

**History 4001/History 6950: African American History
Fall Semester 2014**

Nat. & Behav. Sciences Bldg / Room 143
T/TH 3:35-4:50

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Course Overview

The history of African peoples in the United States has largely been a chronicle of strivings for liberation, inclusion, social and economic justice and political participation. Much of this story represents Black people's desires to retain their racial identity and autonomy, to build community and create a sense of nationalism. Thus, this course examines the lives, labors and culture of Africans during enslavement and their struggle for freedom. We will begin by exploring the process of, and justification for, African enslavement by focusing on the structure of slavery in the United States, and the varied conditions for Black people in the North and South. Students will be introduced to the legacy of African heritage in the development of Black cultural institutions and we will explore the role of Africanity in community development and methods of resistance.

This course also examines the conditions of free Blacks, and emphasizes their quest for social and political inclusion. Further, we will discuss the ways in which free Blacks protested against the racism in the United States by forming organizations, building institutions, and debating and employing various emigration schemes. We will conclude the first half of this course by examining topics such as the Civil War and Reconstruction and we will focus upon the ramifications of the Emancipation Proclamation and the participation of Black soldiers.

The last half of this course explores the struggles of Black people attempting to reconstruct their lives in the wake of slavery and assess and solve the social, political and economic dilemmas facing them. Students will be introduced to the legacy of Black protest and the development of Black cultural institutions in the Nadir and the twentieth century. In particular, we will explore issues concerning community development, uplift ideology, Black nationalism, The Civil Rights Movement, gender issues, Black Power ideology, and topics concerning modern Black America. Students in this course will learn how all of these issues represent the larger narratives in which Black people have fought and survived in the United States.

Course Requirements

This course will mix lectures with course readings in an effort to generate in class discussion, prepare students for assignments, and stimulate critical and independent thinking that students can use to participate in a classroom project. It is imperative that students attend class and come having read the assigned reading for the week. In class discussion and questions are essential to our class format. All work turned in must be a student's own. Plagiarism or any other form of

academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the University.

If arriving in class late or if you have intentions of leaving class early, please take the seat nearest the exit.

Students are expected to carry themselves in the professional and personal manner outlined by the Student Handbook.

No assignments will be accepted via email. All assignments must be handed in during class. All assignments must be typed. Hand written assignments are unacceptable.

Late assignments are not acceptable. Students attempting to hand in late work should expect a reduced grade.

POLICY CONCERNING ATTENDANCE: Students arriving to class more than 20 minutes after class is scheduled to begin will be marked absent for the day. If you know you will be late due to another class, official business you need to conduct on campus, or extenuating circumstances, you will need to provide a documented excuse.

Grading (for undergraduates)

4 quizzes	20% (5% each)
2 book reviews	30% (15% each)
Discussion	10% (grade is based on readings, handouts, & lectures)
Attendance	10% (after 4 absences, a student will lose the full attendance grade)
Activism Project	30%

Grading (for graduate students only)

4 Book Reviews	60% (15% each)
Discussion	10%
Final Paper	30%

ACTIVISM PROJECT: There is perhaps no other action that defines the history of black people in America than protest. Much of that activism was generated by college-educated youth. This semester, you will be required to participate in or generate your own protest and relate that project to the course material and historical narrative of black people in this country. **Students will be assigned to groups and will be required to report your experience to the class at the end of the semester. This project will constitute your final exam grade for the class. More details and requirements will follow.**

Required Texts (for undergraduate class)

Hine, Harrold, and Hine. *African Americans: A Concise History, Combined Volume (5th edition)*

Kidada Williams, *They Left Great Marks on Me: African American Testimonies of Racial Violence From Emancipation to World War I*

Derrick White, *The Challenge of Blackness: The Institute of the Black World and Political Activism in the 1970s*

Required Texts (for graduate students only)

Robin D. G. Kelley and Earl Lewis, *To Make Our World Anew: A History of African Americans*

Peter Wood, *Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina From 1670 Through the Stono Rebellion*

Leslie Alexander, *African or American? Black Identity and Political Activism in New York City, 1784-1861*

Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*

Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism*

All books can be found in the University Bookstore

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

August 19 - Course Introduction

The Depths of Our Souls: The Rape of Africa and the Middle Passage

Aug. 21 – Aug. 28: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 1 & 2

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 1

The Rise of Race: Slavery in Colonial America

Sept. 2 – Sept. 9: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 3 & 4

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 2

Renewed in Blood: Slavery and the American Revolution

Sept. 11 – Sept. 16: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 5

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 3

“Water from the Rock”: Resistance and Rebellion Against Slavery

Sept. 18 – Sept. 25: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 6 & 7

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 4 pg. 169-198

*****GRAD STUDENTS BOOK REVIEW #1 DUE SEPT. 25*****

“Let Your Motto Be Resistance”: The Fall of the Peculiar Institution

Sept. 30 – Oct. 7: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 8,9, & 10

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 4 pg. 199-226

“Without Sanctuary”: Reconstruction and Racial Violence in America
Oct. 9 – Oct. 21: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 11,12, &13

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 5

LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS WITH A “W”

OCT. 10th

NO CLASS OCTOBER 13th & 14th

The Problem of the 20th Century: The Nadir of American Race Relations
Oct. 23 – Oct. 28: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 14 & 15

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 6

GRAD STUDENTS BOOK REVIEW #2 DUE OCT. 23rd

Book Review #1 DUE Oct. 28

In Pursuit of True Democracy: Black Protest in the Early 20th Century
Oct. 30 – Nov. 4: *AA: ACH* Chpt . 16 & 17

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 7 pg. 345-388

We Too Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance & The Black Depression
Nov. 6 – Nov. 11: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 18 & 19

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 7 pg. 388-408 & Chpt. 8

GRAD STUDENTS BOOK REVIEW #3 DUE NOV. 11th

Shaking Up the World: The Rise of the Modern Civil Rights Movement
Nov. 13 – Nov. 25: *AA:ACH* Chpt. 20 & 21

To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 9

****NO CLASSES ON THU. & FRI. NOV. 27th & 28th IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING****

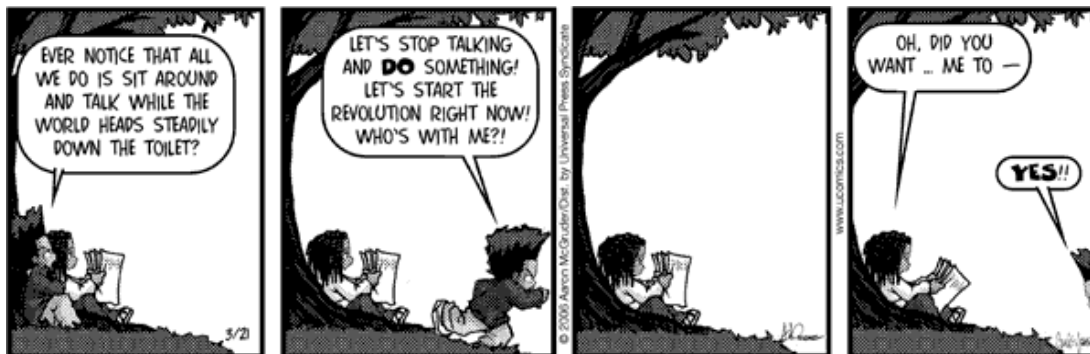
Where Do We Go From Here: The Inheritance of the Hip Hop Generation
Dec. 2 – Dec. 4: *AA: ACH* Chpt. 22 & 23

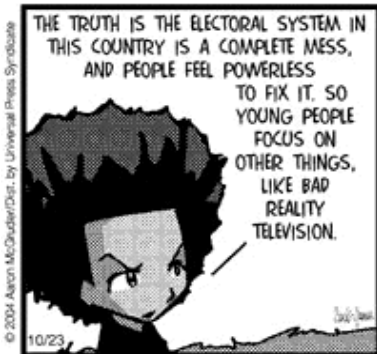
To Make Our World Anew, Chpt. 10

BOOK REVIEW #2 DUE DEC. 2nd

GRAD STUDENTS BOOK REVIEW #4 DUE DEC. 4th

FINAL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE COLLECTED AND DELIVERED ON THE FINAL EXAM DATE.





CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS MAY OCCUR DURING THE SEMESTER. STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE.

Courage • Honesty • Enlightenment • Dialogue