

Intro to African American Studies
AFA 2000 – Spring 2020
African American Studies Program – The University of Florida
Dr. Ashley Robertson Preston- Lecturer

Office Hours & Location: Virtual Office Hours MW 3:00-4:30 pm (Canvas)

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An integrated interdisciplinary exploration of selected themes and representative materials in the African American experience in North America, emphasizing continuity and change. (H) (WR) 4000.

COURSE GOAL: The goal of this course is to critically examine some of the key concepts, theories, issues, people, moments and events related to the African American experience in North America.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The experience of Africans in America and the Diaspora has been broad and deep. Our study of that experience will begin in Africa, the birthplace of civilization and humanity. It will focus on the Black experience in North America and incorporate elements of the African Diaspora.. We will take an interdisciplinary approach to explore some of the political, cultural, economic, artistic and social themes that have influenced the construction of Black American realities in the past and present. Class sessions will consist of lectures, discussions, debates, powerpoint presentations, media clips, and attendance at an outside lecture or panel discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will 1) gain a general introduction to the origins of African American Studies 2) learn about some of the theories and theorists of African American Studies 3) be exposed to interdisciplinary approaches to the study of African American people, experiences, beliefs, cultures and conditions. 4) demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts common in discourse about African Americans, 5) be able to present a general historical overview of the history of African Americans 6) be exposed to some of the contemporary socio-cultural issues facing African Americans, 7) enhance critical analysis and research skills.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOK & ARTICLES: Franklin, John Hope and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. (2011). *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (9th Ed.). NY, NY: McGraw Hill.

REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION AT A GLANCE:

Module Discussions 25%

Critical Reflection Papers 35%

Midterm Quiz/Final Quiz 15%

Research Paper 25%

REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION:

Module Discussions :

Students will be expected to watch the lectures, read and develop a critical analysis to the module discussion questions. All discussion questions and responses will be posted to Canvas.

Critical Reflection Papers:

There will be four reflection papers this semester. **Each paper should be a minimum of 500 words.** These reaction papers are to critically reflect on some aspect of the readings done usually over a few week's period. Essays should examine issues that run across more than one text. Students are free to express their personal reactions and to write autobiographically; however, personal opinions and experiences should be informed by the conceptual and empirical substance of the assigned and recommended readings. Although quotes from the readings can be used please do not fill the paper with long quotes. For more information check out this article:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/rwc/handouts/the-writing-process-1/invention/Writing-a-Response-or-Reaction-Paper>

Midterm & Final Quiz

Quizzes will cover class readings, lectures, discussions, and any additional films. They will consist of short (essay) items and will be submitted online.

Research Paper:

Research and write a 5 - 8 page, **minimum of 1250 words** (this does not include your title and reference page) paper on your pre-proposed topic. The paper must include cited references from scholarly journals, books and newspapers. Below are 6 topics that can be chosen:

Dr. Carter G. Woodson & Black History Month
Historically Black Colleges and Universities
The Black Studies Movement
The Back to Africa Movement
Black Athletes and Social Justice
Police Violence and African Americans

Module Discussion Due Dates

1/12
1/26
2/9
2/23
3/11
3/22
4/5
4/19

Critical Reflection Papers

1/13
2/10
3/12
4/20

Midterm Quiz

2/24

Final Quiz
4/27

****The midterm & final will be posted a week before the due date****

Research Paper Due
3/27

Grading Scale

A 100-94, A-: 90-93

B+: 87-89, B: 84-86, B-: 80-83

C+: 77-79, C: 74-76, C-: 70-73

D+: 67-69, D: 64-66, D-: 60-64

F: below 60

University of Florida Honor Code

In this course, a student who is discovered plagiarizing on **any assignment** will automatically receive a grade of zero (0) for that assignment and the assignment cannot be redone to obtain a different grade on the plagiarized assignment. A second incidence of plagiarism will result in automatic failure of the course. If on any of the assignments you quote directly from the textbook or readings without attributing them to the source, you will receive a zero. For further details on the issue of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, see the Student Conduct and Honor Code available on UF's website at: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

According to UF's Student Conduct & Honor Code, plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: "1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. 2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student."

Students with Disabilities

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure at the beginning of the semester. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

Communication

Allow 24 hours for replies to emails. This may be extended to 72 hours if the email is left over a weekend or holiday. Be sure to read the syllabus and the instructions again before sending an email. Lastly, be as descriptive as possible in the subject line of the email.

Makeup Policies/Late Work

No late assignments will be accepted. Please take note of the due dates at the beginning of the semester! **When submitting work online please be sure to double check that the assignment has been properly submitted. Any corrupted files that are submitted will automatically receive a 0%** It is your responsibility to make sure that assignments are on time. Please do not send anything to me by email. Canvas is the only acceptable submission portal.

Evaluation of all Assignments Criteria

1) Quality, scope and organization of documentation; 2) Clarity and coherence of expression; 3) Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation; 4) Quality of critical analysis; 5) Demonstration of an understanding of information and concepts addressed in the readings and/or discussed in class; 6) Following directions and completing assignments on time. See Grading rubric for specified distribution of points. UF has an online writing for students Visit their site at <http://web.cwoc.ufl.edu/owl>

Required Textbook Franklin, John Hope and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. (2011). *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (9th Ed.). NY, NY: McGraw Hill.

General Education Learning Outcomes AFA 2000 is a 4000 (approximately 16-18 pages) word Gordon Rule course which satisfies the General Education requirements for Humanities (H). You must complete and turn in at least 4000 words of evaluated writing during the semester in order to receive credit. You must earn a grade of "C" or better to earn general education credit.

