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 post-Civil War period of Reconstruction and the Reign of Terror through the United States Civil Rights and Black Power movements. The course concludes with the late twentieth century to early twenty-first century discourse around the Black middle-class, affirmative action and the Reparations movement, as well as an engagement with the socio-political significance of what is often described as the “hip hop movement.” 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 an examination of 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:**

**Tuesday January 12, 2010**
Introduction to Class

**Thursday January 14, 2010**
Franklin and Moss Chapter 15

**Tuesday January 19, 2010**
Franklin and Moss Chapter 16

**Thursday January 21, 2010**
Franklin and Moss Chapter 17

**Tuesday January 26, 2010**
Franklin and Moss Chapter 18

**Due: Reflection Essay #1**
Thursday January 28, 2010
Franklin and Moss 18

Tuesday February 2, 2010
Locke pp. 3-56

Thursday February 4, 2010
Locke pp. 301-322

Tuesday February 9, 2010
Locke pp. 353-368

Thursday February 11, 2010
Locke pp. 369-414

Tuesday February 16, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 19
   Due: Reflection Essay #2

Thursday February 18, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 20

Tuesday February 23, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 20

Thursday February 25, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 21

Tuesday March 2, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 22

Thursday March 4, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 22

Tuesday March 9, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 23
   Due: Reflection Essay #3

Thursday March 11, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 23

Tuesday March 16, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 24
Thursday March 18, 2010
Franklin and Moss Chapter 25
Jackson  pp 53 - 69

--SPRING BREAK---

Tuesday March 30, 2010
Jackson pp 70-88, 123-147, 162-188

Thursday April 1, 2010
Jackson pp 95-122, 189-208, 209-231

Tuesday April 6, 2010
Short Research Presentations

Thursday April 8, 2010
Short Research Presentations

Tuesday April 13, 2010
Short Research Presentations

Thursday April 15, 2010
Ogbar Introduction and Chapter 1

Tuesday April 20, 2010
Ogbar Chapter 2

Thursday April 22, 2010
Ogbar Chapter 3

Tuesday April 27, 2010
Ogbar Chapter 4

Thursday April 29, 2010
Ogbar Chapter 5 and Epilogue
Due: Reflection Essay #4 - Hip Hop Culture and the Black Experience in Hawai‘i

Tuesday May 4, 2010
Last Class – Final discussions

Final Papers must be received by Tuesday May 11, 2010 no later than 2PM.
No late papers will be accepted.