

Syllabus: History 713 African Americans After Slavery

Professor Schweninger

This course will consist of readings, discussions, oral presentations, and four papers on the four units listed below. The goals of the course are two: first, to secure an broad comprehension African American history after slavery (political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual, religious); second, to analyze and report on the works of historians concerning the major themes in black history. Most students will need to refresh their general knowledge of the subject by consulting John Hope Franklin and Alfred Moss's From Slavery To Freedom: A History of African Americans, eighth edition [New York: McGraw Hill, 2000]), available through Amazon.com or online. The two required books are David W. Blight, Race and reunion: The Civil War in American Memory (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001), for Unit I, and David Levering Lewis, W.E.B. Du Bois: the Fight for Equality and the American Century (New York: Henry Holt, 2000), for Unit III. During each class period, besides a discussion of the general history, students will be asked to give oral presentations (perhaps five minutes) on what you have read for the week (at least three essays, articles, or books). The five-page, double-spaced paper should include a discussion of major themes as well as an analysis of various interpretations. It should also include a brief bibliography. Thus, during the semester, you should read about, discuss, and write about the general historical themes as well as the historiography of Blacks in the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Era of Jim Crow, World War and the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights Movement and Its Aftermath. For questions about style see Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing History, 4th edition (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004). Your grade will be determined by your class participation and papers (due at the end of each unit). My office is in MHRA 2105, and my office hours are one hour before class meets and by appointment.

Schedule

First Week: August 25
Housekeeping matters
Topic: Historians and the African American Past

Unit One: The Civil War and Reconstruction

Second Week: September 8
Topic: Freedom during the Civil War
Third Week: September 15
Topic: Reconstruction
Fourth Week: September 29 (paper due)
Topic: The Triumph of White Supremacy

Required Book: David W. Blight, Race and reunion: The Civil War in American Memory. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Unit Two: The Era of Jim Crow

Fifth Week: October 6
Topic: The Age of Booker T. Washington
Sixth Week: October 13
Topic: The New Imperialism
Seventh Week: October 27 (paper due)
Topic: Progressivism

Unit Three: World War and the Great Migration

Eighth Week: November 3
Topic: To Make the World Safe for Democracy; Red Summer
Ninth Week: November 10
Topic: The Harlem Renaissance
Tenth Week: November 17 (paper due)
Topic: Marcus Garvey and the History of Black Nationalism

Required Book: David Levering Lewis. W.E.B. Du Bois: the Fight for Equality and the American Century. New York: Henry Holt, 2000.

Unit Four: The Civil Rights Movement and its Aftermath

Eleventh Week: November 24
African-Americans during the Great Depression and WWII
Twelfth Week: December 1 (paper due)
The Civil Rights Movement; Post Civil Rights Era
Thirteenth Week: December 8
General Themes

Selected Bibliography African Americans After Slavery

- Ball, Edward, The Sweet Hell Inside: A Family History. New York: William Morrow, 2001.
- Blumberg, Rhoda. Civil Rights: The 1960s Freedom Struggle. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1991.
- Branch, Taylor. Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988.
- Cahn, Susan K. Sexual Reckonings: Southern Girls in a Troubling Age. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Carson, Clayborne, ed. The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. New York: Intellectual Properties Management in association with Warner Books, 1998.
- Carter, Dan. From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: Race in the Conservative Counterrevolution, 1963-1994. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1996.
- Cecelski, David, et al., eds. Democracy Betrayed: the Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Its Legacy Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Online.
- Cook, Robert J. Troubled Commemoration: The American Civil War Centennial, 1961-1965. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2007.
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- Essien-Odom, E. U. Black Nationalism: A Search for Identity in America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962.
- Foner, Eric. Reconstruction, America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877. New York: Harper and Row, 1988.
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- Gilmore, Glenda Elizabeth. Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
- Goldfield, David R. Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to Present. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990.
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- Green, Laurie B. Battling the Plantation Mentality: Memphis and the Black Freedom Struggle. Chapel Hill: University of North

Carolina Press, 2007.

Grossman, James R. Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration.
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989.

- Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South From Slavery to the Great Migration. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003.
- Harlan, Louis R. Booker T. Washington: The Wizard of Tuskegee, 1901-1915. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.
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- Holt, Thomas. Black Over White: Negro Political Leadership in South Carolina during Reconstruction. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977.
- Kelley, Robin D. G. Freedom Dreams: the Black Radical Imagination. Boston: Beacon Press, 2002.
- _____. Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class. New York: Free Press, 1994.
- Kluger, Richard. Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle for Equality. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976.
- Korstad, Robert. Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth-Century South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
- Lawson, Steven. Running for Freedom: Civil Rights and Black Politics in America Since 1941. Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1991.
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- Lebsock, Suzanne. A Murder in Virginia: Southern Justice on Trial. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2003.
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