MODULE 1 (January 6-12)

Course Overview & Introduction to African American Studies

Intro to Afro-American Studies: A Peoples College Primer Chapter 1
<http://www.eblackstudies.org/intro/chapter1.htm>

"The Struggle and Dream of Black Studies" Carlene Young (Via UF Online Library Database)

"Africology, Black studies, African American Studies, Africana Studies, or African World Studies? What's So Important about a Given Name?" Victor Oguejiofor Okafor, Ph.D
<http://www.jpanafrican.org/docs/vol6no7/6.7-9Okafor.pdf>

African American Studies at UF

African American Studies History <https://afam.clas.ufl.edu/history/>

Virgil Hawkins and the Fight to Integrate the University of Florida Law School
<https://www.floridamemory.com/blog/2014/06/25/virgil062514/>

"UF in 1958: I was the first black student" *Orlando Sentinel*

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-first-black-student-at-uf-shares-story-20170915-story.html>

Molefi Kete Asante Speaks on the African American PhD Program at Temple University
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNck7m5jjxw&t=1s>

MODULE 2 (January 13-26)

African Origins

Chapter 1

Mansa Musa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3YJMaL55TM>

Chapter 2

Read selected pages of chapter 7 of *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South* by Michael Gomez
(The E-Book is available on the UF Database)

The African Diaspora & Slavery

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Florida Frontiers TV - Episode 9 - Fort Mose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYybsYkju9M>

MODULE 3 (January 27-February 9)

Building Communities of Resistance

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Read "The Dark Side of Thomas Jefferson" by Henry Wiencek

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-dark-side-of-thomas-jefferson-35976004/>

Slavery & Abolitionism

Chapter 7

Chapter 9

Harriet Tubman: Bound for the Promised Land

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ0tmNfgB7A>

MODULE 4 (February 10-23)

Civil War & Reconstruction

Chapter 10

Watch: Voices of the Civil War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE3UeGncxDM>

Watch: Behind the Emancipation Proclamation

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/behind-the-emancipation-proclamation/>

Chapter 11

Jim Crow & Self Determination

Chapter 12

Read: Ida B. Wells: The Unsung Heroine of the Civil Rights Movement

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/27/ida-b-wells-civil-rights-movement-reporter>

Chapter 13

MODULE 5 (February 24-March 11)

Pursuing Democracy & The New Negro Movement

Chapter 14

Read: “The Harlem Renaissance” by Cary D. Wintz

<https://www.humanitiestexas.org/news/articles/harlem-renaissance-what-was-it-and-why-does-it-matter>

Chapter 15

Selected pages from *Philosophies and Opinions of Marcus Garvey*

Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g_RfSh7Uqg&t=1158s

The New Deal Era, Double V for Victory & The Influence of Mary McLeod Bethune

Chapter 17

Chapter 18

Read: “Three women to thank for Tuskegee Airmen existence”

<https://www.march.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/167712/three-women-to-thank-for-tuskegee-airmen-existence/>

MODULE 6 (March 12-22)

The Long Civil Rights Movement

Read excerpts from “Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It” by Jo Ann Robinson

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai3/protest/text5/robinsonbusboycott.pdf>

Eyes On The Prize - (Part 2) Fighting Back 1957–1962

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D5xwC6M_Gk

Chapter 20

Read “Bigger Than a Hamburger” by Ella Baker

<http://www.crmvet.org/docs/sncc2.htm>

Read “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” by Dr. Martin Luther King

https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

Read “This Nonviolent Stuff Ain’t No Good. It’ll Get Ya Killed.”

http://www.teachingforchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Crosby-this_nonviolent_stuff.pdf

Eyes On The Prize (Part 4): No Easy Walk (1962-1966) America's Civil Rights Movement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YYaaEffMFk>

Module 7 (March 23-April 5)

The Black Power Movement

Chapter 21

Read: "Lowndes County and the Voting Rights Act" by Hasan Kwame Jeffries

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/lowndes-county-and-the-voting-rights-act/>

Read "Beyond Berets: The Black Panthers as Health Activists"

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5024403/>

Read "Children can't learn on an empty stomach": The Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast Program

By Husain Lateef & David Androff

Vanguard of the Revolution- The Real Story of the Black Panther Party

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6qb27VJzDY>

Module 8 (April 6-19)

Perspectives on the Present

The New Jim Crow

Michelle Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow" - 2013 George E. Kent Lecture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gln1JwDUI64>

Dr. Preston's Module Lectures

Module 1 - The Black Studies Movement

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/aa68ffd6c6f14e51afbf630e11c657bc1d>

Module 2 - Establishing North American Slavery

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/c3f57efdead849708fff4bb3cadea4f01d>

Module 3 - Building Communities in the Early Republic

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/41fd0361cd044b2da4222bc767f6e5fb1d>

Module 4 - The Confederate States of America

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/b41e3f2a7e0c4f11b3f5408467cd07771d>

Module 5 - Intro to African American Studies

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/5ae8e1e4ae1a46ca996a2cc297bc06a01d>

Module 6 - The Women of Movement

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/1d443ba8e3b94beb91756b432b265dfd1d>

Module 7 - The Transformation of Malcolm X

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/d1c0984eb3a04655922445a51df683e11d>

Module 8 – The New Jim Crow

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/48072f164a104a1c9e3ec7794ee6df4e1d>

****PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SYLLABUS IS A GUIDE FOR THE COURSE. DR. PRESTON RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE SYLLABUS AT ANYTIME.****