

Introduction to African American & African Studies I

Course Number: 21:014:111:02
Mondays and Thursdays, 1:00PM-2:20PM
Engelhard Hall, Room 211
Fall 2016

Jarrettia Adams, Instructor
Email: jarrettia.adams@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 3-4:30 or by appointment
Office: 326 Conklin Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the history of people of African descent in the Americas. Although our chief focus will be that part of the New World that would become the United States, we will remain alert to the diasporic experience of Africans throughout the Americas. Our investigations will cover the period beginning with the arrival of the first African slaves in the New World through the end of Reconstruction in the United States.

The system of bondage in the New World was a brutal form of racialized slavery. Racial ideology evolved to justify the dehumanization of millions of men, women and children across centuries. We will examine the language and imagery that contributed to the various rationales used to normalize the institution of slavery in the Americas. However, this course will not be limited to the study of the violence and trauma of slavery, but will also look at the many ways enslaved people created vibrant cultures and formed communities despite horrific forms of oppression.

We will compare and contrast the lives of free blacks and slaves during this period. The presence of free blacks in a time scarred by the institution of slavery allows us to consider the ways in which race impacted broad social, political and cultural issues in complex and contradictory ways. Additionally, an examination of organized resistance to slavery and activism on behalf of the abolition of slavery within both the slave and free black populations will also be a prime focus of our study. We will end by attempting to locate the Movement for Black Lives within this history of resistance.

This class will be a combination of lectures to provide a broad historical overview combined with (hopefully) lively discussions based on the readings.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course requirements are based upon our learning goals:

- To hone the ability to engage critically with a variety of reading materials and media in order to better understand the debates and concepts emerging from the field of African-American and African Studies.

- To gain a wider vocabulary and set of references to draw on when talking about the lived experiences of African and African diasporic subjects.
- To identify the contribution of African Americans to early American history and culture.
- To identify the strategies African Americans employed in resisting oppression.
- To develop the ability to engage in meaningful and respectful discussions around race and Black life—both in class and online.
- To improve writing skills by engaging different types of written assignments.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

10% Class Participation

5% Geography Quiz***

20% Two “Analysis Question” Papers

45% Three Exams (all exams are in-class exams and will include essays questions for which students will be allowed to use their notes)

10% Bibliographic presentation (teams)***

10% Movement for Black Lives presentation (teams)***

***I will explain these requirements in class and post guidelines online well before their due date.

POLICIES

Academic Integrity All assignments submitted for this class must be your own original work. Information derived from other sources – whether or not you quote it directly – must be cited appropriately. All instances of plagiarism and cheating will be investigated fully, in accordance with the Rutgers Policy of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>).

Accommodations Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

Assignment Submission All written work for this course must be submitted electronically through Blackboard AND in hardcopy, no later than the start of class on the day that the assignment is due. Late work will be penalized an automatic ½ letter grade reduction for each day (i.e., the maximum grade that can be earned on a paper that is turned in the day after it is due is an A, the following day an A-, etc.), unless a doctor's note or similar official excuse can be provided.

Attendance Students are expected to make every effort to attend class regularly. For an absence to count as "excused," students must submit acceptable written documentation of the reason for their absence. Excused absences are defined by the course catalog as: "illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions."

Each unexcused absence beyond three will reduce your FINAL GRADE in the course by 5%. **Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class.** Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Cell Phones Except in cases of emergency, cell phones must be turned completely off during class.

Communication Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to the class. I strongly urge everyone to take advantage of my office hours – or to make an appointment if you are unable to come then. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours, so please plan ahead if you have a question related to a paper or exam.

Laptops and Tablets Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for the purposes of accessing the readings and taking notes only. Using facebook/email/etc. during class time is a distraction for yourself and other students, and will result in loss of computer privileges for the duration of that class.

Lecture Slides PowerPoints for all lectures will be posted on Blackboard before each class, and are recommended to be used as study guides for exams.

LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

The textbook for this course is:

Freedom on My Mind: A History of African Americans, with Documents, Volume One: To 1885, by Deborah Gray White, Mia Bay, and Waldo E. Martin, Jr. (Bedford St. Martin's, 2013). This book is available in hardcopy and as an ebook, and can be purchased at the campus bookstore or amazon.com.

We will consider visual and other media available online in class as well.

******Bring your textbook and notes with you to every class!**

Thursday, September 8

Introductions - Video: Jesse Williams BET Awards Speech
(no readings)

Unit I

Monday, September 12

Introduction for Students, pgs. xxvii-xxxii
Chapter 1, pgs. 2-14 (up to "The First Africans in the Americas")

Thursday, September 15

Documents: The African Slave Captives, pgs. 38-42
Visual Sources: European Images of Africans in the Era of the Slave Trade, pgs. 43-52

Monday, September 19

Chapter 1, pgs. 14-31
Documents: Inside the Slave Trade, pgs. 32-37

Thursday, September 22

******Meet at Dana Library**

Monday, September 26

Chapter 2, pgs. 54-66
Geography Quiz

Thursday, September 29

Documents: Making Slaves, pgs. 84-89
Visual Sources: African Labor in the Making of the Americas, pgs. 97-107

Monday, October 3

Chapter 2, pgs. 66-82

Thursday, October 6

In-Class Exam

Unit II

Monday, October 10

Chapter 3, pgs. 110-120
Documents: The Great Awakening in the South, pgs. 140-144

Thursday, October 13

Chapter 3, pgs. 120-138

Monday, October 17

Documents: African American Patriots, pgs. 145-148

Visual Sources: Freedom's Fight, pgs. 149-157

Thursday, October 20

Chapter 4, pgs. 160-178

Monday, October 24

Chapter 4, pgs. 178-189

Documents: Free Black Activism, pgs. 194-198

Thursday, October 27

Documents: Slavery's Children, pgs. 190-193

Visual Sources: The Black Body in Early American Culture, pgs. 199-207

Monday, October 31

Chapter 5, pgs. 210-227

Thursday, November 3

Documents: Slave Testimony, pgs. 245-249

Visuals Sources: Art of the Plantation, pgs. 250-261

Monday, November 7

Chapter 5, pgs. 227-240

Thursday, November 10

In-Class Exam

Unit III

Monday, November 14

Chapter 6, pgs. 264-296

Thursday, November 17

Documents: Elite Black Women Speak Out on Education, Citizenship, and Slavery, pgs. 298-302

Visual Sources: Minstrel Shows, pgs. 309-319

Monday, November 21

Chapter 6, pgs. 285-296

Documents: Former Slaves Speak Out on Slavery, 303-308

Tuesday, November 22 (Please note: Thursday's class is on TUESDAY this week!)

Chapter 7, pgs. 322-340

Documents: Wartime Opportunities and Dilemmas, pgs. 351-354

Thursday, November 24
NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving!

Monday, December 1
Chapter 7, pgs. 340-350
Documents: Black Women at Work during the War, pgs. 355-361
Visual Sources: The Moment and Meaning of Emancipation, pgs. 362-373

Monday, December 5
Chapter 8, pgs. 376-408

Monday, December 8
Movement for Black Lives presentations

Thursday, December 12
Movement for Black Lives presentations

Thursday, December 22
Final examination
Please note time: 3:00-6:00PM