

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA**

**Department of Ethnic Studies**

**Fall 2012**

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

**Instructor: Dr. Elisa Joy White**

**Office: 341 George Hall**

**Office Hours: Thursday 1:30pm – 2:30pm or by appointment**

**Phone: 808-956-2824**

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**Class Location: BUSAD D301**

**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. (A limited amount of copies are available at the UH Bookstore and sold by online booksellers. A partial text will be made available as a reader by mid-semester)

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 21, 2012**

Introduction to class

**Thursday August 23, 2012**

Painter Chapter 1

**Tuesday August 28, 2012**

Painter Chapter 2

**Thursday August 30, 2012**

Painter Chapter 2

**Tuesday September 4, 2012**

Gates *The Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa*

**Thursday September 6, 2012**

Gates *The Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa*

**Tuesday September 11, 2012**

Painter Chapter 3

**Thursday September 13, 2012**

Painter Chapter 3

**Tuesday September 18, 2012**

Gates *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

**Due: Reflection Essay #1**

**Thursday September 20, 2012**

Gates *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

**Tuesday September 25, 2012**

Painter Chapter 4

**Thursday September 27, 2012**

Painter Chapter 4

**Tuesday October 2, 2012**

Painter Chapter 5

**Thursday October 4, 2012**

Painter Chapter 5

**Tuesday October 9, 2012**

Painter Chapter 6

**Thursday October 11, 2012**

Painter Chapter 6

**Tuesday October 16, 2012**

Painter Chapter 7

**Due: Reflection Essay #2**

**Thursday October 18, 2012**

Painter Chapter 7

**Tuesday October 23, 2012**

**Short Research Presentations**

**Thursday October 25, 2012**

**Short Research Presentations**

**Tuesday October 30, 2012**

**Short Research Presentations**

Painter Chapter 8

**Thursday November 1, 2012**

Painter Chapter 8

**Tuesday November 6, 2012**

Holiday – Election Day – No Class

**Thursday November 8, 2012**

Du Bois Chapter 2 and 3

**Tuesday November 13, 2012**

Du Bois Chapters 5 and 6

**Thursday November 15, 2012**

Du Bois Chapters 7 and 8

**Tuesday November 20, 2012**

Du Bois Chapters 9 and 10

**Thursday November 22, 2012**

Thanksgiving Break – No Class

**Tuesday November 27, 2012**

Jackson Introduction and pp.1-52

**Thursday November 29, 2012**

Jackson pp. 53-69

**Due: Reflection Essay #3**

**Tuesday December 4, 2012**

Jackson pp. 89-94

Discussion and Review

**Thursday December 6, 2012**

Last Class – Attend Special Presentation (Details TBA)

**Final Research Papers Are Due On or Before Tuesday December 11, 2012**