Readings in African American History
26:510:526

Instructor: Dr. M. Cooper
Email: melissa.cooper@rutgers.edu
Class Meeting Time: Wednesdays, 5:30pm-8:10pm
Class Location: (Virtual meetings via Zoom)
Office Hours: 330 Conklin Hall; or by appointment

Course Description:
This course explores foundational and groundbreaking historical monographs in African American history and histories that explore the intersection of race and “place” in America. Paying close attention to methodological approaches and strategies, this course examines the making of historical monographs about race and the black past.

REQUIREMENTS:
Attendance & Participation
Students are expected to complete weekly readings. Moreover, each reading should be carefully analyzed: you should interrogate each book by grappling with the scholar’s arguments and evidence, as well as the analytical and narrative strategies employed in the monograph. You are also expected to participate in class conversations and attend each class meeting. Students who accumulate more than three absences during the course of the semester will not pass the class. Participation is an important part of the rigorous discourse that enhances graduate studies—be prepared to engage. Each student is required to compose a short response paper/question derived from each reading; you should hand in your typed reaction paper at the start of the class meeting. You will not receive credit for your response paper/question if you are absent. During class, one or more students will be asked to raise their paper topics/questions for discussion.

Final Historiographical Essay
Students will complete a 15-20-page essay that focuses on one of themes that emerges from our readings during the semester. The historiographical essay requires that students read and analyze more than two monographs that examine a specific theme or explore a particular history—putting these works in conversation with the assigned reading that inspired your investigation. Please meet with me to discuss the theme that you intend to examine before you submit your one paragraph paper proposal. This paper, and all writings submitted for review, are to be double-spaced, in 12-pt font, with sources cited in the Chicago format. Extensions will not be granted except for health and family emergencies.

*GRADING:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation/ Discussion/Papers Questions</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Classroom Expectations:
Please set your cell phones to the "silent" notification mode during class sessions. Do not use your cell phone during class meetings. Please do not audio or video record class meetings.

Academic Integrity:
As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is
essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/.

Your health and well-being matter, and Rutgers has put in place a number of resources that are intended to help students through the challenges that might emerge during these times. Information on many of these resources appears below. Please let me know immediately if you are experiencing circumstances that are negatively impacting your academic performance. I also strongly encourage you to contact your academic advisor.

**Accommodation and Support Statement:**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**Absences:** All students are responsible for timely notification of their instructor regarding any expected absences. The Division of Student Affairs can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.) Students should refer to the University's Course Attendance policy (10.2.7), for complete expectations and responsibilities. The office can be contacted at: (973) 353-5063 or deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** The Division of Student Affairs can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request for assistance at: https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.

**Pregnancy:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the office at (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the office at: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University’s Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures located at https://uec.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/60-1-33-current-1.pdf.

**Interpersonal Violence:** The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. The office does not have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence; any student can receive services, information and support.
**Crisis and Concerns:** The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

**Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-Being:** The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If students are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out Sanvello for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support. Visit https://my.rutgers.edu/, click on Sanvello: Wellness @ RUN, and log in with your netid to begin your journey toward wellness.

**Emergencies:** Call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) at (973) 353-5111.

**Learning Resources:**

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services):
  Tutoring available in a variety of math, science, technology, and business courses. Contact the Learning Center to determine whether tutoring is available for a specific course.
  Room 140, Bradley Hall (973) 353-5608
  learning.center@newark.rutgers.edu
  https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center

- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
  (973) 353-5847
  nwc@rutgers.edu
  https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center

**Technology/Internet Resources for Students:**

- https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/covid-technology-resources
- https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu

**BOOKS TO PURCHASE:** (See assigned texts listed below)

**CLASS MEETINGS:**

**September 7, Course Introduction: Toward a Historiography of Black History**

**September 14**

**September 28**
October 4
Berry, Mary Frances. *My Face is Black is True: Callie House and the Struggle for Ex-Slave Reparations* (Vintage, 2006).

October 12

October 19

and/or


October 26

November 2

November 9

November 16

November 23

November 30 *Independent Research and Writing*

December 7 *Independent Research and Writing*

December 14 *Last Class Meeting, Paper Submission/Discussion*