Introduction to African American History, Part II: Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement

History 251  
Winter 2015  
Mon/Wed 4-5:20PM

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Stuckey  
129 McKenzie Hall

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Office: 323 McKenzie Hall

Office Hours:  
M/W 2:00-3:00PM  
or by appointment

GTF: Lucas Burke  
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Course Description
This course surveys the history of African people and their descendants in the U.S. from Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement. 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 develop primary source research skills

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 discussion section participation, message board participation, two in-class tests, one take home essay, and a short research paper.
GTFs and Discussion Sections
Discussion sections will be run by Graduate Teaching Fellow Lucas Burke. He is part of my teaching team and responsible for grading all written work, exams, papers, and class participation. We will work together to ensure fair grading across all of the sections. He is your first point of contact with any and all questions related to discussion sections and grades. **Learn his name and stay in communication with him during the term.**

Course Requirements and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Section Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Message Board article posting</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>See details below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class midterm exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take home essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Due February 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Class final exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary source based research</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Due March 18</td>
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Readings

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

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

Class Participation (15% of grade)

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. Class participation will be graded on the following criteria: attendance, preparation (i.e. reading and taking notes), handing in writing assignments, random checking of reading notes, and possible pop quizzes.

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 that 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. Your GTF will monitor laptop (and other technology) use in the classroom.*
Message Board: The Past is Present (10% of grade)
Each week, you will find a journalistic article (i.e. newspaper or magazine) that is related to the themes of this course and post it to our class message board along with your analysis of why your chosen article speaks to the course themes. You will also read the articles posted by your classmates and join in the conversation that has been started by the initial post and comments.

--Articles should be posted by Sunday of each week beginning first week of class, so by January 11 you should post your first article.

--Point allotment: 5 points for posting an article. 3 points for posting one response to a classmate’s article. 1 point each for posting a second and third response to other classmates articles.

Some suggestions:
--You can ask your classmates to contemplate specific passages in the article.
--You can post a few questions about it.
--You can highlight intriguing contradictions, and hypothesize about what is at stake in the article as it relates to the idea of the “past being present.”

Please be thoughtful in your article selection and respectful to each other in your comments. Inquiry is welcome and civility is key! Your GTF will monitor this board.

Final Paper (25% of your grade)
All students will write a research paper using primary sources. During the term we will do several exercises 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 put turn your cell phones off prior to the start of class. Absolutely no internet surfing, text messaging, Tindering, Tweeting, Facebooking, Myspacing, Friendstering, iChatting, G Chatting, Snap Chatting, Google +ing, 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 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.

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### Week 1

**Introduction**

January 5 Course Introduction and African Americans and the Civil War

January 7 Reconstruction

**Required Readings**

Text Book: *The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 11

Course Packet (Primary Sources): *From Timbuktu to Katrina*, Vol. 1, Chapter 7
Week 2  Black Reconstruction
January 12  Reconstruction cont. and “Redemption”
January 14  “Redemption”

Required Reading
Text Book: The Struggle for Freedom, Chapter 12

Paper Assignment: Finding and exploring your primary sources. To be completed before your section and discussed in section Week 3. A detailed handout will be provided.

Week 3  The Nadir
January 19  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Class does not meet
January 21  The Color Line

Required Reading
Text Book: The Struggle for Freedom, Chapter 13
Course Packet (Primary Sources): From Timbuktu to Katrina, Vol. 1, Chapter 8

Week 4  The Era of Self Help
January 26  Anyplace but here; black town’s introduction, black separatism
January 28  Black towns continued; Black manhood, black womanhood, black women’s club movement

Required Reading
Text Book: The Struggle for Freedom, Chapter 14
Primary Source Reader: From Timbuktu to Katrina, Vol. 2, Chapter 1

Paper Assignment: Choose a paper topic and your primary sources. Due in section Week 5. Bring paper copies of sources to work with in section. See handout for instructions.
Week 5  World War I
February 2  Great Migration
February 4  African American participation in the war

Required Reading
Text Book: *The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 15
Primary Source Reader: *From Timbuktu to Katrina*, Vol. 2, Chapter 2

Week 6
February 9  In class midterm
February 11  Take home essay due on SafeAssign by 11:59PM, class does not meet.

Week 7  The New Negro and the Harlem Renaissance
February 16
February 18

Required Reading
Text Book: *The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 16

Week 8 Great Depression and New Deal
February 23
February 25

Required Reading
Text Book: *The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 17

Paper Assignment: Draft first paragraph and outline rest of paper. Due in section Week 9. See handout for instructions.
Week 9  World War II Era
March 2  Double V for Victory
March 4  Strains of Civil Rights

Required Readings
Text Book: *The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 18
Primary Source Reader: *From Timbuktu to Katrina*, Vol. 2, Chapter 4

Paper Assignment: Full draft due to GTF in section Week 10.

Week 10  The Modern Civil Rights Movement
March 9
March 11

Required Readings
Text Book: *The Struggle for Freedom*, Chapter 19
Primary Source Reader: *From Timbuktu to Katrina* Vol. 2, Chapter 5

Final Exam 2:45PM, Monday, March 16, 2015.

Final Paper due on Blackboard SafeAssign on Wednesday March 18, 2015 by 11:59PM.