

	Course	HIST 4357 – Survey of African American History
	Professor	Natalie Ring
	Term	Fall 2014
	Meetings	MW 1:00-2:15

Contact Information

Phone: 972-883-2365

E-mail: nring@utdallas.edu

Office: JO 5.424

Hours: Wednesday 4:30-6:30 or by appointment

Course Description

This survey course examines the African-American experience in the United States from 1619 through the present. Prominent themes include the origins of slavery and racism; the consolidation of antebellum slavery after the American Revolution; the end of the Civil War and the beginning of Reconstruction; the Jim Crow South; black life in the urban North and the development of the modern Civil Rights Movement and its aftermath.

Course Objectives

1. Use historical evidence from first-hand accounts and primary documents to interpret and elucidate significant developments in African American history.
2. Identify and evaluate the modes of resistance and movements for civil rights within the African American community in the United States.
3. Analyze and explain the nature of the relationship of African Americans to the federal government.

Required Books

The following texts can be purchased at Off Campus Books, 561 West Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080 or at the on campus bookstore. Off Campus Books usually has a large supply of used books.

1. Clayborne Carson, *The Struggle for Freedom: A History of African Americans, Concise Edition, Combined Volume* (Pearson, 2012) ISBN # 978-0205832408
2. Frederick Douglass, David Blight ed., *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave, Written by Himself*, 2nd edition (Bedford St. Martin, 2002) ISBN # 978-0312257378
3. Richard Wright, *Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth* (Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2008) ISBN # 978-0061130243
4. Chana Kai Lee, *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer* (University Illinois Press, 2000) ISBN # 978-0252069369
5. Elaine Brown, *A Taste of Power* (Anchor Books, 1993) ISBN # 978-0385471077

Required Primary Documents

Primary documents will be handed out in class by the professor the week before they are assigned to read. You will note on the syllabus when they are required reading. These will be short documents, totaling no more than 5-10 pages for the week.

Semester ScheduleWeek 1

- M Aug. 25 Introduction to Course
- W Aug. 27 **The Transatlantic Slave Trade**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 1-2

Week 2

- M Sept. 1 **No class – Labor Day**
- W Sept. 3 **Racial Slavery in the Early Colonies**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 3

Week 3

- M Sept. 8 **Racial Slavery in the 18th Century**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 4
- W Sept. 10 **The Age of Revolution**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 5

Week 4

- M Sept. 15 **Racial Slavery Expands West and Deeper South**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 6
- W Sept. 17 **Slave Community and Slave Resistance**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 7-8

Week 5

- M Sept. 22 **The Abolitionist Movement**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 9
- W Sept. 24 **Frederick Douglass and Anti-Slavery Sentiment**
Reading: *Autobiography of Frederick Douglass*

Week 6

- M Sept. 29 **The Civil War and the Struggle for Freedom**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 10
- W Oct. 1 **Emancipation**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 11

Week 7

- M Oct. 6 **EXAM # 1**

W Oct. 8 **Mobilization During Reconstruction**
 Reading: Carson, chpt. 12; Documents handed out in class week 6

Week 8

M Oct. 13 **The Rise of the Jim Crow South**
 Reading: Wright, *Black Boy*, pp. 1-258

W Oct. 15 **Richard Wright's Experience in the South and North**
 Reading: Wright, *Black Boy*, pp. 259-384

Week 9

M Oct. 20 **W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington**
 Reading: Documents handed out in class week 8

W Oct. 22 **Racial Uplift Ideology**
 Reading: Carson, chpt. 13
 Guest visitor: Prof. Jennifer Jensen Wallach, Univ. North Texas

Week 10

M Oct. 27 **WW I and the Great Migration**
 Reading: Carson, chpt. 14

W Oct. 29 **The "New Negro" and the Harlem Renaissance**
 Reading: Documents handed out in class week 10

Week 11

M Nov. 3 **The Great Depression, World War II, and**
 Reading: Carson, chpt. 15-16; Documents handed out in class week 10

W Nov. 5 **The Beginning of a Civil Rights Movement**
 Reading: Carson, chpt. 17-18

Week 12

M Nov. 10 Film: *Freedom Riders*

Week 14

M Nov. 24 **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**

W Nov. 26 **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**

Week 15

M Dec. 1 **Elaine Brown and the Black Panther Party**
Read: Brown, *A Taste of Power*

W Dec. 3 **The New Right Era and Retrenchment**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 20-21

Week 16

M Dec. 8 **Is the Post-Civil Rights Era Really Post-Racial?**
Reading: Carson, chpt. 22; Documents handed out in class week 15

W Dec. 10 **EXAM #2**

Course Requirements

You must complete all of the assignments in order to pass the class. You will be evaluated on your attendance, your participation in discussion, two exams, and a paper.

Exams

The exams will be comprised of short essay questions that involve connecting I.D.'s. in an analytical fashion (identifications are listed in the outline on the powerpoint presentations) Exams will be based on the lectures and the readings.

Paper

There are three possible paper topics. You may choose the one you wish to write on: either Frederick Douglass's *Autobiography*, Richard Wright's *Black Boy* or Elaine Brown's *A Taste of Power*. Sometime during week 2 you will be asked to inform the professor which paper assignment you will complete and then receive the prompt. You are required to submit a hard copy of the paper to the professor the day it is due as well as submit it to

www.turnitin.com

Course Policies

Notes on forms of address: It is appropriate and respectful to refer to your professors by the title "Professor" or "Doctor" as in "Professor Ring" or "Dr. Ring," though in some circles the latter denotes someone with an MD rather than a PhD. It is generally inappropriate to refer to your professor as "Mr." or "Ms./Mrs./Miss."

Laptops: Computers will not be allowed in class. Permission is granted only if you have official documentation of a disability. Exceptions may be made under extenuating circumstances if you sit in the front row of the classroom and speak to the professor on the first day of the course.

Electronic Devices: All cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and stowed before class begins. There will be no use of electronic devices in the classroom, either during lectures or films. If you are caught using one you will not get credit for attending class that day.

Classroom Protocol: It is important that you arrive to class ON TIME. Late arrivals are distracting to the professor and the students.

Power Point Presentations: You will have access to all of the Power Point presentations used during lectures. Power Point presentations of the lectures will be available to students on eLearning typically no later than 1 week after the lecture.

If you have any further questions please feel free to ask. Enjoy the semester!

Grading Policy

Course breakdown:

Course attendance	10%
Exam #1	30%
Paper	30%
Exam #2	30%

Grading Scale:

98-100 – A+
93-97 – A
90-92 – A-
87-89 – B+
83-86 – B
80-82 – B-
77-79 – C+
73-76 – C

80-89 (B)	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with readings.
70-79 (C)	Student who is profiting from his/her university experience; understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
60-69 (D)	Some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.
0-59 (F)	Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; with limited or irrelevant use of literature.

(Source: University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science 2008-2009 Calendar)

The above descriptions, timelines, requirements, and regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

University policies and procedures relevant to this course can be found at:
<http://catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/undergraduate/policies>