

Hyacinth Miller  
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Office: Conklin 304  
Office hours: Tuesdays 1pm - 2:15pm

INTRO TO AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES - II  
21:014:112:61

## About This Course

This course explores the historical experience of people of African descent in the United States from the Civil War to the present. Together, we investigate the intersections of the “color-line”, as W.E.B. DuBois called it, with the American ideals of freedom, equality, democracy and citizenship.

In this discussion-based, interactive course we examine the impact of race and racial prejudice on people of African descent as they made their way out of slavery and into a society that struggles to embrace them as equals. Together, we reflect on and interrogate issues of segregation, economic independence, culture and identity. We seek to answer the question of what it means to be an American.

We will also explore the 54 countries of the African continent and connect the events of the past to contemporary issues to help explain their political, social and economic status.

The railroad stations were at times so crowded with people leaving that special guards had to be called to keep order.



Artist: Jacob Lawrence  
<http://lawrencemigration.phillipscollection.org/the-migration-series/panels/12/the-railroad-stations-were-at-times-so-crowded-with-people-leaving-that-special-guards-had-to-be>

## Course Learning Goals

- 1) Identify and discuss the relevance of actors, events and ideas that have shaped African American and African history from Reconstruction through the present
- 2) Identify African countries on a map, the country's leadership and differentiate between colonizers
- 3) Describe and evaluate the interventions employed by African Americans (and allies) to undermine social and political oppression
- 4) Describe the persistence of white racial aggression and explain the social construction of the black/white racial binary in the U.S.
- 5) Improve research and critical thinking skills, as applied to African American and African Studies, through engagement with interdisciplinary scholarship and analysis of primary sources
- 6) Develop writing and presentation skills through the production of analytical and reflective essays and oral presentations in an academic setting
- 7) Employ and demonstrate the necessary skill sets enabling you to interact effectively in a team environment

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Required Texts

- White, D. G. 1., Bay, M., & Martin, W. E. (2017). *Freedom on my mind: A history of African Americans, with documents* Volume 2 (Second edition.). Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.

### Obama's speech a model of persuasion



<http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/11/opinion/kusnet-syria-obama-speech/index.html>

## Course Grading Breakdown

- 1. Written Submissions.....20%
- 2. Class Participation.....20%
- 3. Quizzes.....20%
- 4. Group Work.....20%
- 5. Final.....20%

## 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

## 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).

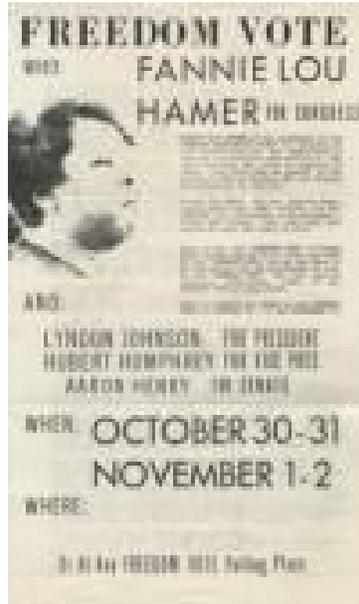
When sending me an email, please be sure to address the email as Dear Professor Miller, Dear Ms. Miller or Dear Professor. I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH “Hey”, “Yo.” I will delete messages with no greeting, because I will assume it is SPAM.

Always include the subject and course name in the subject line because I teach more than one class per semester.

RU Webmail is the official email address used by the course software. If you prefer to have your webmail forwarded to a personal email address, you can link it to your RU Web mail. Select this link <https://my.rutgers.edu/portal/help/faqs.html#3.4.6> scroll down and then select “How do I forward my email to another account”

## Campaign Flyer for Fannie Lou Hamer, Freedom Election, 1964

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/153896512241374852/?lp=true>



### Attendance and Participation Policy

I designed this course to be an interactive learning experience. Discussion of readings comprises a significant portion of every student's final course grade. You must complete the required reading BEFORE class to enable informed participation. I calculate participation grades based on both the quality and quantity of your classroom participation.

Because of the nature of the class design, you should attend every class session. We meet for 45 hours – that is the equivalent of one, full-time workweek. 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.**

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/reason for your absence. Be sure to advise me of a religious-related absence.

Please keep in mind that using the reporting system does not mean that your absence is automatically “excused.” In addition, sending an email stating that you cannot attend the class does not constitute an excused absence either. I expect you to inform me about an absence in person before or immediately after the absence takes place. I require valid documentation to consider excusing an absence.

**Unexcused Absence = Final Grade – 2 points**  
**Three Late Arrivals = 1 Absence**  
**Four unexcused absences = F**  
**Improper/Abusive use of technology = 1 Absence** and I will dismiss you from the class if the behavior continues.

## **Late Submission Policy**

Late assignments will lose FIVE points per day until submitted.

## **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 three to six hours on coursework per week. Researchers have calculated this based on the college standard requirement of approximately three hours of work each week per credit hour of the course. Depending on our individual backgrounds and schedules, some Units may require more time, some less.

Schedule regular study/assignment times in your calendar. Studies show that the more hours you put in, the better the work output. Students who can only put in two to three hours per week are not as likely to get top grades as those students who can study at least six or more hours per week.

## **Academic Integrity**

Rutgers University expects students to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. 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)."

Plagiarism means copying another person's written work and presenting it as your own. This covers all submitted work in this course. Copying another's work will get you an F in the course and a meeting with the Dean for disciplinary action. The University takes plagiarism very seriously as do I

Rutgers' academic integrity policy is here

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

## 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. If not, I must assign a grade of F at the end of the semester.

## Required technological skills

Ability to use Blackboard and Kaltura

## Technical Problems

If there is a technical glitch on Blackboard, email the assignment to me at [hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu](mailto:hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu), BEFORE the deadline.

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 to their office in Hill Hall 109. This link directs you to the Newark Computing Services Web site <http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu/hd>

In an 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 the format of Microsoft Word.

## Black Lives Matter - Paris



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/454159943651468766/?lp=true>

## Course Content

The course consists of four main themes:

1. 19<sup>th</sup> Century United States
2. 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States pre-Civil Rights Movement
3. 20<sup>th</sup> Century United State post-Civil Rights Movement
4. Africans in the Diaspora

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

# 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 the Director, Allen Sheffield, at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting [odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@newark.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/>  
<http://health.newark.rutgers.edu/our-services/sexual-assault-medical-services>

## **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 <http://lgbt.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/>

### **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.

<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>

### **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>