Introduction to African American History, Part II: Reconstruction to Black Power

History 251                Spring 2012
Mon/Wed 10-11:20AM

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Stuckey 177 Lawrence Hall

Contact information: Office Hours:
mstuckey@uoregon.edu M/W 12:30-1:30PM
Office: 323 McKenzie Hall or by appointment

GTFs: Lucas Burke lburke@uoregon.edu
Hillary Maxson hmaxson@uoregon.edu
Regan Watjus rwatjus@uoregon.edu

Course Description
This course surveys the history of African people and their descendants in the U.S. from Reconstruction to Black Power. Topics include activism, migration, urbanization, culture, gender, and family structure. We will read the work of historians and primary documents from the periods of study. We will focus, in particular, on the efforts African Americans have made to fully participate in American society.

Course Objectives
To learn the history of black Americans during this period;

To debate issues based on evidence (primary and secondary sources);

To improve writing skills;

To think critically about identity and “community.”

General method of instruction
Lectures and discussions.

Recommended preparation
Willingness to read carefully, to discuss earnestly, and write and revise.

Class assignments and grading
This class is a combination of lecture and discussion. Lectures will provide background, while readings and discussions will focus on details and debates; discussions (based on readings) will be held in discussion sections. Students will be graded on their participation in discussion, two tests, a comprehensive final exam, and a short research paper.
GTFs and Discussion Sections
Discussion sections will be run by Graduate Teaching Fellows Lucas Burke, Hillary Maxson, and Regan Watjus. They are part of my teaching team and responsible for grading all written work, exams, papers, and class participation. Your GTFs and I will work together to ensure fair grading across all of the sections. They are your first point of contact with any and all questions related to discussion sections and grades. Learn your GTF’s name and stay in communication with her or him during the term.

Course Requirements and Grading
Class Participation 15%
Test 1 10%  
Test 2 15%
Final Exam 30%
Primary Source based paper 30%

Readings
Required Texts
--Quintard Taylor, Jr., From Timbuktu to Katrina: Readings in African-American History, Vol. 2
--Course Packet

All readings will also be available on reserve in the library.

Class Participation Discussion sections work best when everyone thoughtfully prepares for them and participates. I expect each of you to contribute to the learning community of your discussion section.

Note Taking You are required take notes on the lectures and readings. These notes must be kept in a bound notebook or three-ring binder which you are required to bring to every class meeting. Laptop users must sit in the first row and must use their computers only for taking notes. Using your laptop in class is a privilege and will be taken away if abused.

Assignments
Final Paper All students will write a 5-6 page research paper using articles from the black newspaper the Chicago Defender as your primary source. During the term we will do several exercises using the Defender in preparation for this assignment and you will receive more detailed directions on writing the paper later in the term.

Class Rules and Policies

Attendance It is important that you attend every class session, both lectures and discussion sections. Attendance will be taken in sections and if necessary in lecture and will be factored into your participation grade.

Email All email communications will be sent to your University of Oregon email address. Please use only your university email address when contacting me. I will not respond the messages sent via commercial email accounts (i.e. Gmail or Yahoo). Reminder: Your GTF is your first point of contact for all questions related to discussion sections and grades.

Late work Late work will not be accepted unless there are documentable extenuating circumstances, i.e. a doctor’s note.

Assignments All assignments must be typed, double spaced, and in Times New Roman font, with standard margins.

Academic Integrity Unless otherwise specified, all assignments, presentations, and examinations are to be completed independently.

Plagiarism is using others’ ideas and/or words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. Plagiarism with result in failure of the course and will be reported. This includes purchasing lecture notes. ASK me or GTF if you have any questions. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Classroom Decorum In this classroom people and ideas are respected. Interrupting and other outbursts will not be tolerated. Please turn your cell phones off prior to the start of class. Absolutely no internet surfing, text messaging, Tweeting, Facebooking, Myspacing, Friendstering, iChatting, G-chatting, Skyping, Instant Messaging, or use of any other form of social media is allowed. Those using computers to take notes must sit in the first row of the lecture hall. The recording of lectures is not permitted without demonstrated medical need. There is to be no eating in class, however beverages are acceptable.

Disability Statement The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability related barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as
possible. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu.

This syllabus is subject to modification with notice as necessary.

Week 1  Introduction
April 2  Course Introduction and African Americans and the Civil War
April 4  Reconstruction

Required Readings (Read week 1, discuss in week 2 section):
The Struggle for Freedom, Chapter 11
From Timbuktu to Katrina, Vol. 1, Chapter 7 (Course Packet)


Week 2  Black Reconstruction
April 9  Reconstruction cont. and “Redemption”
April 11  “Redemption”

Required Reading (Read week 2, discuss in week 3 section):
The Struggle for Freedom, Chapter 12

Paper Assignment: Explore the Chicago Defender. To be completed before your section and discussed in section Week 3. See handout for instructions.

Week 3  The Nadir
April 16  The Color Line
April 18  Anyplace but here

Required Reading (Read week 3, discuss in week 4 section):
The Struggle for Freedom, Chapter 13
From Timbuktu to Katrina, Vol. 1, Chapter 8 (Course Packet)

Week 4  The Era of Self Help
April 23
April 25 In class test 1
Required Reading (Read week 4, discuss in week 5 section):
*The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 14
*From Timbuktu to Katrina*, Vol. 2, Chapter 1
“Secret Life of Booker T. Washington”

**Week 5**  
**World War I**  
April 30  
May 2  

Required Reading (Read week 5, discuss in week 6 section):
*The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 15  

**Paper Assignment:** Choose a paper topic and *Chicago Defender* articles. Due to GTF April 30 in class. See handout for instructions.

**Week 6**  
**The Great Migration and the Arts**  
May 7  
May 9  

Required Reading (Read week 6, discuss in week 7 section):
*The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 16  
*From Timbuktu to Katrina*, Vol. 2, Chapter 2  

**Week 7**  
**Great Depression and New Deal**  
May 14  
May 16  

In class test 2

Required Reading (Read week 7, discuss in week 8 section):
*The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 17  
*From Timbuktu to Katrina*, Vol. 2, Chapter 3  

**Week 8**  
**World War II Era**  
May 21  
Double V for Victory  
May 23  
Strains of Civil Rights (Guest Lecturer)
Required Readings (Read week 8, discuss in week 9 section):
*The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 18
*From Timbuktu to Katrina*, Vol. 2, Chapter 4

**Paper Assignment:** Draft first paragraph and outline rest of paper. Due to GTF May 21 in class. See handout for instructions.

**Week 9**  
**The Modern Civil Rights Movement**
May 28  No class, Memorial Day
May 30

Required Readings (Read week 9, discuss in week 10 section):
*The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 19
*From Timbuktu to Katrina* Vol. 2, Chapter 5

**Paper Assignment:** Full draft due to GTF in section.

**Week 10**  
**Black Power (tentative)**
June 4  
June 6  
Readings TBD

**Final Paper due to GTF on Friday June 8, 2012 by 3PM.**

**Exam week**  
Final Exam Monday June 11 10:15AM