

Open Spaces Teaching Innovation

$$E + V = 2$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = \hat{H} \psi$$

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$E = mc^2$$

$$dS \geq 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h}$$

Dr. Sharon Simmons

Jackson State University | Teaching Faculty Fellow | September 10, 2025

Why Open Spaces?



Fosters student co-creation & ownership of learning



Boosts motivation through culturally responsive pedagogy



Aligns with JSU's HBCU mission of care & community

How It Works – The 4-Step Model



Instructor designates
an 'open'
week/module



Students propose
topics, formats, or
projects

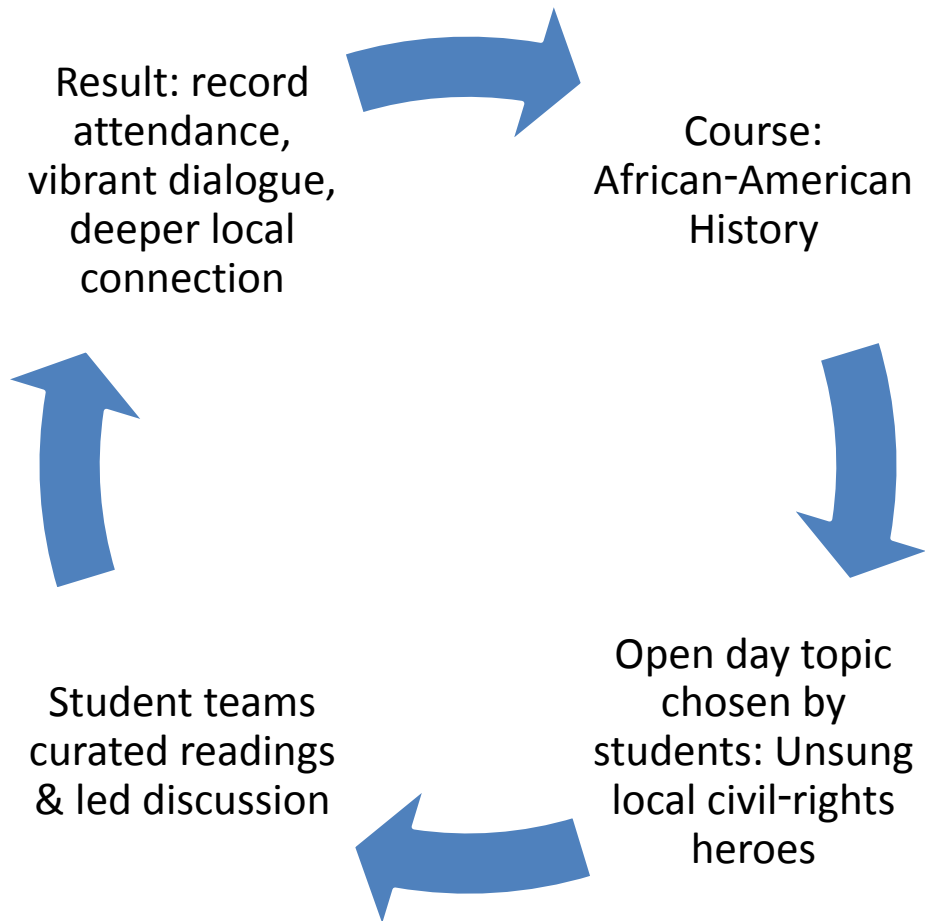


Class votes &
collaboratively plans
content



Instructor guides,
ensures academic
rigor

Example in Action



Sample Timeline & Milestones

- **Week 1:** Introduce concept & student-led brainstorming and faculty feedback
- **Week 8:** Student-led Open Space session
- **Week 13:** Reflect & assess learning including open space.



Benefits for Students & Faculty

↑ Engagement & attendance

↑ Critical thinking & relevance

↓ Lecture prep time (shift to facilitation)

→ Strengthens sense of belonging for students

Join the Open
Space Cohort

Click the link and
engage with your
Open Space
colleagues!

[https://forms.gle/2ho
WVM5RsPk5dqbV6](https://forms.gle/2hoWVM5RsPk5dqbV6)

Thank You!

Dr. Sharon Simmons -
sharon.simmons@jsums.edu
601-979-2704