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:**

- 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)

**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