogues face east in the direction of Jerusalem. This was such a great learning experience because there are so many things that I did not know about the congregation. I was very surprised that KKBE is the second oldest synagogue building in the United States and the oldest in continuous use.

Molly Dougerty
The KKBE tour was extremely interesting. I have only been in a few synagogues in my life, but definitely never one as historic as this! I had no idea that this synagogue is so important to world history and I'm glad that I could learn so much about it. I was so happy we got to learn about Jewish life in Charleston and how important it was. I loved learning about how accepted they were and how much a part of the community they were.
Lauren O’Steen
Field notes taken on March 14, 2019 at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim

- The temple building in the complex is Greek revival, very 1840s, after the fire burned down the whole neighborhood, see a lot of it
- Willard Hirsch, Charleston metalwork
- Will never see a graveyard around a synagogue, often around churches, Orthodox Jews wash hands after graveyard, find it unclean
- St Mary’s across the street, graves written in French, Catholic
- When Carolina was tolerant, Catholics weren’t let in, no Catholics until after revolution
- When you orient yourself, you find which way is facing east. The synagogue is facing east. Towards Jerusalem
- On the ground of the exact foundation of synagogue here before
- Jews here since 1690, this congregation starts 1739
- By 1794 this congregation builds the first synagogue, looks pretty much like a church with steeple. The fence is still the fence of today
- The Torah is in the cabinet “ark,” everyone stands when the interior glass doors open, 2 polls in each of the 5 scrolls, in ornate bags
- 1824, young men petitioned the people of the Board for reform, shorter services, in English, kicked out of congregation, women in services- first time in country Jewish reform ever asked for, “this is our Jerusalem, we don’t have to go back to the holy land... let’s put an organ in our synagogue” first organ in synagogue in hemisphere, wanted to change the format in worshiping the same god. First reformed synagogue in America
- Orthodox synagogues did not have organs
- 1886 balconies around sides of sanctuaries fell, women didn’t need to sit in balconies any more
- You can see status implications through ornateness in columns during the time
- Jewish custom- no heaven images- no people in pictures or stain glass
- All synagogues have an eternal light
- Reformed Judaism looks at spirit behind belief, not as many dietary laws and stuff
- Oldest synagogue in continuous use- one in Newport just stood there for a long time
• Building oldest reformed synagogue in the world
• Readers desk in every synagogue too
• Francis Salvador- revolutionary, killed by NA, came here to reclaim his family fortune
• Grey uniform was Confederacy
• Minyan is 10 people, who can make a prayer circle and pray together without rabbi
• One of the first 5 congregations in US, cradle of reformed Judaism
Our field trip to the Coming Street Cemetery was unlike any field trip we had taken before. We have walked through cemeteries on past field trips, but we never fully focused on one. The Coming Street Cemetery is a Jewish cemetery with some really cool stories behind it. Jews that are significant in Charleston’s history are buried there. Some are even the ancestors of those who work at the cemetery. One tradition that stood out to me was the putting of stones instead of flowers on the graves by family members. I found this very unique. The ghost stories shared on this tour were also very entertaining.

The cemetery was my favorite place so far. I learned a lot about Jewish life and the history if the people in the cemetery. I found it really interesting how they use pebbles instead of flowers. It was beautiful how all the graves were so different and how they are displayed. The stonework and iron work were very intricate and interesting. My favorite part was the ghost stories that came along with the tour.
Katie Nazaridis
The Coming Street Cemetery is associated with the KKBE church. The cemetery was built far away from the church because in the Jewish religion they believe that the grave site is dirty. One should always wash their hands at the fountain when exiting the cemetery. Throughout the tour we learned about different people buried at the cemetery and ghost stories. One man was

Vance Lupton
The Coming Street Cemetery was founded in 1762, making it one of the oldest Jewish burial grounds in the United States. This cemetery was very interesting to say the least. Many of the graves were family plots that had been there for over a century. What I found most compelling was the differences between the different headstones. While some were very large, almost like a monument, some were rather small and original. I’m curious to see where the preservation process goes within the next few years as well.
cutting down a tree in the back right corner and he captured a photo of a ghost. At the cemetery also, rocks are provided and family members will place these on their ancestors’ tombstones in remembrance of them. At the cemetery, I did not see any flags or decorations other than the stones left. It is a square cemetery with many different types of tombstones and a lot of green grass with one walkway made out of shells.

**Madison McNamara**

I did not think that going to a cemetery would be so interesting, but I really enjoyed visiting the Coming Street cemetery. My favorite part was hearing the ghost stories, listening to the costs, and how to restore everything. It was very cool that the tour guide’s relatives had been buried there. Huge thank you to those ladies for doing what they do. Most people do not know how much work it is to keep a grave that old intact and so beautiful. Thank you for this field trip, I really enjoyed it!

**Mallory Poston**

The KKBE cemetery was very interesting to me since I have never been to a Jewish cemetery before. It was interesting learning about the different graves and the stories about the people. I learned why there were rocks on the graves. My favorite things about the cemetery was the ghost stories they told and the picture of the ghost.
April 2
35 Chapel Street (ca. 1835–40)

Built by Sylvia (Silvi) Miles, a free woman of color, on land leased by William H. Holmes, a planter who lived on Charlotte Street. Renovated by Drs. Louis & Andrea Weinstein

Danyel Meahan
Our visit to 35 Chapel Street was very different than any field trip my class had taken before. 35 Chapel Street was once the home of a free black woman. This was very interesting as it was unique for a black woman to be free and own her own home at that time. Now, the home is owned by a man and his wife who are fascinated by history. They let us into their home and explained the history of the home and their life inside of it today. I loved stepping into a historical home with a modern twist.

