DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to major ideas, events, and personalities in African American history from the end of Civil War (1865) to the present. Some of the major themes will include: “double-consciousness” in African American thought, the struggle for educational equality, traditions of religious witness, the politics of respectability, and music as both a repository of African Diasporic identity and a discursive space for contemporary social realities.

GOALS

In this class, the instructor will work to help students develop and/or refine a number of skills. The first is the ability to craft and articulate well-reasoned arguments. The second is the ability to follow major current events pertaining to African American life and trace their origins back to relevant historical antecedents in the time period covered by the course. The third is the ability to analyze primary and secondary sources.

COURSE TEXT


Note: Older and/or unabridged editions of this textbook will generally contain the same essential information. However, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that he or she follows the correct order of reading whenever there are inconsistencies between the chapter titles of different editions.

COURSE RESERVE BOOK

A copy of the African American Odyssey, written by the same of authors of the required textbook, is available in the UWG Ingram Library and may be used on-site for up to 2 hours at a
time. To use it, visit the circulation desk and request the course reserve book for HIST 3363 under the instructor name “Rivers.”

**GRADING**

*Classroom Participation (10%)*

Attendance is mandatory. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and answer questions pertaining to the material. Students will also be evaluated through in-class writing assignments and homework assignments that will be discussed in class.

*Weekly Reading Quizzes (10%)*

Students will be evaluated through weekly announced and unannounced quizzes on the assigned reading material.

*Primary Source Analysis Paper (20%)*

Students will complete a paper that will test their reading comprehension skills, writing skills, ability to follow directions, and ability to analyze primary sources. The instructor will provide further details.

*Examination #1 (30%)*

*Examination #2 (30%)*

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is important and will be considered when assessing each student’s “participation” grade. The instructor will not provide lecture notes for students who miss class meetings.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT**

Students who engage in disruptive conduct, including but not limited to talking without being recognized by the instructor, will be asked to leave the classroom and will be marked as “absent” for that class meeting.

**MAKE-UP TESTS**

Make-up tests will consist entirely of essay writing and will only be granted if the student provides an excuse approved by the instructor. Examples of acceptable excuses include a coach’s letter or a doctor’s note.
RETURN OF GRADED STUDENT WORK

Student work that is turned in on time will normally be returned within two weeks of the due date. Assignments that are submitted for a pass/fail grade will only be returned if a student specifically makes that request. Examination #2 will not be returned to students during a class meeting due to the end of the semester. However, that graded examination will be available from the instructor at the beginning of the next semester.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION RULES

Check your westga.edu email address on a regular basis for information from the instructor. Additionally, use your westga.edu address for all email communication with the instructor. When initiating an email conversation with the instructor, provide your course and section number.

Please note that the instructor will not provide student grade information through email.

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN WORK

Write your full name, course number, section number, and the date on ALL written work you submit to the instructor.

All homework assignments must be typed. Use 12-point font and double-spacing.

HONOR CODE EXPECTATIONS

Students should make sure to understand and strictly follow the standards of the university’s Honor Code as outlined in the Student Handbook. Cheating and plagiarism constitute violations of the Honor Code.

The Student Handbook defines cheating as: “using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids.” It defines plagiarism as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.”

Violations of the Honor Code will be grounds for a failing grade in the course.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Please submit an official Student Accommodations Report (SAR) to the instructor if the Office of Accessibility Services has authorized you to receive special assistance during regular class meetings and/or test dates. For testing purposes, appropriate arrangements will be made in accordance with the following procedures outlined by the Office of Accessibility Services:

Most special needs students “are entitled to 1.5 time on all tests in classes in which they have presented their Student Accommodations Report (SAR) to their professor and made advance
arrangements with their professor for this extra time per test…Students have two options for receiving testing accommodations. They can make arrangements directly with their professor or test at the Learning Support and Testing Center.”

LECTURE RECORDING POLICY

Students are NOT permitted to record the instructor’s lectures. Exceptions will be made for students who submit a Student Accommodations Report (SAR) that explicitly requests permission to create recordings.

EXTRA CREDIT

Periodic extra credit opportunities might be available. They may include documented visits to the UWG Writing Center, current events quizzes and/or written reports on topics approved by the instructor.

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSIONS

At the beginning of each class meeting, there will be a discussion period during which the class will work to compare and contrast historical events related to the course topic with current events.

Please come prepared to share at least one current event every class meeting. Acceptable current events topics include: politics, sports, entertainment, business, technology/science, and international affairs.

Your current event must come from a news report aired or published by a credible, professional news organization (e.g.: PBS NewsHour, New York Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, or Times-Georgian). For guidance in assessing the credibility of a news story, consult the UWG Library’s “News Literacy Toolkit” at: http://libguides.westga.edu/newsliteracy

Each current events discussion will begin with the stories shared by volunteers. After that, the instructor might begin “cold-calling” students from the roll. Be prepared for the instructor to ask you follow-up questions about the current events you share. Your fellow classmates might have some follow-up questions for you, as well.

Make sure you watch the news, read newspapers, read online news articles, and come to class ready to talk. Your performance during the current events discussion will be part of your participation grade.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES*

*Note: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings BEFORE the dates they appear on the class schedule. Please come to class ready to discuss the contents of the chapters. The instructor might ask you oral questions or administer pop quizzes.

*This schedule is subject to change.*

COURSE INTRODUCTION

August 15


August 22

*Note: Roster verification will take place from August 23rd to August 27th.*


August 29

Chapter 14: “White Supremacy Triumphant: African Americans in the Late Nineteenth Century, 1877-1895”

September 5

Student Study Day – No Class Meeting

Chapter 15: “African Americans Challenge White Supremacy, 1877-1918”

September 12

Chapter 16: “Conciliation, Agitation, and Migration: African Americans in the Early Twentieth Century, 1895-1928”

September 19

Chapter 17: “African Americans and the 1920s, 1918-1929”

REVIEW FOR EXAM #1

September 26

Fall Break – No Class Meeting

October 3

EXAM #1

October 10

*NOTE: Wednesday, October 14 is the last day to withdraw with a grade of “W.”*

Chapter 18: “Black Protest, the Great Depression, and the New Deal, 1929-1940”

October 17
Chapter 19: “Meanings of Freedom, 1930-1950”  
October 24

October 31

REVIEW FOR EXAM #2  
November 7

EXAM #2  
November 14

To-Be-Announced  
November 21

THANKSGIVING RECESS  
November 25-29

End-of-the-Year Summary/Review  
December 5

In-Class Writing Activity  
Tuesday, December 10, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.