



Introduction to African American and African Studies I Spring 2020

Course Description

For many Americans, the turmoil of our contemporary society signals a regression from the progress of the previous decades. Yet a closer interrogation of twenty-first century America will reveal deep-seated social, cultural and political attitudes that shape and support the discrepancy between American democratic ideals and practices. Despite our greatest hopes for a more inclusive, equitable, and just society, many Americans are unwilling to engage in the sorely needed public dialogues that challenge their implicit and explicit biases. This will be our collective task this semester, as we chart the journey of early African people in the Americas. Together we will follow their steps from the colonial period through the Reconstruction era and think critically about the early identity construction of African American people.

In This Course We Will:

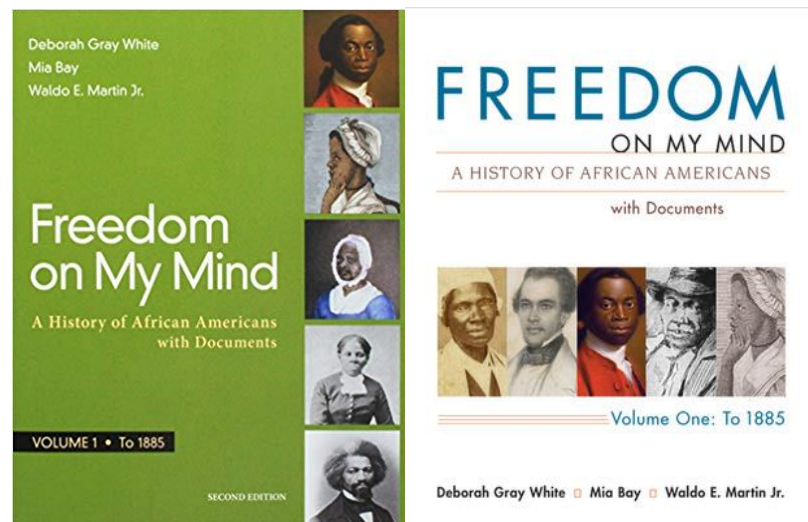
1. Study the early African American experience using both primary and secondary sources that range from scholarly articles and books, to songs and artwork.
2. Use primary and secondary sources to develop and sharpen your rhetorical analytical and critical thinking skills.
3. Demonstrate your understanding of the major events that shaped the early African American experience through discussion, debate, and written assignments.
4. Gain a greater understanding of the relationship between race and class.
5. Identify the contributions of African Americans to early American history and culture.
6. Evaluate the impact of American slavery, capitalism, and democracy on African American socio-cultural and political expressions.
7. Compare and contrast the philosophies, and resistance strategies of early African American leaders to American inequalities.

Instructor: Professor Hunter

Office: Conklin Hall 337

Hours: M:12-1 pm; T: 1:30-2:30 pm

Schedule meetings here: <https://calendly.com/lpbhunter>



Required Textbooks: Deborah Gray White, Mia Bay et al. *Freedom on My Mind: A History of African Americans* Vol. 1 to 1885 ISBN:9780312648831 * Copies of this text are on reserve in Dana Library.*

