

W.P. Holbrook, Ph.D.

wholbrok@rutgers.edu

AFRICAN CULTURAL RETENTIONS IN THE AMERICAS

Fall Term 2018

21:014:301

Office: 303 Conklin Hall

“African Cultural Retentions” is presented this term as a reading and writing intensive course focused on the continuities, transformations, adaptations, and re-inventions of African culture found within the African diaspora in the Americas since the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Research and writing projects conducted by historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, art historians, and musicologists will be studied. Lectures, readings, classroom discussions, and examination essays will explore developments in the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the United States. A documentary film series is incorporated; and a museum trip is also planned. Of course, in the Americas, Africans encountered Native Americans and Europeans; and a constant goal of this course is to enrich our understanding of the new local contexts which emerged, and Africa’s contributions to those contexts.

Student Requirements: Students are expected to attend each meeting of the class. A mid-term examination is included as a part of the course calendar. A final paper (15 pages) is required. The paper will address a thematic question which will require students to draw from information and data provided in the 4 assigned books. The final paper is to be submitted on Thursday, 6 December.

Books The following books have been ordered at the Rutgers Bookstore.

1. Melissa Cooper. MAKING GULLAH: A HISTORY OF SAPELO ISLANDERS, RACE, AND THE AMERICAN IMAGINATION. (Univ. of North Carolina Press)
2. Michael Gomez. EXCHANGING OUR COUNTRY MARKS: THE TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICAN IDENTITIES IN THE COLONIAL AND ANTE-BELLUM SOUTH. (Univ. of North Carolina Press)
3. Walt Hawthorne. FROM AFRICA TO BRAZIL. (Cambridge Univ. Press)
4. James Sweet. RECREATING AFRICA. (University of North Carolina Press)

Additional Readings: Students will be required to visit sites on the internet.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 ; and at other times by appointment.

