

African American History to 1865
Hist. 3362:01
Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Wright
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Office Hours: T/Th, 9-9:30; 10:45-12:00; 12:30-2:00; 3:15-4:00; and by appointment
Class Meetings: T/Th, 2:00-3:15, Pafford, 208

Course Description: This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to the major themes and events in African American history from its African origins to the end of the Civil War. Through readings, lectures, films and discussions, we will address topics that include: the African origins of African American culture, the early experiences of Africans in America, the transition to chattel slavery, antebellum slavery and the Civil War. Particular attention will be paid to the formation of African American culture and the themes of oppression and resistance.

Course Objectives: Students will gain a general knowledge of African American History from its beginnings in the sixteenth century through the Civil War. 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Students will learn to think critically about historical issues and gain the skills necessary to evaluate and interpret historical documents.

Course Requirements:

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

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 over all 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.

Examinations: There will be one midterm and a final. Exams will cover material from your textbooks and classroom presentations (lectures, discussions, and films). Exams will consist primarily of identification and essay questions. Please turn off all electronic devices during exams.

Book Review: You will complete two 4-5 page book reviews of *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and *The History of Mary Prince*. The book review should give a brief overview of the narrative (no more than 1-1 ½ pages) and analyze the text for what it tells us about the life of an enslaved person. Choose at least three areas upon which to focus your argument. Consider comparing narratives to strengthen your arguments. Use your textbooks and other secondary historical sources to place the writer's life into an historical context. **The book reviews should be submitted via WebCt by 2:00 on the due date.**

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. **The research paper should be submitted via WebCt by 2:00 on the due date.**

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. 1 (AAO)

Elsa Barkley Brown and Thomas Holt, *Major Problems in African American History*, vol. 1 (MP)

Henry Louis Gates, *The Classic Slave Narratives* (Gates)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug. 19	Introduction to Course
Aug. 21	The Development of African American History as an Academic Discipline John Hope Franklin essay in Ch. 1 of MP
Aug. 26	The African Origins of African American History AAO, Ch. 1
Aug. 28	The African Slave Trade Ch. 2, AAO; pp. 29-63 of Equiano in Gates
Sept. 2	The Origins of North American Slavery and Racism Ch. 3 in MP (all documents and Winthrop Jordan essay); film: "Different but Equal"
Sept. 4	The Development of Colonial Slavery, start reading <i>The History of Mary Prince</i> in Gates AAO, Ch. 3
Sept. 9	Colonial Slavery in the Caribbean Equiano, 99-118; finish <i>The History of Mary Prince</i> in Gates Class discussion of Mary Prince. Pick two passages from Prince that you found to be the most profound or informative. Be prepared to present and discuss each passage.
Sept. 11	Colonial Slavery in North America MP, Ch. 5: documents 1,2, & 6; essay by Kulikoff; film, "Africans in America: The Terrible Transformation"
Sept. 16	BOOK REVIEW DUE: <i>The History of Mary Prince</i> The Development of African American Culture Essay by Sterling Stuckey in MP, Ch. 4
Sept. 18	The American Revolution and Slavery AAO, Ch. 4; Class exercise – the British or the Colonists?
Sept. 23	Revolutionary Ideals and Slavery: the Ultimate Paradox Edmund Morgan essay in Ch. 3 of MP; in class reading: Thomas Jefferson, <i>Notes on the State of Virginia</i>
Sept. 25	The Early National Period AAO, Ch. 5; Paper topic and thesis statement due – worth 5 extra credit points.
Sept. 30	Antebellum Slavery Documents in Ch. 6; begin reading Frederick Douglass in Gates
Oct. 2	Mid-Term Exam
Oct. 7	Antebellum Slavery AAO, Ch. 6 October 8, 2008 – last day to withdraw with a W
Oct. 9	No Class, Fall Break
Oct. 14	Gender and Slavery White essay in Ch. 7 of MP; Film: "Sankofa"

- Oct. 16 Gender and Slavery
Horton and Horton essay in Ch. 8 of MP; finish viewing “Sankofa” and discuss readings.
- Oct. 21 Slave Resistance
Documents in Ch. 7, MP; finish Douglas narrative. **Class discussion of Frederick Douglass** . Pick two passages from Douglass that you found to be the most profound or informative. Be prepared to present and discuss each passage.
Douglass book review due
- Oct. 23 African American Life and Culture in the Antebellum Era
Levine essay in Ch. 7 of MP.
- Oct. 28 Slave Resistance
- Oct. 30 Berlin and Rowland in Ch. 7 of MP
Free Black People in Antebellum America
AAO, Ch. 7
- Nov. 4 The Establishment of African American Institutions
Lapansky essay in Ch. 8 of MP
Film: “This Far by Faith”
- Nov. 6 Northern Resistance
AAO, Ch. 8; documents 1 & 2 in MP, Ch. 8; In class debate: colonization
- Nov. 11 Abolitionism
Reserve Readings – John Brown; William Lloyd Garrison; Dred Scott decision
Annotated Bibliography for research paper due – worth 5 extra credit points.
- Nov. 13 The Southern Argument for Slavery
Reserve Reading
- Nov. 18 Precursor to War
AAO, Ch. 10; film: “Africans in America: Judgment Day”
- Nov. 20 The Civil War
MP, Ch. 9, all documents
Research Paper Intro. Due – worth 5 extra credit points.
- Nov. 25 The Civil War
Harding essay in Ch. 9 of MP, Reserve Reading on Abraham Lincoln
In class discussion: Was Lincoln the “Great Emancipator?”
- Nov. 27 **No Class, Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec. 2 African Americans Fight for their Freedom
AAO, Ch. 11; film, “Glory”
- Dec. 4 Paper Presentations
Research Paper Due
FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 2:00-4:00 PM