

Hist. 3363:01: African American History since 1865

Spring 2009

**Professor:** Dr. Stephanie Wright

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\* Please note that all email communications must take place through campus email.

**Office Hours:** Tu/Th 9-9:30; 10:45-12; 1:45-3:45 and by appointment.

**Class Meetings:** Tu/Th, 9:30-10:45; Pafford 204

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes:** This course provides an introduction to the major themes and events in African American history from 1865 to the present. Through readings, lectures, films, and discussions, we will address topics including: the social, political, cultural and economic changes wrought by freedom; the development of Jim Crow; progressivism and the “Nadir;” the Great Migration, the modern black freedom movement, and recent developments in late twentieth and early twenty-first century Black America.

Students will gain a general knowledge of U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present from the perspective of African Americans. They will be able to place contemporary discussions about race in the United States into an historical context. Students will learn to think critically about historical issues and gain the necessary skills to evaluate and interpret historical documents.

For the learning outcomes expected of all students in history courses, please see the History Department’s website at <http://www.westga.edu/~history>

**Class Evaluation:**

Participation	100 points
Book Reviews (2)	100 points each
Exams (2)	250 points each
Research Paper	200 points

**Course Requirements**

**Exams:** There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Exams will cover material from your assigned readings, lectures, and films. Exams will consist primarily of identification and essay questions.

You will need blue books for the exams. I will initial these and return them to you on exam day. Un-initialed blue books **will not be** graded. Blue books should be turned in to me no later than **one week** prior to the exam. Make up exams will only be given in the case of **documented** medical emergencies. Exams must be made up within one week. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off during exams.

**Attendance/Participation:** Attendance will be taken during the first five minutes of class. Students who enter class after attendance has been taken or who leave prior to the end of class without an excuse will be counted as absent. Students who engage in inappropriate behavior (e.g. talking while others are talking, text messaging during class) will be asked to leave. **Four** absences, excused or unexcused, will be allowed. Every absence after four will result in a 25 point reduction from your overall grade. Excessive absences or tardiness may result in your withdrawal from this course with a grade of WF.

Participation is an integral part of the learning process. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. To aid you in process of analyzing the reading, there may be short un-announced quizzes given on the day's readings. These will be factored into your participation grade.

**Book Review:** You will complete two 4-5 page book reviews, one of W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* and the other of Anne Moody's *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. The Du Bois review is **due Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**. The Moody review is due **April 7<sup>th</sup>**. Use your textbooks and other secondary historical sources to place the writer's life into an historical context. See the handout on book reviews for more detailed instructions.

**Research Paper:** The research paper will be on a topic of your choosing. The paper will be 8-10 pages and use a minimum of three primary and three secondary sources. No internet sources should be used except academic articles found through the library's database and/or primary sources available through digitized library collections (e.g. the Library of Congress, the University of North Carolina's, Documenting the American South). Failure to use an adequate number of sources or academic sources may result in a failing grade on the paper. Please see the paper handout for further instructions.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade a day beginning after the first ten minutes of class on the assignment's due date.

**Extra Credit:** You may receive five extra credit points for taking a draft of your book review(s) to the Writing Center. You can receive ten points for taking a draft of your research paper to the Writing Center. Please turn in a copy of the draft along with a verification slip from the Writing Center.

**Academic Honesty:** The work that you submit is expected to be your own. When quoting words that are not your own, use quotation marks and note the source. When paraphrasing, be sure to provide proper credit to the author through the use of footnotes. Evidence of plagiarism on papers and/or cheating on exams will result in a **failing grade for the course**.

#### Assigned Texts:

Darlene Clark Hine, et al. *The African American Odyssey*, vol. 2, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. (AAO)

Elsa Barkley Brown and Thomas Holt, *Major Problems in African American History*, vol. 2 (MP)

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

#### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Jan. 8	Introduction to course
Jan. 13	Reconstruction, AAO, Ch. 12
Jan. 15	Reconstruction, MP, Ch. 1, docs. 1-5; Franklin essay
Jan. 20	The Failure of Reconstruction, AAO, Ch. 13, Du Bois, Ch. 2
Jan. 22	The Rise of Jim Crow, AAO, Ch. 14
Jan. 27	The Black Response to Jim Crow, MP, Ch. 3, docs. 1-7 and Hunter essay
Jan. 29	Black Resistance to Jim Crow, AAO, Ch. 15 and MP, Ch. 5, doc. 1
Feb. 3	Black education during segregation, MP, Ch. 5, doc. 2, Du Bois, Ch. 3
Feb. 5	Black organizations protest Jim Crow, AAO, Ch. 16 and MP, Ch. 5, docs. 3 and 4
Feb. 10	W.E.B. Du Bois and Af. Am. History, <b>discussion of Souls of Black Folk. Book review due.</b>

- Feb. 12 Race and Masculinity, Reserve Reading. Film: “Unforgivable Blackness”
- Feb. 17 The “New Negro,” AAO, Ch. 17
- Feb. 19 The Great Migration, MP, all of Ch. 4 except Watkins-Owens essay
- Feb. 24 **Mid-Term Examination**
- Feb. 26 Black life in the North, MP, Ch. 6, docs. 2-6 and both essays (Hunter & Higginbotham)
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> last day to withdraw with a W**
- March 3 African Americans and the New Deal, AAO, Ch. 18
- March 5 African Americans during the Depression, MP, Ch. 7, except essay by Lemke-Santangelo; begin viewing “Scottsboro.”
- March 10 Scottsboro, Reserve Reading, Film: “Scottsboro”
- March 12 WWII and the “Double V” Campaign, AAO, Ch. 20 and MP, Ch. 7 Lemke-Santangelo essay
- March 16-21 Spring Break**
- March 24 The Origins of the modern Civil Rights Movement, MP, Ch. 8 (except Korstad & Lichtenstein essay). Begin reading Moody.
- March 26 The Road to *Brown*, Reserve Reading. Continue reading Moody
- March 31 The Modern Civil Rights Movement, AAO, Ch. 22
- April 2 The Modern Civil Rights Movement, MP, Ch. 9
- April 7 The Modern CRM, **discussion of *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. Book review due.**
- April 9 Black America after passage of the Voting Rights Act, AAO, Ch. 22 (pp. 549-572); MP, Ch. 10
- April 14 The Black Panther Party, AAO, Ch. 22 (pp. 543-548), reserve reading
- April 16 Progress and Perils: African Americans at the turn of the twenty-first century, MP, Ch. 11, documents, AAO, Ch. 23
- April 21 Progress and Perils: African Americans at the turn of the twenty-first century, AAO, Ch. 24.  
Discussion of current events. Bring in an article from a national magazine or newspaper relevant to one or more of the issues covered in the course. Please be prepared to discuss your article.
- April 23 Paper presentations. Prepare a presentation on your paper. Details will be discussed in class.  
**Research Paper Due.**
- April 28 Complete paper presentations
- Final Exam: Thursday, May 7, 8-10 am**