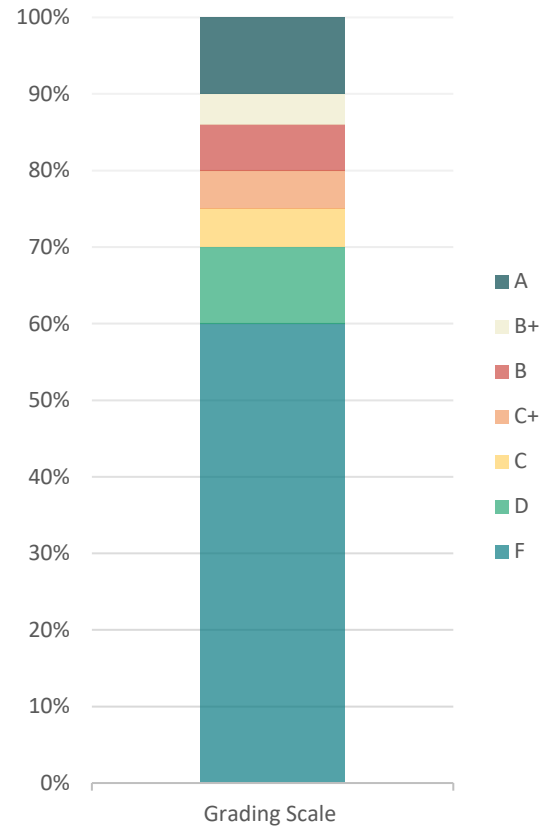
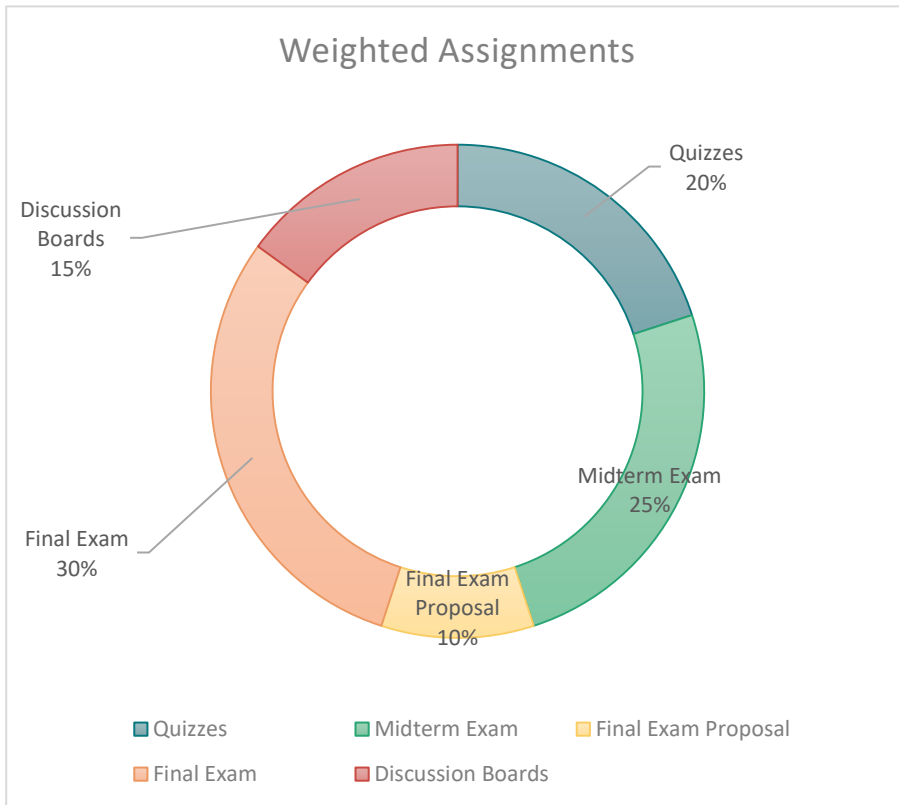
Martha S. Jones *Birthright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America*
ISBN:97813116604724

All other required readings are available via blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

Quizzes -- You will take three brief quizzes over the course of the semester. Quizzes will require you to demonstrate your understanding of the major trends and events that we discuss throughout the semester.

Exams -- You will complete two exams this semester. The first is due by the end of the day (11:59 pm) on Mar 13, 2019. For your final exam, you will write a seven to ten-page paper that is due by 5pm on May 12, 2019. Detailed guides for both exams will be available on blackboard.



Discussion Boards --To maintain lively and engaging class discussion, you are required to submit two critical questions or discussion topics to our class forum on blackboard each week. You are also required to provide AT LEAST one response to the questions and comments of your classmates each week during the semester. To receive credit for your contribution, please respond to each forum post within four days of its post date.

Your responses should be AT LEAST 150-300 words long (approximately one paragraph).

Final Exam Proposal -- As a precursor to your written final exam, you are required to submit a one-page proposal and bibliography for your exam three weeks before you submit your essay. A detailed guide is provided on blackboard.

Evaluation: A key element aspect of your experience in this class will involve the instructor's evaluation of your progress in the course, with the course materials. As part of each of the instructor's assessment of your coursework, the following elements will be considered where applicable with each of the course assignments noted above.

- How effectively you develop your arguments in clear and coherent texts, as well as in oral communication, to produce an informed analysis of the materials with which you have been presented.
- How effectively you grasp the differing ways to read a variety of texts and cultural artifacts, and then produce an informed analysis of them. The evaluation will also include assessing your understanding of the connections among texts within given disciplines, and the similarities and distinctions between texts from different disciplines.
- How successfully you discuss your ideas individually and collectively in class, informally address in writing the information which you are presented in your responses to readings, and how you more formally engage these ideas in longer written work, as well as the midterm and final examinations.
- How you creatively produce ideas and texts in response to each other through the debates and the one-on-one conversation sessions.
- How you employ basic methods and methodologies employed in the humanities and social sciences. How well you identify, discuss and analyze interactions between people from a range of political, social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and gendered groups.
- How well you understand and address the relationship between the course materials and the defining social, political, cultural, and intellectual questions of your own time, in both historical and historical perspectives.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism): Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University. You are **REQUIRED** to insert an academic integrity pledge on ALL of your submitted work this semester. **The pledge should read as follows: "On My honor I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment."**

Extra Credit: This semester you will have three extra credit opportunities, from which you may choose **ONE**. A list of on and off-campus events will be posted on blackboard at the beginning of February and will be available through April.

