

**Race, Religion, and Rebellion (AFA 3354)**  
**Online Course**  
**African American Studies**  
**University of Florida**

**Spring 2025**

**Instructor:** J.E. Young, Ph.D.

**Email:** [je.young@ufl.edu](mailto:je.young@ufl.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm – 1pm or by Appointment.

**Course Description:**

This course is an examination of the interplay of religion, race and rebellion in the organization and execution of the various revolts, insurrections and social movements of black people in the U.S. from the slavery period through the Civil Rights and Black Power Eras.

The course is outlined in four parts:

Part A: Rebellion.

Part B: Resistance.

Part C: Black Christianity.

Part D: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Required Texts:**

1. Camp, S.M.H. *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South*. [Available Online].
2. Gomez, M. A. *Exchanging Our Country Marks: Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South*. [Available Online].
3. Gray, B.M. *Black Life Matter: Blackness, Religion, and the Subject*. [Available Online].
4. Savage, B.D. *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion*.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify major rebellions against enslavement and their connections to religion.
2. Evaluate and discuss various tactics of resistance.
3. Critically engage material through regular written analysis.

**The Learning Environment**

In order for this to be a successful class, we must work together to promote an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable expressing their opinions. I expect everyone to treat each other with the utmost respect.

**Communication:**

In any communication, i.e. face-to-face or via email, you are to refer to me as Professor Young. Since they are professional communications, all your e-mails to me must, at a minimum:

- 1) Have a subject line that accurately expresses the purpose of the email (e.g., “Assignment Question for AFA 3354”).
- 2) Open with a salutation (such as “Hello/ Hi/ Greetings Professor Young”) and have a closing with your full name. If you send me an e-mail that does not follow the basic conventions laid out above, you will receive a reply from me that simply reads “Please see the syllabus.”

**Late or Missed Assignments:**

Only emergencies that would also result in an excused absence are valid reasons for submitting an assignment late. If special considerations prevent you from fulfilling course obligations (such as prolonged illness), please provide me with documentation.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

Generative AI tools should not be used for course assignments.

**Assignment Information**

All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, proofread, and follow MLA, APA, or Chicago guidelines for formatting citations and bibliographies. Information and ideas that are not your own must be appropriately cited.

**Grading Scale:** 945-1000 95-100 **A** | 895-944 90-94 **A-** | 865-894 87-89 **B+** | 835-864 84-86 **B** | 795-834 80-83 **B-** | 765-794 77-79 **C+** | 735-764 74-76 **C** | 695-734 70-73 **C-** | 665-694 67-69 **D+** | 635-664 64-66 **D** | 595-634 60-63 **D-** | 594- 59 or below **F** |

**Course Assignments:**

Bi-Weekly Analytical Précis:	150 Pts. (5 Total)
Bi-Weekly Recorded Discussions:	150 Pts. (5 Total)
Research Topic	50 Pts.
Abstract and Sources:	50 Pts.
Outline/ Annotated Bibliography:	100 Pts.
Rough Draft:	200 Pts.
Final Draft:	300 Pts.

Total: 1000 Pts.

**Required Assignments:**

1. As part of the weekly workload, students are required to complete all material for each weekly class section with vigorous analysis, discussion, and writing on the material.
2. The first assignment submission on the course material will be due on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**. All submissions must be made before the exact deadline listed or face point deductions.
3. The course involves a significant amount of autonomous work. This requires discipline to succeed. Furthermore, because of the online format for this course, each week students will engage a substantial amount of wide-ranging materials, including academic scholarship, primary sources, and sometimes interviews or lectures.
4. Every other week, each student will submit a **five to seven paragraph**, cited analytical Précis that replies to critical questions, key arguments and evidence in readings, and synthesizes the importance of any assigned media content (Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10). These online posts should include:
  - a. A summary of all texts for the week (who, what, when, where).
  - b. A reflection on how this reading relates to the broad themes of the course (why important).
  - c. 1-2 reflective questions you would like to discuss with your peers.

Please submit your responses on Canvas in narrative form with complete sentences. It should be typed, double-spaced, proofread, and follow MLA, APA, or Chicago guidelines for formatting citations and bibliographies. Lists and bulleted posts will not receive credit.

