

African American History since 1865
Hist. 3363:01
Spring 2007

Professor: Dr. Stephanie Wright

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*Please note that all email communications must take place through campus email (My UWG)

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9-9:30; 10:45-12, 12:30-2:00, 3:15-4:15; and by appointment

Class Meetings: Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-3:15, 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, and economic changes wrought by freedom; the development of Jim Crow; progressivism and the “Nadir;” the Great Migration, the modern Black freedom struggle and recent developments in late twentieth century Black America.

Students will gain a general knowledge of U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present from the African American perspective. 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Students will learn to think critically about historical issues and gain the necessary skills to evaluate and interpret historical documents.

Grading

Participation	5%
Book Reviews	10% each
Exams	20% each
Family History Paper	20%
Response Papers	15%

Extra Credit: Up to 3 points can be earned for visiting one of the following sites and writing a 2 page essay on its historical relevance:

Herndon House

Atlanta History Center (exhibit or program related to African American History)

Birmingham Civil Rights Museum

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center

Georgia Archives (program related to African American History)

On campus lectures approved by instructor

Course Requirements

Exams: There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final. Exams will cover material from your assigned readings, lectures, and films. You will need blue books for the exams. These should be turned in to me no later than **one week** prior to the exam. Make up exams will only be given with documentation of a legitimate absence. Exams must be

made up within one week. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off during exams.

Family History Paper: Each student will be required to complete an 8-10 page family history paper that explores one of the major historical themes discussed in this class. Handouts will be provided outlining the requirements for this paper. The family history paper is due on **April 24**.

Book Reviews: Students will write a book review of W.E.B. Du Bois' *The Souls of Black Folk* and of Anne Moody's *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. Book reviews should focus on analyzing both texts for what they can tell us about the time periods under study. Reviews that provide only a summary of the text will not earn an A or B grade. Each review should be 4-5 pages.

In-Class Response Papers: Students will be required to write in-class response papers throughout the semester. The response paper should be a short essay related to the week's assigned readings. Response papers will be unannounced.

Participation: Participation is an integral part of the learning process. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. Contributing to class includes not only your readiness to discuss the assigned readings, but your ability to respect your fellow scholars by arriving on time, not talking while others are talking and by turning off all cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken each class period during the first five minutes. 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. Attendance will be taken into consideration in the case of students with borderline grades.

Academic Honesty: The work that you submit and the answers that you provide on exams should be your own. Evidence of cheating will result in a **failing grade for the course**. Please see the History Department's statement on plagiarism at: <http://www.westga.edu/~history/>

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade a day beginning at the close of class on the assignment's due date.

Assigned Texts

Darlene Clark Hine, et al., *The African American Odyssey*, vol. 2, 2nd Ed.

Thomas Holt & Elsa Barkley Brown, *Major Problems in African American History*, vol.

2

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

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Course Schedule

Jan. 9	Introduction, Interpreting Reconstruction, “Birth of a Nation”
Jan. 11	Reconstruction, Hine, Ch. 12
Jan. 16	Reconstruction, <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 1, docs 1-5, Franklin essay
Jan. 18	The Failure of Reconstruction, Hine, Ch. 13, Du Bois, Ch. 2
Jan. 23	The Rise of Jim Crow, Hine, Ch. 14
Jan. 25	The Black Response to Jim Crow, <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 3, docs. 1-7, Hunter Essay
Jan. 30	Black Resistance to Jim Crow, Hine, Ch. 15
Feb. 1	Black Ed. During Segregation, <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 5, doc. 2, Du Bois, Ch. 3
Feb. 6	Black Organizations Protest Jim Crow, Hine, Ch. 16 & Handout
Feb. 8	W.E.B. Du Bois and African American History, discussion of <i>Souls of Black Folk</i>
Feb. 13	Race and Masculinity, “Unforgivable Blackness” <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> Book Review Due
Feb. 15	“The New Negro,” Hine, Ch. 17
Feb. 20	Mid-Term Exam
Feb. 22	The Great Migration, <i>Problems</i> , all of Ch. 4 except Watkins-Owens essay
Feb. 27	Black Life in the North, <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 6, docs 2-6 & both essays (Hunter & Higginbotham)
March 1	The Great Depression and the New Deal, Hine, Ch. 18 Last day to withdraw with a W
March 6	The New Deal and African Americans, <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 7, docs. 1-7, Kelley essay
March 8	WWII and the “Double V” Campaign, Hine, Ch. 20
March 13	The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement, <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 8 (all except Korstad & Lichtenstein essay)
March 15	The Road to <i>Brown</i> and the NAACP Legal Strategy, work on finishing Moody
March 19-24	Spring Break
March 27	The Modern Civil Rights Movement, Hine, Ch. 22; <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 9, docs 1-9
March 29	The Modern Civil Rights Movement, discussion of Moody Book Review Due
April 3	The Black Panther Party, Hine, Ch. 22 (pp. 543-548); <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 10, Docs. 1-4
April 5	Black America after the Voting Rights Act, Hine, Ch. 22 (pp. 549-572); <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 10, docs. 5 & 6, both essays
April 10	Modern Black America, <i>Problems</i> , Ch. 11, Guinier & Rose essays; doc. 5
April 12	The Debate Over Reparations, Reserve Reading
April 17	Rap Music and Misogyny, Reserve Reading
April 19	Paper Presentations
April 24	Paper Presentations Family History Paper Due
April 26	Discussion of current events in African America. Bring an article from

the *AJC* or other periodical on an issue relevant to the present state of Black America

Final Exam: Check *the Scoop* for exam date and time.