

Hyacinth Miller
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Office hours Mondays 4pm-5:30pm

INTRO TO AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES, I
21:014:111:60 Fall 2016
Mondays 6pm – 9pm HILL HALL 102

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.

This course will serve as a foundation for analyzing and explaining current ethnic and racial tensions in the United States and the Americas and for future coursework in the Department.

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 within a group.

Prerequisites: None. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts

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

ISBN-13: 978-0312648831

ISBN-10: 0312648839

Grading

1. Article Submissions/Commentary.....20%
2. Class Participation.....20%
3. Quizzes.....15%
4. Group Work.....20%
5. Final.....25%

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

Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site, at least three times a week, to check for new announcements.

Please contact me via email at 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

Attendance and Participation Policy

This course is designed to be an interactive learning experience. Discussion of assigned readings/films comprises a significant portion of every student's final course grade. You must complete the required reading BEFORE class to enable informed participation. Participation grades are calculated from both the quality and quantity of your classroom participation.

Because of the nature of the class design, you should make every effort to attend every class session. Lack of participation and attendance will equal lower final course grades. **If you must miss a class, you are responsible for completing any in class assignment for that day and for obtaining any important class related information from that day.** I will hold you responsible for any agreement or change to the course announced or decided in class if absent.

Also, I will lower the final grade by two points for each unexcused absence beyond the initial two. Three late arrivals will count as an absence.

The improper use of technology in the classroom will count as an absence and a student can be dismissed from class if the behavior continues. Four or more unexcused absences will drop your final course grade by one letter grade. Please note that sending an email stating that you cannot attend the class does not constitute an excuse. I expect you to inform me about an absence in person before or immediately after the absence takes place. I require documentation to excuse an absence.

If you are going to miss a class, within 24 hours of your absence, the University requires you to use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. Please keep in mind that using the reporting system does not mean that your absence is automatically considered “excused.” If you miss a class or exam for religious reasons, please consult <http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/holidays1112.htm>

Late Submission Policy

All assignments submitted late lose **TEN** points per day.

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. Please see the attached Registrar link for applicable deadlines <http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/office-registrar-fall-academic-calendar#drop-w>

Required technological skills

Ability to use Blackboard

Technical Problems

If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, you are responsible for e-mailing the assignment to me, 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 before due dates, the chances of these glitches affecting your success are greatly increased. Please plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to resolve the problem. Technical questions should be directed to the Student Help Desk at: 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. 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)."

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 at: <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

Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

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 who are 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.

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](#). For more specific information about library resources for distance learning, review this [two-minute video](#).

Course Content

The course is divided into 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

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Assignment	Due Date
Self-Introduction	Sept. 12
Quiz 1	Sept.16
Commentary	Sept. 26
Quiz 2	Oct. 7
Article 1	Oct. 17
*Extra Credit 1	Oct. 21
Film analysis	Oct. 24
Article 2	Nov. 7
Quiz 3	Nov. 18
*Extra Credit 2	Nov. 18
*Extra Credit 3	Dec. 5
FINAL	MONDAY DECEMBER 19 6:20 PM - 9:20 PM

Grading Response Time

Assignments should be graded within two weeks of the due date. Assignments that are lengthy may take longer to grade.

Time Commitment

To be successful in this course, it is estimated that you will need to commit to at least Three (3) to five (6) hours of coursework per week for the semester. Some weeks will require more time, some less.