

Fall 2015

African-American History to 1900

Hist 170/170W/AAS 141/141W

Classroom: 224 Meliora

Time: Monday and Wednesday 6:15pm-7:30pm.

Instructor: Hudson

Room 460 Rush Rhees Library

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 4:30pm-5:30pm.

Or by appointment

Tel: 275 4557

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We begin our survey of African-American life and culture in fifteen-century Saharan Africa. After examining the primary features of pre-European African society, we will assess the disruptions triggered by European arrival. A discussion of the "Middle Passage"--the transportation of enslaved Africans to North America, and the Africans' adjustment to their new environment will compose the first section of the course. We will then focus on the process of "Americanization" as the Africans became African Americans. The struggle for freedom and citizenship will conclude our survey.

The main course readings will be selected from autobiographies by Africans and African Americans, supplemented with some brief selections from secondary texts. Using the autobiographies as historical source material, we will examine the presentations of African-American's values and cultural practices, and the ways in which African Americans adapted to and shaped American life, culture, and society.

Course Requirements: Three Class Papers of 2-3 sides (30%); 2 Class Tests (20%); Participation & Presentations (10%); Research paper 5-6 pages (30%); and a Take Home Final (10%).

Due Dates: Paper one (Mon. 21 Sept.); Paper Two (14 Oct.); Paper Three (2 Nov.) Class Tests (TBA); Research Paper (7 Dec.) (Electronic and hard copies required for all written assignments).

A Word on Note Taking and Research:

As the material from the Assigned Text(s) (supplemented where necessary by the Additional Readings) will inform our discussions throughout the course, as well as constitute the major sources on which you will draw for your Class and Research Papers, you will need to keep clear and detailed notes from all your reading.

For your Information:

The faculty of the Department of History considers class attendance essential to the mastering of the content of its courses and the production of quality history papers. Students who have to miss class should inform the instructor of the reason for their absence, in advance whenever possible.

In addition, students should come to class prepared to comment on and discuss the Assigned Readings.

If you have a physical or mental disability that requires an accommodation or academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with me at your earliest convenience.

Reading Assignments will be drawn primarily from the following Assigned Texts:

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave & Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Intro by Kwame Anthony Appiah, Modern Library, 2000

Booker T. Washington, Up From Slavery: An Autobiography

Darlene Clark Hine, William C. Hine, and Harold Stanley (editors), African Americans: A Concise History, (5th. Edition Paperback 2015)

Classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday

Week One Monday 31 August

Introduction and Course Objectives

Names and Naming Exercise

Week Two Reading Assignments:

[E. H. Carr](#), What is History? Chaps. 1-2 (Blackboard). Hard Copies are also available on Reserve.

Week Two (Wed) 9 Sept.

History, Historians and the Problems of History

Week Three Reading Assignments:

Darlene Clark Hine, William C. Hine, and Harold Stanley (editors), African Americans: A Concise History, chap. 1

First Class Paper Prep.

First Assignment: Problems, obstacles to writing History (Due 21 Sept. in class. See Handout)

Week Three Mon. 14 Sept. Writing African American History

Week Four Reading Assignments:

Olaudah Equiano, The Life of Olaudah Equiano (chaps. 1-2)

Hine et al, African Americans, chap. 2

Week Four Mon. 21 Sept. Equiano's Africa

First Class Paper due 21 Sept.

Week Five Reading Assignments:

A] Hine, et al, African Americans, chaps. 3-5

B] Hine, et al, African Americans, chaps. 6-8

(Handout: First Class Test Prep List)

Week Five Mon. 28 Sept. African-American Life and Culture

First Class Test Wed 30 Sept

Week Six Reading Assignment:

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Week Six (Wed 7) Oct Douglass: Representative Black Man

Week Seven Reading Assignment:

A] Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

B] Hine, et al, African Americans, chap. 9

C] [John Blassingame](#), "Status and Social Structure in the Slave Community: Evidence from New Sources," pages 137-151

(Second Class Paper Two-The World of Frederick Douglass--due 14 Oct. in class. See Handout)

Fall Break

Week Seven 12 Oct. Douglass the Historian: What does he wish to teach us?

Week Eight Reading Assignment:

A] Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (chaps. 1-7)

B] Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (chaps. 8-16)

Week Eight Mon. 19 Oct Women in Slavery and Freedom

Week Nine Reading Assignment:

A] Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (chaps. 17-22)

B] Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (chaps. 23-30)

Week Nine Mon. 26 Oct. Women, Work and Family

Week Ten Reading Assignment:

A] Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

B] Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Third Class Paper—A Gendered Slavery—due Mon 2 Nov. See Handout

Week Ten Mon. 2 Nov. Race, Class, Gender, and Status in the Black Community

Week Eleven Reading Assignment:

(Second Class Test Prep. List) (Second Class Test Mon Nov 9)

A] Hine, et al, African Americans, chaps. 10-11

B] Hine, et al, African Americans, chap. 12-13

Week Eleven Mon. 9 Nov. War on Slavery

Week Twelve Reading Assignment:

Booker T. Washington, Up From Slavery

Hine, et al, African Americans, chap. 14

Week Twelve Mon 16 Nov. "Freedom alone ain't worth much"

Week Thirteen Reading Assignment:

Washington, Up From Slavery

Hine, et al, African Americans, chap. 15

Week Thirteen Mon. 23 Nov. Douglass, Washington and their Critics

Week Fourteen Reading Assignment:

Washington, Up From Slavery

Hine, et al, African Americans, chap. 16

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25-29

Week Fourteen Mon 30 Nov.

Research Paper Prep

Week Fifteen Mon. 7 Dec.

Research Paper Due

(Re)Presentation(s) of the African-American Past

Presentations (Short summary of Research Paper)

Take Home Final Handout—due 9 Dec.

Last Class Wed 9 Dec.

Additional Readings:

Writing and Footnoting Guide: [Quick and Dirty Guide to Effective Prose](#)

Olaudah Equiano , The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, Written by Himself

Graham Russell Hodges, .Slavery and Freedom in the Rural North: African Americans in Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1665-1865, chap. 4.

[John Blassingame](#), "Status and Social Structure in the Slave Community: Evidence from New Sources," pages 137-151

Susie King Taylor, Reminiscences of my Life in Camp with the 33D United States Colored Troops Late 1st. South Carolina Volunteers

John Thornton, Africans In America in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800

