

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA
Department of Ethnic Studies
Fall 2008

ES 305: The African American Experience I

Instructor: Dr. Elisa Joy White
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Office Hours: Wednesday 11-12 and by appointment
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Class Location: KUY 313
Class Time: TR 12-1:15

Course Description:

The African American experience is diasporic, reflective of the intersection of a multitude of diasporas and the social, cultural, historical and political circumstances that define them. This course examines key events and movements that have had an impact on the lives of individuals of the African Diaspora in the Americas beginning with the dispersion from Africa during the Transatlantic Slave Trade and continuing through the post-Civil War period of Reconstruction. The course concludes with the early twentieth century social discourse regarding African American communities. Particular emphasis will be placed on the diversity of African American experiences emerging from various historically situated conditions in relation to "race", class, gender and region; including a focus on African Americans in the context of Hawai‘i.

Students are expected to complete all readings and to fully participate in class discussions. Attendance is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are permitted. Additional class materials (e.g. films, articles, and other related media) will be provided during class meetings. Periodically, students will be assigned readings to present to the class in small groups, as a means of enhancing class discussions and inspiring further critical examination of the texts.

Each student is required to complete four 3-5 page reflection essays that discuss the student's experience, personally and critically, with specific course subject matter related to media screenings and hand-outs, text readings and lectures.

Additionally, students must prepare one short research project to be orally presented to the class during the course of the semester. The purpose of the short research presentation is to offer students the opportunity to closely examine an area of interest cultivated from course material and to begin the research process on what will eventually become a final research paper. Each student will have the opportunity to present her or his short research project to the class during the course of the semester on a topic approved by the professor.

The final research paper is to be 10 – 12 pages (typed and double-spaced). All topics for the research paper must be approved in advance by the professor. Each student is required to meet with the professor to discuss the progress of her or his research paper and to receive additional help, if needed, with the research process. Further guidelines for reflection essays, the short research presentation and the final exam paper will be given by the instructor.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation – 10%
 Reflection Papers – 40% (10% each)
 Short In-Class Research Presentation – 20%
 Final Exam Paper – 30%

Required Texts:

Dubois, W.E.B. *Souls of Black Folk* (1996) New York: Penguin USA.
 ISBN: 014018998X

Franklin, John Hope and Alfred A. Moss (2000) *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0072295913

Gates, Henry Louis (Ed) (1987) *The Classic Slave Narratives*. New York: New American Library. ISBN: 0451627261

Jackson, Miles M. (Ed) (2004) *They Followed the Trade Winds: African Americans in Hawai'i*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. ISBN: 0824829654

Tuesday August 26, 2008

Introduction to class

Thursday August 28, 2008

Franklin and Moss Chapters 1 and 2

Tuesday September 2, 2008

Franklin and Moss Chapters 3 and 4

Thursday September 4, 2008

Franklin and Moss Chapter 5

Tuesday September 9, 2008

Gates *The Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa*

Thursday September 11, 2008

Franklin and Moss Chapter 6

Tuesday September 16, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 7

Thursday September 18, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 8

Tuesday September 23, 2008
Gates Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
Due: Reflection Essay #1

Thursday September 25, 2008
Gates Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Tuesday September 30, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 9

Thursday October 2, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 9

Tuesday October 7, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 10

Thursday October 9, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 10

Tuesday October 14, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 11

Thursday October 16, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 11

Tuesday October 21, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 12
Due: Reflection Essay #2

Thursday October 23, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 12

Tuesday October 28, 2008
Short Research Presentations

Thursday October 30, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 13
Short Research Presentations

Tuesday November 4, 2008
Election Day

Thursday November 6, 2008
Franklin and Moss Chapter 14
Short Research Presentations

Tuesday November 11, 2008
Veterans Day

Thursday November 13, 2008
Short Research Presentations
Du Bois Chapters 2 and 3

Tuesday November 18, 2008
Du Bois Chapters 5 and 6
Due: Reflection Essay #3

Thursday November 20, 2008
Du Bois Chapter 7 and 8

Tuesday November 25, 2008
Du Bois Chapters 9 and 10

Thursday November 27, 2008
Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday December 2, 2008
Jackson Introduction and pp.1-52

Thursday December 4, 2008
Jackson pp. 53-69
Due: Reflection Essay #4

Tuesday December 9, 2008
Jackson pp. 89-94

Thursday December 11, 2008
Last Class – Final Discussion and Review

Final Research Papers Are Due On or Before Tuesday December 16, 2008