

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA**  
**Department of Ethnic Studies**  
**Fall 2009**

**ES 305: The African American Experience I**

**Instructor: Dr. Elisa Joy White**  
**Office: 341 George Hall**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30 and by appointment**  
**Phone: 808-956-2824**  
**E-mail: [ejwhite@hawaii.edu](mailto:ejwhite@hawaii.edu)**  
**Class Location: George 213**  
**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 25, 2009**

Introduction to class

**Thursday August 27, 2009**

Franklin and Moss Chapters 1 and 2

**Tuesday September 1, 2009**

Franklin and Moss Chapters 3 and 4

**Thursday September 3, 2009**

Franklin and Moss Chapter 5

**Tuesday September 8, 2009**

Gates *The Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa*

**Thursday September 10, 2009**

Franklin and Moss Chapter 6

**Tuesday September 15, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 7

**Thursday September 17, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 8

**Tuesday September 22, 2009**  
*Gates Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*  
**Due: Reflection Essay #1**

**Thursday September 24, 2009**  
*Gates Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

**Tuesday September 29, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 9

**Thursday October 1, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 9

**Tuesday October 6, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 10

**Thursday October 8, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 10

**Tuesday October 13, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 11

**Thursday October 15, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 11

**Tuesday October 20, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 12  
**Due: Reflection Essay #2**

**Thursday October 22, 2009**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 12

**Tuesday October 27, 2009**  
**Short Research Presentations**

**Thursday October 29, 2009**  
**Short Research Presentations**

**Tuesday November 3, 2009**  
**Short Research Presentations**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 13

**Thursday November 5, 2009**  
**Short Research Presentations**  
Franklin and Moss Chapter 14

**Tuesday November 10, 2009**  
Du Bois Chapters 2 and 3

**Thursday November 12, 2009**  
Du Bois Chapter 5

**Tuesday November 17, 2009**  
**Due: Reflection Essay #3**  
Du Bois Chapter 6

**Thursday November 19, 2009**  
Du Bois Chapters 7 and 8

**Tuesday November 24, 2009**  
Du Bois Chapters 9 and 10

**Thursday November 26, 2009**  
**Thanksgiving Break**

**Tuesday December 1, 2009**  
Jackson Introduction and pp.1-52

**Thursday December 3, 2009**  
Jackson pp. 53-69  
**Due: Reflection Essay #4**

**Tuesday December 8, 2009**  
Jackson pp. 89-94

**Thursday December 10, 2009**  
Last Class – Final Discussion and Review

**Final Research Papers Are Due On or Before Tuesday December 15, 2009**