Anna Martin
On April 2nd our class visited my favorite site. This site was a house near the Charleston Museum where a woman named Sylvia Miles lived. She was a free person of color who built the house on property that was leased out by William Holmes. Miles had made the house in order for her to run her business of being a washerwoman.

Walking into the house we were greeted by the house’s owners who also have an amazing history. These owners, the Weinsteins, are infatuated with history. They have redone several homes across the country and restored them to their original design. This is amazing because their house was like a museum. One of my favorite artifacts from this house was sitting on their coffee table. This artifact was a doctor’s tool kit that was used in the civil war. Dr. Weinstein also told some of us that the table that the doctor performed surgery on was upstairs in his office and he uses it as his office table.
Molly Dougherty
Our tour of the house at 35 Chapel Street was one of my favorite tours. I love Dr. Weinstein’s passion for restoring houses and loved the way that he told his story. I love how everything in the house is from the time period that he was restoring it to. He knew so much about the history of the house and the time period and had so many priceless items in the house, but didn’t make it seem like it, which I admire. He was very funny, and I loved looking at everything in the house!

Madison McNamara
Getting to visit Dr. Andrea and Dr. Louis Weinstein’s house was such an interesting experience. He was such a cute little old man and he is so passionate about what he does. Listening to him talk about everything in his house and how old it was—it was cool. I enjoyed going on this field trip because it was so different from all the other ones we have been on. My favorite part about his house was the way he makes the carpet mat things. They are so unique, beautiful, and time-consuming.
April 11
Catholic Diocese archive
& Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
114 and 120 Broad Street

Lauren Coggins
We first visited the Catholic Diocese archives. It was very interesting to see how and where they stored many of the Catholic artifacts and it was nice to be able to see a couple of them. After learning about what the workers do at the Catholic Diocese archives, we then visited the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The architect of the cathedral was beautifully designed, and I really enjoyed the window art and learning how it was made. Being able to go into the crypt was also very interesting. Seeing the history and where the Reverends were buried was fascinating. The whole cathedral was beautiful, and I am grateful I was able to experience it.
Molly Dougherty
I never knew or thought that the Catholic diocese would have as many archives as they would. I had never been in the cathedral and I was amazed at how beautiful it is. Both of our tour guides were very knowledgeable about their church but also knew a ton about Charleston history! I had never seen the machine that reads microfilm before so I thought that was very interesting. I also loved how we were about to go behind the scenes of the cathedral and see all of the downstairs.

Bella Arcoria
I enjoyed going to this place because I am Catholic, so it was interesting to hear how these other Catholic people put so much interest on these archives and to hear about these archives. I also enjoyed walking through the church because it had beautiful architecture, as well as its surrounding buildings.

Jade Benson
Bishop John England was the ideal candidate to be a civil rights advocate due to his race (Celtic) and religion as a Roman Catholic instead of a Protestant in the area. However, John England ran into a “rogues gallery of villains” acting as influential characters of the city. Even though he came into Charleston right as liberal ideas were gaining headway, he was a minority. In order for him to make a place for Catholics in Charleston, he needed to follow slave ideology of the city although he secretly supported the abolitionist movement. The end of his secret advocacy came when the abolitionist papers he attempted to hide were found on his person. He paid the price for it as he was dragged from his home and beaten as a punishment. Seemingly, England was required to fall from his place of principle because his goal was allowing Irish Catholics to have a voice in the United States.
Lauren Coggins
John England was the first Catholic bishop in Charleston, surprisingly he was also a secret supporter of the abolitionist movement. The Irish were also supporters. Although he tried keeping it a secret word still went around and because of this John England faced a lot of hatred towards him. John England would receive abolitionist papers and attempt to hide them. One night a mob broke out due to mail being kept that contained abolitionist papers. Members of the mob outed John England for harboring papers and the mob set out against him. After dragging England out of his home and beating him they then torn down the surrounding church buildings. John England's drive for justice came from his Irish roots.

Anna Martin
John England was a supporter of the abolitionist movement. He was often targeted and judged for being in favor of the abolitionists. He wasn't ever really an outward supporter but he supported their efforts. Unfortunately, he was already hated for being a Catholic. John England did try to distance himself from the movement. When being accused of being an abolitionist he quickly tried to dispel any “rumors.” He also got other Catholics in town to say that they were against the movement too.

Katie Nazaridis
When a mob broke into the Exchange Building, stealing mail from the abolitionist, John England would harbor and save as much of the work as he could. Growing up as a Catholic in Ireland taught John how to fight for justice. He and the Irish believed that the Charlestonians were hypocrites. His sympathy for the oppressed and hatred for oligarchies even put him in conflict with his own bishop Francis.

Lauren O’Steen
John England even went as far as to hide abolitionist papers from a mob trying to burn them all when they arrived in Charleston. While not all Irishmen were abolitionists, England’s friend Daniel O’Connell was, and wrote in to the newspaper The Liberator calling southern slaveholders hypocrites. Charlestonians related O’Connell’s ideas to England. England could relate with the southern people of African descent, because he had also been brutalized in Ireland as a Catholic. Most Irish in Charleston also held this mentality, so they had no problem at least mentally supporting the abolitionist movement.