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Virtual Office hours: Wednesdays

Course Name: **INTRO TO AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES – I**
Course Number: **21:014:111:90**
Course Dates: **May 31, 2022 – July 7, 2022 (Summer Session I)**

About This Course

This course is online only. We do not meet together, as a class, at all.

In this course, we explore the historical experience of people of African descent in the United States from pre-enslavement through the Reconstruction period. Together, we deconstruct the concepts of liberty, freedom, equality and *Americanness* through an examination of slavery in the United States. We reflect on and interrogate issues of segregation, economic independence, culture and identity, and what it means to be an *American*.

We briefly investigate the history of West African kingdoms, review the Middle Passage, explore the many facets of direct and indirect slave resistance, and assess African participation in the United States Revolutionary and Civil Wars. We also evaluate the impact of race and racial prejudice on people of African descent as they juxtaposed an imposed and self-generated group identity and fought for the realization of their human rights.

This course will serve two functions: (1) as a foundation for evaluating, analyzing and explaining current ethnic and racial tensions in the United States (and the Americas) and (2) for advanced coursework in the African American and African Studies Department.

Course Learning Goals

- ✚ Identify major actors and the seminal events that have impacted the African American existence in the United States through Reconstruction
- ✚ Explain pivotal ideas that have shaped the African American experience through Reconstruction
- ✚ Analyze key legal cases that have significantly impacted African American life in the United States
- ✚ Explain the strategies employed by African Americans (and others) to undermine social and political oppression
- ✚ Summarize the ways that white racial aggression has persisted pre-Reconstruction
- ✚ Interrogate the social construction of the black/white racial binary in the U.S.

- ✚ Develop academic writing, critical thinking and presentation skills through the production of analytical essays and oral presentations

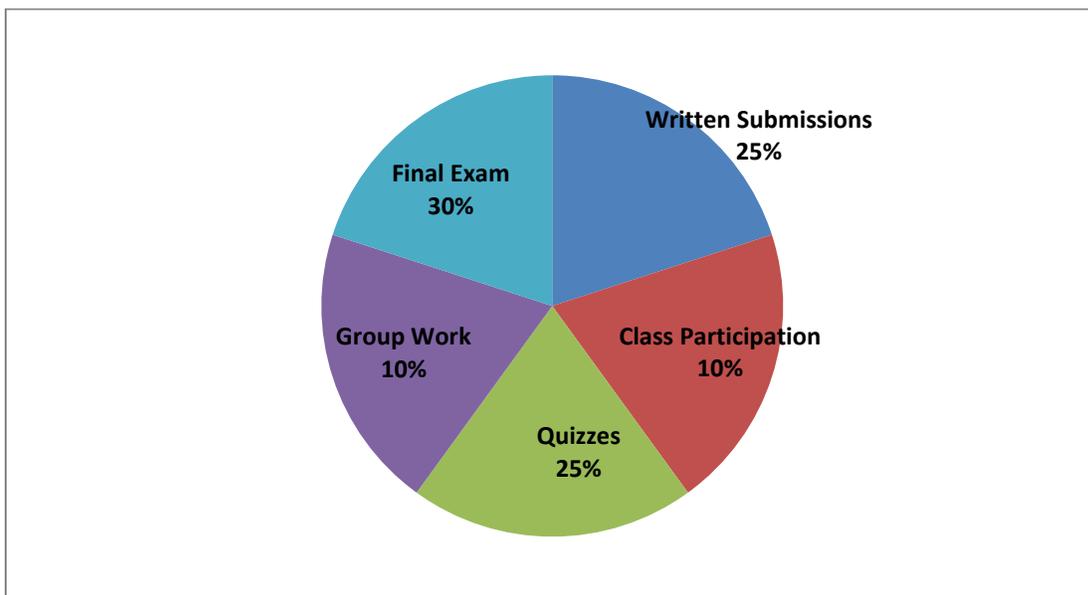
Prerequisites: A willingness to engage in new and/or familiar materials with an open mind

Required Texts

1. White, D. G. 1, Bay, M., & Martin, W. E. (2019). *Freedom on my mind: A history of African Americans, with documents* Volume 2 (Third edition.). Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.
[also available at John Cotton Dana Library Reference Desk for three-hour intervals]
2. *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: Or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*
 William and Ellen Craft
 ISBN-13: 978-0486793481
 ISBN-10: 0486793586

Course Grading Breakdown

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Written Submissions [two]..... | 25% |
| 2. Class participation..... | 10% |
| 3. Quizzes [three]..... | 25% |
| 4. Presentation..... | 10% |
| 5. Final..... | 30% |



Course 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

Late Submission Policy - No late submissions accepted.

