Please complete the following individual sections of the proposal. Font must be of Times New Roman style and at least 11 pt in size. The written text must not exceed the box size as originally allotted.

**Short Cover Letter (approximately 250 words): Why are you interested in this project?**

A personal statement to the reviewers on the origin of the project, your personal goals and expectations, and the main project objectives. List other sources of support for this project including any research funding provided by your mentor.

| My project examines elite white women society groups, such as Junior Auxiliary, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, and Daughters of the American Revolution, of Hattiesburg, MS during Freedom Summer of 1964. This study will aim to provide a deeper understanding of elite white women and their sentiment, expressions, and political motives during the Civil Rights Movement. Previous research focuses on the figures of civil rights activism during Freedom Summer. The goal of this study is to research and explore a sect of society that is not focused on in the academic literature. This project initiated from researching another topic during the 1960s in South Mississippi. During that research I reviewed local newspapers, such as the Hattiesburg American, and I noticed a unique culture of elite white women. Upon reviewing these newspapers from the 1960s, I found it interesting that elite white women were the focal audience for many of the articles. Many of the cover stories of the Hattiesburg American highlighted major events of the Civil Rights movement. However, the majority of the rest of the paper was devoted to women’s articles that focused on debutante life and domestic issues. In other words, the articles dedicated to women’s issues very rarely acknowledged the topics relating to the Civil Rights Movement. This juxtaposition illustrates that these women were very much aware of the Civil Rights movement and Freedom Summer. By studying these elite white women society groups, I plan to reveal the attitudes of these women in regards to the Civil Rights Movement. In addition, I will also use this project for my Honors Thesis and I will receive course credit. I have received no monetary support for this project. |
Introduction /Rationale (approximately 500 words): What is your project and why is it significant?
What is your scholarly question (e.g., hypothesis)? Provide a discipline-specific context and rationale for the project. Cite appropriate research and/or creative literature using in-text citations.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s marks an interesting development in social groups, more particularly women’s groups. Both African American women and white women in South Mississippi had unique social dynamics and culture, which influenced their relations to the movement. Much of the literature on Mississippi culture during the Civil Rights Movement provides a significant contribution to describing the sentiments and expressions of the white segregationist society; however, these discussions are very gender-based and white women are hardly recognized in these types of literature (Crespino, 2007). When women are discussed in literature the focus is on the relation between white women Civil Rights’ activists and African American women. More specifically, past research into elite women society groups’ focuses on how these women were pro-Civil Rights and made significant contributions to the movement (Harwell, 2014). Also much of the literature regarding the Civil Rights Movement and Freedom Summer analyze perspectives from the Freedom School volunteers who were not native to the South (Todd, 2014). Further, previous literature that does focus on the local culture of Mississippi natives explains the expressions and perspectives from Civil Right Activist white women (Parsons, 2000).

My project will attempt to uncover the sentiments, expressions, and political motives of elite white women and further develop the narrative of the Civil Rights Movement. The culture and the role these women played in society have rarely been recognized and explored. There is little research into the elite white women society groups such as the Junior Auxiliary, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Association of University Women, and the League of Women Voters in the South during the 1960s. Elite white women of South Mississippi during Freedom Summer are important to study because their experience can supplement history and provide a new perspective of society and culture during the Civil Rights Movement. Further these women need to be studied because they play a vital role in describing the sentiment, expression, and political motives of elite white women. This project will focus on distinct elite women society groups and local Hattiesburg chapters during Freedom Summer in 1964. I chose to focus on 1964 and Freedom Summer because of the high level of national publicity focused on Mississippi, and the significance of Freedom Summer in regard to the Civil Rights Movement. Following the murder of three Freedom Summer volunteers in June of 1964 in South Mississippi, the rest of the nation was watching the effects of Freedom Summer. This high level of public scrutiny focused on Mississippi is significant to this project because it provides a rationale that these elite white women were aware of the events of the Civil Rights Movement. Consequently, many of these women would have had an opinion on these issues.

In conclusion, this project is significant because it provides a knowledge gap in the field because the results can help to address whether these women had any sort of inclination or opinion about the movement. Further, were these women strong segregationists, were these women apathetic towards the movement, or did these women not have an avenue to express their beliefs or opinions about the Civil Rights Movement and Freedom Summer.
Process (approximately 300 words): What will you do to complete your project?
How will you answer your scholarly question? Describe the creative process, research design, and/or methods you will employ. Include a description of materials and equipment necessary to complete the project.