5. On alternating weeks, students will record a discussion analyzing specific sources with an assigned group, which will be uploaded to Canvas for a grade (Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11). Professor Young will post guiding questions at least one week prior to the due date. Videos can be created via YouTube for free.
6. Before Week 3, students will identify a research paper topic and submit it to Professor Young for approval. On Week 5, students will submit an abstract and a list of at least seven sources they will use in their major project. On Week 8, students will submit a substantial outline and annotated bibliography of **at least seven credible peer-reviewed sources** they will use in their final.
7. During Week 13 students will circulate a five-page double-spaced paper draft to Professor Young and a student peer reviewer for appraisal (selected at random by the professor). Title pages, abstracts, and references are not included in the page requirement.
8. The 15-page double-spaced final draft of the paper will be due at 11:59pm at **11:59pm on Friday, May 2, 2025**. The paper should include **11 credible peer-reviewed sources**. Title pages, abstracts, and references are not included in the page requirement.

**Final Research Essay:**

The final paper will be an essay on a topic of your choosing that is related to the course. Make sure the essay paper has a clear argument. Writing an abstract (250 – 500 words) and an outline of your paper will help you with this process. Use at least 4 readings from the class.

**Part 1: Brief Bibliography & Abstract of Paper Due February 12<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm.**

Each student must prepare a two-page paper which includes a list of books, journal articles, archival materials (if relevant), newspaper articles, and other important sources about their subject, plus a 150 to 250-word description of the key themes or issues they want to examine about the subject.

**Part 2: Detailed Outline w/ Annotated Bibliography Due March 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm.**

Each student must prepare a detailed outline of their final paper, along with an annotated bibliography of the materials that they are using to prove their argument and/or thesis.

**Part 3: Rough Draft Due April 18<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm.****Part 4: Final Draft Due May 2<sup>nd</sup> by 11:59 p.m.****UNIVERSITY INFORMATION****Disability Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who feel they may have access issues are invited to discuss their concerns with the instructor. They are also urged to contact the Disability Resource Center if they need special assistance or extra time to complete assignments because of their disability and should also contact me privately within the first week of the semester to discuss their situation. Please bring with you the necessary documentation from the Disability Resource Center:

Disability Resource Center  
University of Florida  
Disability Resource Center  
001 Reid Hall

Voice: (352 ) 392-8565  
FL Relay Service: (800) 955-8770  
DRCTesting@ufsa.ufl.edu  
<https://disability.ufl.edu/>

**Title IX Policy:**

The Title IX Policy and its associated guidelines and procedures are designed to ensure a safe and non-discriminatory educational and work environment and to meet the legal requirements set forth in the U.S. Department of Education's Title IX Amendments of 1972. This umbrella policy identifies the behavioral expectations that will meet the goal of establishing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment – free from all forms of gender inequity – for all individuals working, learning, residing, volunteering, and visiting our community. Implicit in this goal, is the expectation that all members of the University community act toward this commitment by promptly reporting any suspected violation of this policy.

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

(Any adjustments to the schedule will be given to students in a timely fashion.)

- ❖ Week 1: January 13 – 17, 2025.
  - Introductions & Course Overview
- ❖ Week 2: January 20 – 24, 2025
  - Definitions: Establishing Themes.

**Précis #1 Due on January 22nd by 11:59pm.**

(2018). *Keywords for African American Studies*. E. R. Edwards, R. A. Ferguson, and J. O.G. Ogbar (Eds.).

- Brown, Jayna. “Body”
- Jackson, Shona N. “Colonialism”
- Manigault-Bryant, LeRhonda S. “Religion”
- McKinney, Charles W. Jr. “Riot”

**Supplemental Reading:**

(1983). Williams, Robert. *A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*.

- Capitalism
- Civilization
- Democracy
- Equality
- Ethnic
- Liberation
- Nationalist
- Racial
- Revolution
- Violence

**PART A: Rebellion.**

- ❖ Week 3: January 27 – 31, 2025.

**Recorded Group Discussion #1 Due on January 29th by 11:59pm.**

- Revolution in the Caribbean: 1804 Haiti & Vodou.
  - Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks*, Chapter 3. “Warriors, Charms, and Loas: Senegambia and the Bight of Benin.”

- (2005). Reinhardt, Thomas. 200 Years of Forgetting: Hushing up the Haitian Revolution. *Journal of Black Studies* 35:4, pp. 246-261.
- (2013). Ramsey, Kate. Vodou, History, and New Narratives. *Transition* 111, pp. 31-41.

