

Course Name:

Introduction to African American and African Studies, Part One

About this Course

This course explores the historical, social, legal and political experiences of people of African descent in the United States from pre-slavery through the post-Reconstruction era. We will deconstruct the concepts of liberty, freedom, equality and Americanness through an examination of slavery as an American 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 will examine 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.

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. We will have six weeks to cover 14 week of a regular course. Upon successful completion of the course, you will receive the same three credits.

Books

There is one required book for this course:

Deborah Gray White, Mia Bay, Waldo E. Martin Jr. *Freedom on My Mind: A History of African Americans with Documents Vol. 1: to 1885. Second edition.*

ISBN-13: 978-1319060527

ISBN-10: 1319060528

Instructor

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Office Hours: Available by appointment online and in person

I will get back to you within 24 hours, except for weekends.
Assignment turnaround is usually two weeks.

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, Voicethread
6. Employ and demonstrate the necessary skill sets enabling you to interact effectively in an online learning environment

Course Grade Breakdown

Quizzes – 25%

There will be two quizzes in this course. One will be at the end of week one and the other, the end of week four. The quizzes will be timed and the majority of questions will be multiple choice with some short essay answers required.

Reading Responses – 25%

You will need to submit two written responses. One will be a film critique/analysis, the other will respond to a question prompt.

Kaltura Project – 25%

You will choose an ancient African Kingdom and present a five minute “docu-history” of this Kingdom using Kaltura.

Final Exam – 25%

There will be a final exam at the end of the six weeks. The final will be a 60-minute timed exam with 50 multiple-choice questions.

Article Submission Extra Credit –

You can submit one extra credit, 300-word analysis, of an article, no older than 30 days, which describes a contemporary discussion of slavery in the Americas.

Course Content

The course has eight units. They are:

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

Technical Skills

Technical skills for this course are minimal. You need a reliable internet connection and access to a laptop/computer. It would also be helpful if you had processing and graphic software such as Flash and video players. Other software with which you should be familiar include Microsoft Word and PDF.

Academic Integrity

This course follows Rutgers University policies relating to 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 here [Rutger's Policy on Academic Integrity](#).

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to out good manners, mutual respect and listening carefully to one another, the do's and don'ts of online communication. All written response in the course are expected to follow accepted Netiquette protocol. Read here for a good overview of [Netiquette](#).

Computing Help Desk

The Computing Help Desk is located in Hill Hall 109. 973-353-5083.

Email: help@rutgers.edu. [Newark Help Desk Website](#)

Rutgers University Health and Wellness Policies

Rutgers offers many services to assist students including:

Serving students with disabilities <https://ods.rutgers.edu/contact-ods>

Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/need-help/>

Office of Student Life LGBTQ Resource Program <http://lgbt.newark.rutgers.edu/node/60>

Resources for Student Veterans <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/resources-student-veterans>