

“African American Community” is presented this term as a reading course that is focused on the historical development of the community and its institutions. An inter-disciplinary base of sources is used to create a calendar for study which also concentrates on contemporary issues, politics, social dynamics, leadership, economic profiles, and cultural production, especially in urban settings. In addition to our list of readings, a documentary film series is also a part of the syllabus. Gender and class are highlighted as significant variables intersecting with race. In this Presidential election year, the African American community’s response to and engagement with political campaigns will be explored.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend each meeting of the class. Both a mid-term examination and a final examination are included as a part of our semester’s work. The format for examinations is as follows: roughly 30 to 40 percent “fill-in-the blanks”; and roughly 60 to 70 per cent essays. A research paper of 12 to 15 pages is also required. A list of suggested topics for the term paper will be provided during the second week of class. Term paper topics, once chosen, will be narrowed and refined in consultation with the professor and within individual office sessions. Term papers are due on 23 April. Classroom participation is rewarded; students are encouraged to display careful reading of texts, to ask probing question which help to enrich debate and discussion, and to add new materials and commentaries.

BOOKS: The following four books have been ordered for your purchase at the Rutgers University Book Store, located on Halsey Street.

1. Darnell Moore. **NO ASHES IN THE FIRE.** (Bold Type Books)
2. Imani Perry. **LOOKING FOR LORRAINE.** (Beacon Books)
3. Barbara Ransby. **MAKING ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER.** (University of California Press)
4. Elijah Anderson, ed. **AGAINST THE WALL.** (University of Pennsylvania Press)

Local issues and ongoing developments in the city of Newark, and more widely in the New York metropolitan area, will be incorporated and reviewed as deemed useful, helpful and necessary to our discussions and study pattern.

Additional Readings

Several additional short readings will be assigned; students will be required to access and to conduct readings on web sites.

Prof. Holbrook’s Office: 303 Conklin Hall

Hours: Thursdays 1:30 to 2:30 and at other times by appointment. Special hours for research paper advisement and discussion will be posted (with a list of times for “signing in”) beginning in the third week of the semester.