

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
Department of Ethnic Studies
Fall 2011

ES 305: The African American Experience I

Instructor: Dr. Elisa Joy White
Office: 341 George Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30pm – 2:30pm or by appointment
Phone: 808-956-2824
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Class Location: WEB 116
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. Chapter review questions and discussion questions will also be assigned throughout the semester.

Each student is required to complete three 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.

NOTE: IN-CLASS USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION MEDIA

(i.e. smartphones, notepads, laptops, etc.) is limited to course-related assignments and materials, as directed by the professor. Any other usage is considered inappropriate and will prevent you from meeting the attendance and participation requirements for the class.

Course Requirements:

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

Required Texts:

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

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

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

Painter, Nell Irvin (2007) *Creating Black Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Be sure to bring the assigned text to every class session.

Tuesday August 23, 2011

Introduction to class

Thursday August 25, 2011

Painter Chapter 1

Tuesday August 30, 2011

Painter Chapter 2

Thursday September 1, 2011

Painter Chapter 2

Tuesday September 6, 2011

Gates *The Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa*

Thursday September 8, 2011

Gates *The Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa*

Tuesday September 13, 2011

Painter Chapter 3

Thursday September 15, 2011

Painter Chapter 3

Tuesday September 20, 2011

Gates *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Due: Reflection Essay #1

Thursday September 22, 2011

Gates *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Tuesday September 27, 2011

Painter Chapter 4

Special assignment related to chapter 4 (submitted to class week of 9/22)

Thursday September 29, 2011

Painter Chapter 4

Special assignment for research project

Tuesday October 4, 2011

Painter Chapter 5

Thursday October 6, 2011

Painter Chapter 5

Tuesday October 11, 2011

Painter Chapter 6

Thursday October 13, 2011

Painter Chapter 6

Tuesday October 18, 2011

Painter Chapter 7

Due: Reflection Essay #2

Thursday October 20, 2011

Painter Chapter 7

Tuesday October 25, 2011
Short Research Presentations

Thursday October 27, 2011
Short Research Presentations

Tuesday November 1, 2011
Short Research Presentations
Painter Chapter 8

Thursday November 3, 2011
Painter Chapter 8

Tuesday November 8, 2011
Du Bois Chapter 2

Thursday November 10, 2011
Du Bois Chapter 3

Tuesday November 15, 2011
Du Bois Chapters 5 and 6

Thursday November 17, 2011
Du Bois Chapters 7 and 8

Tuesday November 22, 2011
Du Bois Chapters 9 and 10

Thursday November 24, 2011
Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday November 29, 2011
Jackson Introduction and pp.1-52

Thursday December 1, 2011
Jackson pp. 53-69
Due: Reflection Essay #3

Tuesday December 6, 2011
Jackson pp. 89-94

Thursday December 8, 2011
Last Class – Final Discussion and Review

Final Research Papers Are Due On or Before Tuesday December 13, 2011