The population for this study will be limited to elite white women society groups of Hattiesburg, Mississippi during the 1960s, particularly during Freedom Summer of 1964. These society groups will be limited to the local Hattiesburg chapters of Junior Auxiliary, the League of Women Voters, Daughters of the American Revolution (John Rolfe Chapter) and the American Association of University Women. There are special archive collections at the University of Mississippi’s J.D. Williams Library on the local chapters of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. There is also a special collection at the University of Mississippi on the White Citizens Council, in which I plan to review for any documents/issus relating to women. The special collection for the local Daughters of the American Revolution is located at McCain library. All of these collections include records of meeting minutes, publications/newsletters, and chapter rolls. There are no special collections on the Junior Auxiliary, however I plan to locate women who were Junior Auxiliary members during 1964 and conduct personal interviews with these women. This will be possible because I have personal connections with current members of the Junior Auxiliary who could assist me in locating members from 1964 and who would be good candidates for interviews. I will also utilize materials from local newspapers such as the Hattiesburg American and focus on the events of Freedom Summer and the response from these elite white women society groups. For this newspaper research portion of this project, I will utilize microfilm available at Cook Library. Archival research will be conducted at both the University of Southern Mississippi’s McCain Library as well as the special collections at the University of Mississippi’s J.D. Williams Library. The special collections at both locations are not digitally available; therefore, this grant will cover travel expenses to the University of Mississippi’s J.D. Williams Library. Throughout this research process, I will administer archival materials, newspapers, and interviews through a template form, which indicate the summary of the research found, important information, and themes uncovered within the material. These common themes will include sentiment, political motives, and expression towards Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Movement during 1964.

Expected Outcomes (approximately 150 words): What will you produce? How will you disseminate your results to others in your field?
Describe the anticipated outcomes, products and/or results of your project and how they will contribute to the scholarly community.

My expectations for this project are to uncover some of the sentiments, expressions, and political motives of elite white women society during Freedom Summer through archival material, newspapers, and personal interviews. I plan to uncover the attitudes of these women and fill a knowledge gap in local history as these elite white women society groups’ attitudes are significant to the development of the Civil Rights Movement. This study will contribute to the literature because there is little written on elite white women of the 1960s. Also, few academic works discuss elite white women’s role in the Civil Rights Movement and whether their role was apathy, support, or disregard to the Civil Rights Movement. The outcome of this project will also fulfill my Senior Honors Thesis Requirement. I plan to disseminate my results to others in my field by publishing these outcomes in a historical journal.

Timeline (approximately 150 words): How will you schedule your time?
Provide a detailed plan for the time you plan to spend on specific phases of your project during the semester.

I am currently in Phase I of the Project, in which I am exploring other literature on this topic and preparing an introduction, literature review, and methodology for my Honors Thesis. I am also reviewing local newspapers, such as the Hattiesburg American. For the remaining spring semester; I will continue to collect data on news stories about white women society and Freedom Summer. I will also begin to locate potential candidates for interviews who can share their personal experience as well as explore archival research in McCain library, particularly the Daughters of the American Revolution Special Collection. Phase II will be completed during the summer 2015. I plan to travel to the University of Mississippi and research the special collections, American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, and the White Citizens Council. I will also conduct interviews during this phase. Phase III will be completed Fall 2015. During Phase III, I will analyze the data collected. The completion of my Honors thesis will also be completed during this final phase. In conclusion, I will spend the next year working on this project.
**Budget: How will these funds be spent?**

Standard allocation is $1000 for student stipend to be deposited in the faculty mentor’s developmental account. List each item to be purchased individually; do not aggregate them. See guidelines for items approved for purchase.

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**Total**

$1013

Please indicate any other sources of support you will receive for this project (e.g., Honors College or McNair Program funding, funds from other grants (including those awarded to mentor)).

None expected
Bibliography
Include complete reference list of works cited and consulted in the style most appropriate to the discipline.

Primary

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Collection (MUM00007). The Department of Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi.

Daughters of the American Revolution, John Rolfe Chapter, Records, Archives and Special Collections. McCain Library, The University of Southern Mississippi.

League of Women Voters of Mississippi Collection, Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi.

Secondary


