

Professor Hyacinth Miller

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

### About This Course

**This course is online only.**

In this course, we explore the historical experience of people of African descent in the United States from pre-enslavement through the Reconstruction period. Together, we deconstruct the concepts of liberty, freedom, equality and *Americanness* through an examination of slavery in the United States. We reflect on and interrogate issues of segregation, economic independence, culture and identity, and what it means to be an *American*.

We briefly investigate the history of West African kingdoms, review the Middle Passage, explore the many facets of direct and indirect slave resistance, and assess African participation in the United States Revolutionary and Civil Wars. We also evaluate the impact of race and racial prejudice on people of African descent as they juxtaposed an imposed and self-generated group identity and fought for the realization of their human rights.

This course will serve two functions: (1) as a foundation for evaluating, analyzing and explaining current ethnic and racial tensions in the United States (and the Americas) and (2) for advanced coursework in the African American and African Studies Department.

### Course Learning Goals

- ✚ Identify major actors and the seminal events that have impacted the African American existence in the United States through Reconstruction
- ✚ Explain pivotal ideas that have shaped the African American experience through Reconstruction
- ✚ Analyze key legal cases that have significantly impacted African American life in the United States
- ✚ Explain the strategies employed by African Americans (and others) to undermine social and political oppression
- ✚ Summarize the ways that white racial aggression has persisted pre-Reconstruction
- ✚ Interrogate the social construction of the black/white racial binary in the U.S.

 Develop academic writing, critical thinking and presentation skills through the production of analytical essays and oral presentations

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Course Participation

**Just log in.** This course is a **fully online course** with online activities, assignments and lectures. The course is asynchronous – you can access any time of the day and in any place. I am able to monitor your activities on the course Web page as Blackboard creates an electronic record of each student’s participation. Upon successful completion of the course, you will receive the same three credits.

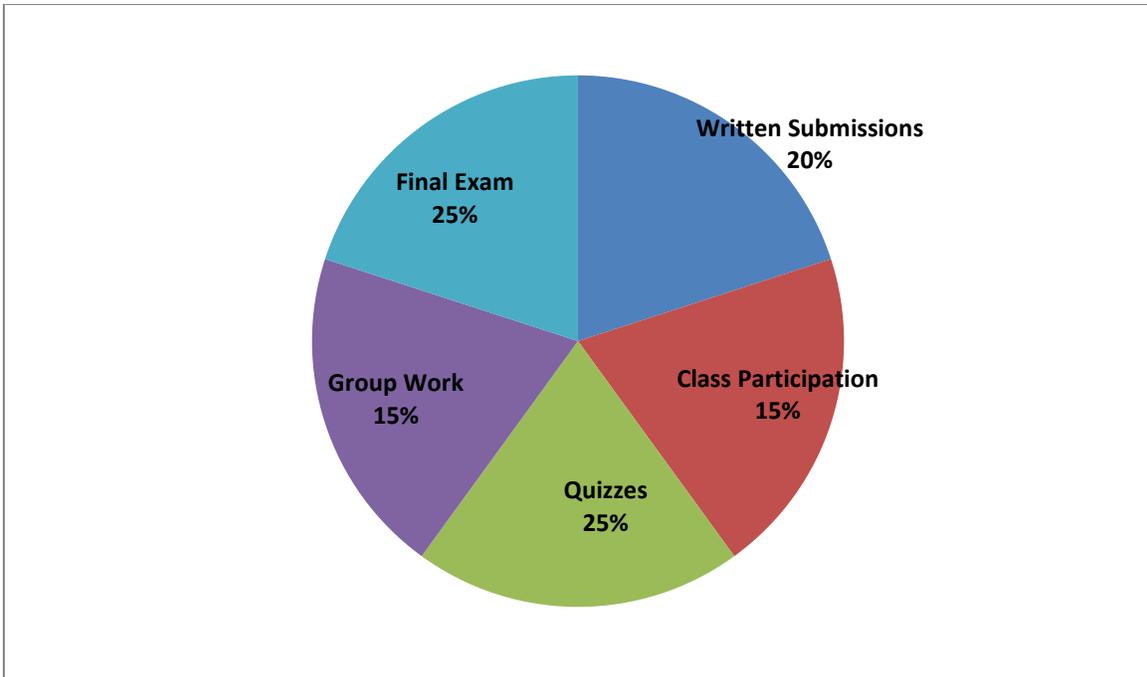
## Required Texts

**Available at the Rutgers Barnes & Noble Bookstore. They price match.**

1. 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
2. Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: Or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery  
William and Ellen Craft  
ISBN-13: 978-0486793481  
ISBN-10: 0486793586

## Grading

- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Written Submissions.....        | 20% |
| 2. Class participation.....        | 15% |
| 3. Quizzes.....                    | 25% |
| 4. Group Kaltura Presentation..... | 15% |
| 5. Final.....                      | 25% |



## Course Grading Scale

90...100+	A
87...89.9	B+
80...86.9	B
77...79.9	C+
70...76.9	C
65...69.9	D
0...64.9	F

## Course Content

### The course consists of four units:

1. Africa
2. The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in North America
3. The New Republic: The United States of America
4. A Nation Divided: The Civil War and Reconstruction

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

## 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)." \*\*\*\*

## Grading Response Time

I will grade assignments within two weeks of the due date. Lengthy assignments may take longer to grade.