Academic Integrity

This course follows Rutgers University policies relating to Academic Integrity. Rutgers University expects students to maintain the highest ethical standards. The consequences of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are very serious. Rutgers' academic integrity policy is here [Academic Integrity for Students](#). Violations will be reported and enforced according to this policy.

Use of external website resources such as Chegg.com or others to obtain solutions to homework assignments, quizzes, or exams is cheating and a violation of the University Academic Integrity policy. Cheating in the course may result in grade penalties, disciplinary sanctions or educational sanctions. Posting homework assignments, or exams, to external sites without the instructor's permission may be a violation of copyright and may constitute the facilitation of dishonesty, which may result in the same penalties as plain cheating. Plagiarism means copying another person's written work and presenting it as your own. This covers all submitted work in this course. The University takes plagiarism very seriously as do I.

The department **REQUIRES** that the following honor pledge is written and signed on every exam, paper, or other major course assignment that is submitted for grading:

“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

Privacy

To ensure a positive, productive and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students adhere to **Online Classroom, Meetings and Activities Expectations**, which include online behaviors and privacy guidelines for students.

Privacy Guidelines for Students

All students must follow the following privacy guidelines:

- Do not video record, audio record, photograph, live stream, transmit or share in any other way any part of online classes, meetings or activities, including no posting on any social media platform.
- Any confidential or personally identifiable information related to students participating during online classes, meetings or activities should not be collected, discussed or shared.

Behavioral Expectations for Students

- Students must use their Rutgers accounts when logging into Canvas. This software requires the use of your Rutgers NetID and password.
- Login credentials must not be shared. Sharing of login information violates other students' and instructors' rights to confidentiality and could allow class participation by unauthorized persons and/or lead to disruptive behaviors that detract from a productive and positive learning environment.
- All Rutgers University policies that apply to civility and appropriate student behavior must be adhered to, including the University Code of Conduct and Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Communication Policy

You are responsible for reading all of my posted announcements. You should log into our course site frequently to check for new announcements. My email address is: hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu. I will usually respond to email messages within 24 to 48 hours (except for weekends).

When sending me an email, address the email as Dear Professor Miller, or Dear Professor. **I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH "Hey", "Yo", "Hi" or NO GREETING AT ALL.**

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

RU Web mail is the official email address used by the course software. University policy is **to only communicate with students using a Rutgers email address**. We are instructed to respond to messages from students ONLY with an RU email address.

Life happens.

Make sure to communicate with me and/or your Rutgers Academic Advisor if anything happens to you that disrupts your academic progress [emotional, financial, physical, mental, etc.].

Also, towards the end of the syllabus, I have provided a list of Rutgers Resources that you can access, **FOR FREE**, if you want [need] additional personal and/or academic support, help, guidance or advice.

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 six to nine hours of coursework per week. Depending on your individual background and/or schedule, some Units may require more time, some less.

Civil rights images

- Watching Instructor Videos and other Multimedia: up to 2 hours
- Reading Assignments up to 3 hours
- Various Weekly Assignments up to 2 hours

This course has a schedule with deadlines for reading and written assignments as well as quizzes. To get the best outcome, schedule time, each day, to do coursework.

Dropping or Withdrawing from the Course

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 Office of the Registrar.** If not, I must assign you an F grade at the end of the semester.

Required technological skills - Ability to use Canvas, a video recorder and Microsoft Word

Technical Problems

Direct ALL CANVAS questions to the Student Help Desk at help@newark.rutgers.edu. You can also call them at 973-353-5083. This link directs you to the Newark Computing Services Web site [Help Desk](#).

If there is a technical glitch on Canvas, email the assignment to me at hyacinth.miller@rutgers.edu, **BEFORE** the deadline.

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. 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 Microsoft Word.

Videos and Websites

Any required films and videos will be available on Canvas. There is no charge to view any films contained in the Rutgers Libraries. Full versions of many of the films shown in class are available in the Rutgers Media Library - [Rutgers Libraries](#)

Protecting the intellectual property of students & instructors

Almost all original work is the intellectual property of its authors. These works may include syllabi, lecture slides, recorded lectures, homework problems, exams, and other materials, in either printed or electronic form. The authors may hold copyrights in these works, which are protected by U.S. statutes. Copying this work or posting it online without the permission of the author may violate the author's rights. More importantly, these works are the product of the author's efforts; respect for these efforts and for the author's intellectual property rights is an important value that members of the university community take seriously. For more instructions on copyright protections at Rutgers University, refer to the [Rutgers Libraries](#).

