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## INTRO TO AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES - I 21:014:111:90

### About This Course

This course is online only.

You explore the historical experience of people of African descent in the United States from the pre-enslavement through the Reconstruction. Together, we will deconstruct the concepts of liberty, freedom, equality and *Americanness* through an examination of slavery, as an Americas institution.

We will investigate the history of West African kingdoms, describe and assess the Middle Passage, identify slave resistance and Black participation in the United States Revolutionary and Civil Wars and their fight for eventual emancipation. We also consider the impact of race and racial prejudice on people of African descent as they simultaneously chronicled their enslaved experiences and fought for their human rights.

This course will serve as a foundation for evaluating, analyzing and explaining current ethnic and racial tensions in the United States and the Americas and for advanced coursework in the African American and African Studies Department.

Together, we reflect on and interrogate issues of segregation, economic independence, culture and identity, and what it means to be an American.

### Course Learning Goals

1. Identify and describe the relevance of major actors, events and ideas that have shaped African American history through Reconstruction
2. Identify and explain the strategies employed by African Americans (and others) to undermine social and political oppression
3. Describe the persistence of white racial aggression and explain the social construction of the black/white racial binary in the U.S.
4. Improve research and critical thinking skills, as applied to African American and African Studies, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources
5. Develop writing skills through analytical and reflective essays and develop greater familiarity with the interactive collaborative software, Voice thread
6. Employ and demonstrate the necessary skill sets enabling you to interact effectively within a group

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Course Participation

**Just log in.** This course is 100% online and in the Blackboard Course Management System. The course is asynchronous – you can access any time of the day and in any place. There are, however, weekly deadlines to submit work. Upon successful completion of the course, you will receive the same three credits.

## Required Texts

Freedom on My Mind: A History of African Americans with Documents Vol. 1 –  
**Second Edition**  
Deborah Gray White, Mia Bay, Waldo E. Martin Jr.  
ISBN-13: 978-0312648831 ISBN-10: 0312648839

## Grading

1. Written Submissions.....	20%
2. Course Participation.....	20%
3. Quizzes.....	20%
4. Group Kaltura Presentation.....	20%
5. Final.....	20%

## Grading Scale

90 to 100+ = A
85 to 89.9 = B+
80 to 84.9 = B
75 to 79.9 = C+
70 to 74.9 = C
60 to 69.9 = D
0 to 59.9 = F

## Course Content

### The course consists of eight units:

1. From Africa to America
2. African Slavery in North America
3. African Americans in the Age of Revolution
4. Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic
5. Black Life in the Slave South
6. The Northern Black Freedom Struggle and the Coming of the Civil War
7. Freedom Rising – The Civil War
8. Reconstruction – The Making and Unmaking of a Revolution

Please view and refer to the expanded Course Schedule in Blackboard for specifics on each unit

## Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site daily to check for new announcements.

Please contact me via email at [hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu](mailto:hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu). I will usually respond to email messages within 24 to 48 hours (except for weekends).

When posting to our discussion board or communicating with others, please:

- Be courteous and respectful of other points of view
- Avoid using slang and abbreviations, which can be misinterpreted
- Do not capitalize all letters because this suggests shouting
- Think and proofread before you submit

## Late Submission Policy

Late assignments will lose FIVE points per day until submitted.

## Time Commitment

This course includes considerable time spent doing readings, assignments and other work toward course mastery. To be successful in this course, guidelines estimate that you will need to spend at least three to six hours on coursework per week. This is calculated based on the college standard requirement of approximately three hours of work each week per credit-hour of the course. Depending on our individual backgrounds and schedules, some Units may require more time, some less.

Schedule regular study/assignment times in your calendar. Studies show that the more hours you put in, the better the work output. Students who can only put in two to three hours per week are not as likely to get top grades as those students who can study at least six or more hours per week.

## Dropping or Withdrawing from the Course

In order to drop or withdraw from this course, it is not sufficient to stop posting assignments or contributing to discussion. **You must do so formally through the Registrar's office.** It is your responsibility to complete all forms, and if you do not do so, I must assign a grade of F at the end of the semester.

## Required technological skills

Ability to use Blackboard

## Technical Problems

If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, e-mail the assignment to me at [hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu](mailto:hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu), BEFORE the deadline.

In an online environment, there is always a possibility of technical issues (e.g., lost connection, hardware or software failure). Many of these can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait until the last minute to do/submit an assignment, the chances of these glitches affecting your success increase. Please plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to resolve the problem.

Direct technical questions to the Student Help Desk at: [help@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:help@newark.rutgers.edu). You can also call them at 973-353-5083, or drop-in, Hill Hall 109. This link directs you to the Newark Computing Services Web site <http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu/hd>

## Required equipment

Computer, internet access, webcam with microphone OR headphones with microphone; software that can save a file in the format of Microsoft Word or PDF.

## Academic Integrity

Students at Rutgers University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. Rutgers' academic integrity policy is at [academicintegrity.rutgers.edu](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu). When you submit an exam or assignment, you need to abide by the honor pledge of "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

## Course Schedule and Assignment Due Dates

For detailed information on the weekly course schedule and assignment due dates, please refer to the course Web site.

# Serving Students

## Office of Disability Services

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>.

To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site: <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](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu)

## Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

The Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance offers counseling and advocacy services, educational programming, and training, consultation and policy development services to all members of the University community. Our programs and services are designed to promote ways of coping with the effects of interpersonal violence and to prevent such violence from occurring. <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/need-help/>

## Office of Student Life LGBTQ Resource Program

The Office of Student Life LGBTQ Resource Program seeks to create a safe and affirming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally students, faculty and staff at Rutgers University-Newark. Read more about our program's main point for focus, here.

## Veteran and Military Programs and Services

Rutgers University welcomes current and prospective students who are veterans and Reservists. We want to help make your transition to college life as smooth as possible and your college experience rewarding and productive. Resources for Student Veterans can be found here <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/resources-student-veterans>

## Mental Health Wellness

If you experience mental or other difficulties, please feel free to contact one of the university's psychological and counseling centers. The centers offer a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students enrolled at Rutgers. <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>

## Rutgers Legal Services

One of the goals of the Office of Student Legal Services at Rutgers University is to provide legal assistance and representation to eligible university students. <http://rusls.rutgers.edu/contact-us/>

## **The Writing Center**

We will work together on improving your writing, but if you should wish, you may also contact the Writing Center, which offers writing tutoring and workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers, Newark campus. It is located in Conklin 126; phone 973-353-5847.

## **Rutgers University Libraries**

Assistance with library resources is available through phone, email and chat. Please review the Introduction to Rutgers Libraries Library Guide.