African American History to 1865
Hist. 3362: 01
Summer 2005

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Wright
Office: TLC 3208 Phone: 678-839-6035 email: swright@westga.edu
Office Hours: T, Th: 1:00-1:45 pm and 4:45-5:45 pm
Class Meetings: T, Th 6:00-8:30 pm

**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 including: the African origins of African American culture, the early experiences of Africans in America, the transition to chattel 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Students will learn to think critically about historical issues and gain the skills necessary to evaluate and interpret historical documents.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:**

- **Attendance:** 50 points
- **Participation:** 50 points
- **Exams (2):** 200 points each
- **Critiques (4):** 100 points each
- **Book Review:** 100 points

**Attendance/Participation:** Unexcused absences will result in the loss of five (5) attendance points per absence. Lateness is very disruptive to both the instructor as well as your other classmates, therefore, plan to arrive on time. Attendance will be taken during the first five minutes of class. Those entering class after the first five minutes will be counted as absent. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Contributing to class includes not only your preparedness to discuss the assigned readings, but your ability to respect your fellow scholars by arriving on time and turning off all cell phones, pagers, and/or other electronic devices prior to entering the classroom.

**Examinations:** There will be one midterm and a final. Exams will cover material from your textbooks and classroom presentations (lectures, discussions, and movies). Exams will consist primarily of identification and essay questions.

**Book Review:** You will complete one 3-4 page book review of either *The Life of Olaudah Equiano*, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, or *Incidents in the Life of
a Slave Girl. The book review should give a brief overview of the story and analyze the text for what it tells us about life as an enslaved person. You should use your textbooks and other secondary historical sources to place the writer’s life into an historical context.

Critiques: You will complete four (4) one page critiques of essays from Holt and Brown’s Major Problems in African-American History. Each critique should review the essay, state the author’s thesis, and critique the thesis. Critiques may be single spaced.

Academic Honesty: The work that you submit and the answers that you provide on exams are 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:
Henry Louis Gates, The Classic Slave Narratives (Gates)

Class Schedule

June 7   Introduction to course

June 9   African Origins
AAO, Chs. 1 & 2

June 14  The chicken or the egg? The Origins of North American Slavery and Racism
MP, Ch. 3
AAO, Ch. 3

June 16  Colonial Slavery
MP, Ch. 4, pp. 128-140
Gates, Equiano – pp. 3-66
1st critique due. Critique choices: MP, Jordan (p. 92) or Morgan (p. 99)

June 21  African Americans and Resistance
Gates, Equiano, 66-178
Discussion of Equiano – pick two passages from Equiano, one from the first half and one from the second, that you found to be the most profound, interesting or informative and be prepared to present it.

June 23  Revolution and Resistance
AAO, Ch. 4
MP, pp. 160-182
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>The Meaning of Slavery</td>
<td>AAO, Ch. 5, MP, 195-223</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>Mid Term</td>
<td>Gates, Douglass, 245-270</td>
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<td>July 5</td>
<td>Antebellum Slavery</td>
<td>AAO, Ch. 6, Gates, Douglass, 270-331</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion of Douglass.</strong> Pick two passages from Douglass that you found to be the most profound, interesting or informative and be prepared to present it. One passage should be from the first half and one from the second half of the narrative.</td>
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<td>July 7</td>
<td>Antebellum Slavery</td>
<td>MP, Ch. 7, Gates, <em>Incidents in the Life</em>, 335-369</td>
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<td>July 12</td>
<td>Free People of Color</td>
<td>AAO, Ch. 7, Gates, <em>Incidents in the Life</em>, 369-407</td>
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<td>July 14</td>
<td>A Free Person in a Slave Society</td>
<td>MP, Ch. 8 (except essay by Horton &amp; Horton), Gates, <em>Incidents in the Life</em>, 407-456</td>
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<td><strong>4th critique due.</strong> Critique choices: Lapansky (p. 308)</td>
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<td>July 19</td>
<td>Abolitionism</td>
<td>AAO, Ch. 8, Gates, <em>Incidents in the Life</em>, 456-513</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion of Jacobs.</strong> Pick two passages from Jacobs that you found to be the most profound, interesting or informative and be prepared to present it. One passage should be from the first half and one from the second half of the narrative.</td>
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<td><strong>BOOK REVIEW DUE</strong></td>
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<td>July 21</td>
<td>Precursor to War</td>
<td>AAO, Ch. 9, MP, Clarence Mohr essay (p. 356)</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
<td>The Civil War</td>
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**2nd critique due.** Critique choices: Stuckey (p. 128) or Berlin (p. 166)

**3rd critique due.** Critique choices: Berlin & Rowland (p. 264), White (p. 268), or Levine (p. 277)

**4th critique due.** Critique choices: Lapansky (p. 308)
AAO, Chs. 10 & 11
Take Home Examinations Distributed

July 28    Take Home Exam Due No Later Than 7:00 pm