## 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 seven to ten hours of coursework per week:

✚ Watching Instructor Video Lectures and other Multimedia:	up to 2 hours
✚ Reading Assignments:	up to 3 hours
✚ Various Weekly Assignments:	up to 3 hours
✚ Composition of Discussion Post and Reply to Peers:	up to 2 hours

Depending on your individual backgrounds and schedules, some Units may require more time, some less.

This course has a schedule with deadlines. It is **NOT** self-paced. Do not try to 'save-up' all course work to the last day of each unit. Doing work every day works best.

## Late Submission Policy

No late submissions accepted.

## 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 discussions. **You must do so formally through the Registrar's office.** It is your responsibility to complete all forms. If you do not do so, I must assign a F final course grade at the end of the semester. Please see the attached Registrar link for applicable deadlines <http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu>

## 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

When sending me an email, please be sure to address the email as Dear Professor Miller, Dear Ms. Miller or Dear Professor. **I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH “Hey”, “YO”, or NO GREETING AT ALL.**

RU Web mail is the official email address used by the course software. Make sure that you have an email address in Blackboard that receives course information.

## Technical Problems

Direct all 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>

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 the 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.

## Required equipment

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

## Required technological skills

Ability to use Blackboard and Kaltura

## Weekly Course Schedule

Date	Subject
<b>Module 1</b>	Willful Distortions and Black Athena
<b>Module 2</b>	Chapter 1 – From Africa to America 1441-1808 BB – This Business of Slaving News Article Keys, D. (2018). Details of horrific first voyages in transatlantic slave trade revealed. <i>Independent</i> . [online] Available at: <a href="http://Details of horrific first voyages in transatlantic slave trade revealed">http://Details of horrific first voyages in transatlantic slave trade revealed</a> [Accessed 17 Aug. 2018].
<b>Module 3</b>	Chapter 2 – African Slavery in North America 1619-1739 BB – White Cargo
<b>Module 4</b>	BB – Transformation in Slavery BB – Black Male Sexual Exploitation
<b>Module 5</b>	Chapter 3 – African Americans in the Age of Revolution 1740-1783 BB - The British and the Black
<b>Module 6</b>	BB – To Serve Well and Faithfully BB – Jefferson’s Notes on Virginia
<b>Module 7</b>	BB - This Cause of Blackness BB – Black Women and Slavery
<b>Module 8</b>	Chapter 4 - Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic 1783-1829 BB – Representing Revolution in Black History
<b>Module 9</b>	Chapter 5 – Black Life in the Slave South 1820-1860 BB – Free People of Color
<b>Module 10</b>	Chapter 6 – The Northern Black Freedom Struggle and the Coming of the Civil War 1830-1860
<b>Module 11</b>	<b>Required Text:</b> <i>Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: Or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery</i>
<b>Module 12</b>	Chapter 7 – Freedom Rising: Civil War 1830-1860
<b>Module 13</b>	Chapter 8 – Reconstruction 1865-1885
<b>Module 14</b>	BB – DuBois – Problem of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Post-Traumatic Slave Disorder Reading and Video
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 19, 2018 6 am – 11 pm</b>

# Serving Students

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## 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 <https://lgbtq.newark.rutgers.edu/>

## 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/>

## Rutgers Immigrant Community Assistance Project (RICAP)

All students currently enrolled at Rutgers are eligible for a **free and confidential** legal consultation with RICAP Immigrant Rights Attorney Jason Hernandez. In some

instances, direct representation may be available through RICAP directly or by referral to a reputable attorney. Contact Jason Hernandez, Immigrant Rights Attorney, at 856-225-2302 or [jason.c.hernandez@rutgers.edu](mailto:jason.c.hernandez@rutgers.edu) to schedule your appointment.

<https://law.rutgers.edu/rutgers-immigrant-community-assistance-project-ricap>

## **Undocumented Student Services (USS)**

The Office of the Dean of Students is happy to provide services to support undocumented and DACA students on our campus. For undocumented students seeking one-on-one support to navigate campus resources, obtain referrals, or address other concerns, please contact Yuriana Garcia Tellez, USS Senior Program Coordinator, at 848-209-5123 or [y.garcia@rutgers.edu](mailto:y.garcia@rutgers.edu).

<https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/student-support-services>

## **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. <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

## **Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)**

Our center exists to support your studies. We can help to clarify key course concepts and through peer led discussion refine your understanding. This conversation demands active participation which in turn requires that you attend all your classes, read your textbooks, prepare and review well organized and copious notes, participate in class discussions and conscientiously attempt your homework before seeking assistance.

<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>

## **Rutgers University Libraries**

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

<https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/dana>

## **Rutgers Holiday Policy**

Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The attached link has more information

<https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>