Overall course advice

Take deadlines seriously.

All things in life have deadlines and academia is no different. To facilitate your success in this course, I have posted all deadlines in the syllabus and course Website so that you can plan when and how best to complete your work.

What works best for me: I put due dates in my calendar [I have a digital and hard copy calendar] and I also put reminders in the calendars to help me to stay on track.

Take advantage of student-office hours.

Asynchronous courses are very different. There is no direct engagement with the professor. As such, concepts and course information may be more challenging to process. If and or when this is the case, reach out to me. We can schedule some time to go through your questions to ensure that you are understanding the material. The goal is your successful completion of the course.

Changes to course schedule:

The syllabus is a "living, breathing document." As we go through the course, I may find it necessary to adjust the readings and/or timeline to create a more seamless learning experience for you. When this happens, you will be given advanced notice so you can make the necessary adjustments.

Canvas Course Content - the modules have complete information on each unit

The course consists of four main themes:

1. African Origins; 2. Enslavement in North America; 3. U.S.A. & 4. The Civil War

Course Schedule

Date	Content
UNIT 1	Africa
Module 1	African Origins, Beginning to ca. 1600 C.E. Article: Willful Distortions and Black Athena
Module 2	From Africa to America 1441-1808
UNIT 2	Enslavement in North America
Module 3	Article – This Business of Slaving Article Keys, D. (2018). Details of horrific first voyages in transatlantic slave trade revealed. <i>Independent</i> . [online] Available at: http://Details of horrific first voyages in transatlantic slave trade revealed [Accessed 17 Aug. 2018].
Module 4	Slavery in North America, 1619-1740
Module 5	Article – White Cargo Article – Transformation in Slavery Article – Black Male Sexual Exploitation
UNIT 3	U.S.A.
Module 6	African Americans in the Age of Revolution, 1741-1783 Article - The British and the Black
Module 7	Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic, 1775-1820
Module 8	Article – To Serve Well and Faithfully Article – Jefferson’s Notes on Virginia
Module 9	Black Life in the Slave South, 1820-1860
Module 10	Article - This Cause of Blackness Article – Black Women and Slavery
UNIT 4	The Civil War
Module 11	The Northern Black Freedom Struggle and the Coming of the Civil War, 1830-1860
Module 12	Required Textbook: <i>Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: Or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery</i>
Module 13	Article – Free People of Color

Date	Content
Module 14	Freedom Rising: The Civil War, 1861-1865
Module 15	Post-Traumatic Slave Disorder Reading and Video

Course Assignments and Due Dates

Assignment	Due Date
Self-Introduction	June 3
Analysis 1 - Africa	June 10
Quiz 1	Africa
Analysis 2 – Latin America/Caribbean	June 22
Quiz 2	Slavery in North America
Group Presentation	June 29
Quiz 3	Pre-Civil War & Civil War
FINAL EXAM	July 7 Opens 6 am – Closes 11:59 pm

Serving Students

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For individuals with different abilities

[The Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For individuals who are pregnant

[The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance](#) is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For [absence verification](#)

The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or via email deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For individuals with [temporary conditions and injuries](#)

The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using above link.

For gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment

[The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance](#) can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault,

sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: [Reporting Form](#). For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at [Compliance](#).

For support related to interpersonal violence

[The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance](#) can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a confidential resource and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

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.

[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.

For crisis and concerns

[The Campus Awareness Response and Education](#) (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may email the care team at: careteam@rutgers.edu.

For stress, worry, or concerns about well-being

[The Counseling Center](#) has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support.

[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 VIRTUAL writing** support and workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers, Newark campus.

[Rutgers Learning Center \(tutoring services\)](#)

Our center exists to support your studies. We can help to clarify key course concepts and through peer led discussion refine your understanding. This conversation demands active participation which in turn requires that you attend all your classes, read your textbooks, prepare and review well organized and copious notes, participate in class discussions and conscientiously attempt your homework before seeking assistance.

[Rutgers University Libraries](#)

Assistance with library resources is available through phone, email and chat. You can review the Introduction to Rutgers Libraries Library Guide for more information.

[Rutgers Holiday Policy](#)

Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule.