

HISTORY 502
African-American History: Selected Topics
Fall 2001

Paula McGhee Underwood, Instructor
MW 2:00-3:15
Mclver 226
Office hours: Monday 4:00-5:00; Thursday 11:30-12:30
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The UNC-G undergraduate bulletin for 1999-2000 states that the "prerequisite for ALL 500-level courses" is "completion of six hours of 300-level History courses or the permission of the instructor." Additionally, the bulletin states that these courses are for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. History 502 is described as an "examination of selected topics in black history including African beginnings, slavery, racial attitudes, and civil rights."

For this term, we will pay particular attention to the study of African American interpretations of "American" and the protest thought that accompanied the movement for full citizenship following the Civil War. The course will familiarize students with leading historians and their arguments, the classic and current scholarship on the African Americans, and also prepare students for educated responses to the literature and contemporary issues pertaining to black Americans in 2001.

Regular class attendance is mandatory. All absences must be pre-approved or the student must provide a written statement from a doctor or other emergency personnel. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.** Each unexcused absence results in a 1.5-point deduction of your class participation grade. Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of class; therefore, if you arrive after the roll is taken, it will be necessary to inform the instructor, following class, of your attendance for that day. If you are unclear on the attendance policy for this course, we may discuss this during office hours. This course is set up as a readings seminar. All material **MUST** be read. Each group will be responsible for leading discussion on the assigned reading and supplemental works that are assigned. You must be prepared.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Undergraduate students

Class participation (see attendance policy above) – 20% - discussion, group activities

Weekly response papers – 40% - Two to three page response to assigned chapter

Final interpretive essay – 20% - Ten-page response to final reading assignment (Tentatively Jesse Jackson, Jr.

A More Perfect Union – on order – should be published on October 15, 2001)

Group project – 20% (10% individual response and 10% group presentation)

Graduate students

Class participation (see attendance policy above) – 20% - discussion, group activities

Weekly response papers – 20% - Two to three page response to assigned chapter – due on Tuesday at beginning of class – one copy for professor and one copy to use for reference during class

Group project – 20% (5% individual response and 5% group presentation)

Final Essay - Comparative ideology/historiographical – 20% - Ten to fifteen pages (We may discuss topics during office hours)

Individual presentation – brief presentation of final essay - 20%

Texts:

Colin A. Palmer, Passageways: An Interpretive History of Black America Vol. II 1865-1965

August Meier, et. al., Black Protest Thought in the Twentieth Century (**Three day reserve at Jackson Library**)

Schedule of assignments:

WEEK ONE – 8/20 & 8/22:
Introductions – Class overview – Palmer – Chapter 1 – Response paper 1

WEEK TWO – 8/27 & 8/29:
Palmer – Chapter 2 – Response paper 2

WEEK THREE – 9/5:
Palmer – Chapter 3 – Response paper 3

WEEK FOUR – 9/10 & 9/12:
Palmer – Chapter 4 – Response paper 4
GROUP ONE PRESENTATION – 9/12/01

WEEK FIVE – 9/17 & 9/19:
Palmer – Chapter 5 – Response paper 5

WEEK SIX – 9/24 & 9/26:
Palmer – Chapter 6 – Response paper 6

WEEK SEVEN – 10/1 & 10/3:
Palmer – Chapter 7 – Response paper 7
GROUP TWO PRESENTATION – 10/3/01

WEEK EIGHT – 10/8 & 10/10:
No classes - fall break and independent study day

WEEK NINE – 10/15 & 10/17
Palmer Chapter 8 – Response paper 8

WEEK TEN – 10/22 & 10/24
Palmer Chapter 9 – Response paper 9

WEEK ELEVEN - 10/29 & 10/31
Palmer Chapter 10 – Response paper 10

WEEK TWELVE – 11/5 & 11/7
Palmer Chapter 11 – Response paper 11

WEEK THIRTEEN – 11/12 & 11/14
Palmer Chapter 12 – Response paper 12
GROUP THREE PRESENTATION – 11/14/01

WEEK FOURTEEN – 11/19 & 11/21
No reading assignment – independent study day and holiday – no class

WEEK FIFTEEN – 11/26 & 11/28
Jackson
GROUP FOUR PRESENTATION – 11/28/01

WEEK SIXTEEN – 12/3 & 12/5
Jackson
GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

WEEK SEVENTEEN – 12/10
Final class – no reading assignment