❖ Week 4: February 3 – 7, 2025.

**Précis #2 Due on February 5th by 11:59pm.**

- The Middle Passage: Amistad and Water Spirits.
  - Drewal, H.J. “Mami Wata: Arts for Water Spirits in Africa and its Diasporas.”
  - [Video] Floyd, C. F. “The Sibyls - The First Prophetess' of Mami Wata - Mama Zogbe.” Youtube. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RO7u82PJLMg>.
  - Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks*, Chapter 5. “Societies and Stools: Sierra Leone and the Akan.”
  - (2002). PBS. Reel America. Amistad - The Federal Courts and the Challenge to Slavery
  - Vara-Dannen, T. C. “The Limits of White Memory.”

❖ Week 5: February 10 – 14, 2025.

**Recorded Group Discussion #2 Due on February 12<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm.**

**Abstract and a List of at Least Seven Sources Due on February 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:50pm.**

- Africans in Southeastern Louisiana: The 1811 Uprising & Voodoo.
  - (2007). Fandrich, Ina J. Yorùbá Influences on Haitian Vodou and New Orleans Voodoo. *Journal of Black Studies* 37:5, pp. 775-791.
  - (2012). Buman, Nathan. Historiographical Examinations of the 1811 Slave Insurrection. *The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* 53:3, pp. 318-337).

**PART B: Resistance.**

❖ Week 6: February 17 – 21, 2025.

**Précis #3 Due on February 19th by 11:59pm.**

- Geography of Containment.
  - Camp, S.M.H. *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South*.
    - ◆ Chapters 1-2.

❖ Week 7: February 24 – 28, 2025.

**Recorded Group Discussion #3 Due on February 26th by 11:59pm.**

➤ The Politics of the Body.

- Camp, S.M.H. *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South*.
  - ◆ Chapters 3.
- Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks*, Chapter 1. “Vesey’s Challenge.”
- [Video] Sundiata, Rashid. Denmark Vesey – 1822. Youtube. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIPbWjMZ8-E>.

❖ Week 8: March 3 – 7, 2025.

**Précis #4 Due on March 5th by 11:59pm.**

➤ Print Culture. Freedom

- Camp, S.M.H. *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South*.
  - ◆ Chapters 4-5.
- Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks*, Chapter 6. “I Seen Folks Disappeah.”

**PART C: Black Christianity.**

❖ Week 9: March 10 – 14, 2025.

**Recorded Group Discussion #4 Due on February 26th by 11:59pm.**

**Substantial Outline and Annotated Bibliography Due March 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm.**

➤ And Civil Rights.

- Savage, B.D. *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion*.
  - ◆ Chapters 1-3.

❖ Week 10: March 17 – 21, 2025.

**SPRING BREAK**

❖ Week 11: March 24 – 28, 2025.

**Précis #5 Due on March 26th by 11:59pm.**

➤ And Rebellion.

- Savage, B.D. *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion*.

- ◆ Chapters 4-7.

**PART D: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- ❖ Weeks 12 & 13: March 31 – April 11, 2025.

**Recorded Group Discussion #5 Due on April 8th by 11:59pm.**

- And Black Life Eulogies Matter.
  - Ray, B.M. *Black Life Matter: Blackness, Religion, and the Subject*.
    - ◆ Introduction, “Four Black Lives.”
    - ◆ Chapter 1, “Hands and Braids: Black Bodies Are Mere Corporeal Matter.”
    - ◆ Chapter 2, “‘What I Do’: Black Flesh As Living Matter”
    - ◆ Chapter 3, “‘I Am Irritated, I Really Am: Blackness as Affective Matter”
    - ◆ Conclusion, “Black Life Matter.”

- ❖ Week 14: April 14 – 18, 2025.

**Final Essay Rough Draft Due on April 18th by 11:59pm.**

- Workshopping Outlines with Group Members. Open Office Hours.

- ❖ Week 15: April 21 – 23, 2025.

- Workshopping Rough Drafts with Group Members. Open Office Hours.

- ❖ Week 16: April 28 – May 2, 2025.

❖ **LAST DAY OF CLASSES APRIL 23, 2025.**

❖ **READING DAYS BEGIN APRIL 24, 2025.**

❖ **FINAL PAPER DUE MAY 2, 2025.**