Accommodations: Rutgers University provides accommodations and/or modifications to any student who has been deemed eligible for special services, in order to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to participate in all Rutgers programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, requiring assistance and/or accommodation should speak with Disability Services in a timely manner.

Week	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignments Due
1 Jan. 21-24	Course Introduction		
	Foundations, Methods & Critical Issues	Blackboard Readings: Darlene Clark Hine "Black Studies: An Overview"	
2 Jan. 27-31		Michael Tillotson "Applied Africana Studies" & Karanja K. Carroll "Africana Studies and Research Methodology"	
	Africa Before & After European Expansion 1441-1808	Blackboard Reading: Chiek Anta Diop <i>Precolonial Black Africa</i>	
		Begin reading Freedom on My Mind Ch. 1	
		Blackboard Reading: Paul Lovejoy and David Richardson "The Business of Slaving"	
3 Feb. 3-7		Complete Freedom on My Mind Ch. 1	
	Rethinking The Middle Passage 1619-1739	Blackboard Reading: Antonio T. Bly "Crossing the Lake of Fire"	
		Begin reading Freedom on My Mind Ch. 2	
		Blackboard reading: Richard Sheridan "The Guinea Surgeons on the Middle Passage"	
4 Feb. 10-14		Continue reading Freedom on My Mind Ch. 2 this week	
	The Black Atlantic	Blackboard Reading: Alex Borucki "Atlantic History and the Slave Trade to Spanish America"	
		Jerome Handler "Custom and Law: The Status of Africans in Seventeenth Century Barbados"	
		Complete Freedom on My Mind Ch. 2	Quiz 1 due Feb. 16 @ 11:59 pm
5 Feb. 17-21		Blackboard Readings: Liam Hogan "The Irish in the Anglo-Caribbean"	
	North American Colonial Development & Racial Boundaries		

		Textbook Documents: "An Act for Regulating Slaves in New Jersey" & South Carolina Slave Codes	
		Begin reading Freedom on My Mind Ch.3	
		Continue reading & Blackboard readings: Cynthia King "Representing Revolution in Black History"	
6 Feb.24-28	Race, Nation & Slavery in The Age of The New Republic Free African Americans & Civil Rights	Complete Freedom on My Mind Ch. 3	
		Begin reading: Freedom on My Mind Ch. 4	
		Blackboard Reading: Lemuel Haynes "Liberty Further Extended"	
		Complete Freedom on My Mind Ch. 4 this week	
7 Mar. 2-6	Free African Americans & Civil Rights	Begin reading: Freedom on My Mind Ch. 5	
		Blackboard readings: James Gigantino "The Whole North is Not Abolitionized"	
		Read: <i>Birthright Citizens</i> Ch. 1	
8 Mar. 9-13		Read: <i>Birthright Citizens</i> Ch. 2	
			Midterm Exam due Mar. 13.
9 Mar.16-20	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASSES	
10 Mar. 23-27	Progress & The Antebellum Period	Continue reading Freedom on My Mind Ch. 5	
		Read <i>Ar'n't I A Woman?</i> Ch. 2	

11 Mar. 30- Apr. 3	Blackboard Reading: View Slave Culture Folder	
	Read Ar'n't I A Woman? Ch. 3	Quiz 2 due Apr. 5 @ 11:59 pm
	Blackboard Reading: David Doddingtion "Informal Economies and Masculine Hierarchies"	
12 Apr. 6-10	Slavery, Race, Rights & The American Civil War	Begin reading Freedom on My Mind Ch. 6
	Joseph Rezek "The Orations on the Abolition of the Slave Trade"	
	Blackboard Reading: See Abolition Folder 1	
13 Apr. 13-17	Deborah Willis "The Black Civil War Soldier"	
	Complete Freedom on My Mind Ch. 6	Submit Final Exam Proposal by April 17th.
	Blackboard Reading: See Frederick Douglass Folder	
14 Apr. 20-24	African American Women, Reconstruction & Racial Destiny	Begin reading Freedom on My Mind Ch. 7
	Blackboard reading: Victoria Matthews "Aunt Lindy"	Quiz 3 due Apr. 26 @ 11:59 pm
	Complete Freedom on My Mind Ch. 7	

15
Apr. 27-
May 1

	Skim Freedom on My Mind Ch. 8	
	Blackboard Readings: Francis E.W. Harper Watkins "We Are All Bound Up Together" & "The Great Problem to Be Solved"	
16 May 4	FINAL DAY OF CLASSES	WORK ON YOUR FINAL EXAM.
May 12		Final Exam Due @ 5pm