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 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.

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:


Tuesday January 11, 2011
Introduction to Class

Thursday January 13, 2011
Painter Chapter 8

Tuesday January 18, 2011
Painter Chapter 9

Thursday January 20, 2011
Locke pp. 3-56

Tuesday January 25, 2011
Locke pp. 301-322
Due: Reflection Essay #1
Thursday January 27, 2011
Locke pp. 353-368

Tuesday February 1, 2011
Locke pp. 369-414

Thursday February 3, 2011
Painter Chapter 10

Tuesday February 8, 2011
Painter Chapter 11

Thursday February 10, 2011
Painter Chapter 11

Required course event: Thursday February 10, 6pm-9pm, Art Auditorium
(Assignment will be submitted to the class in advance. If you are unable to schedule your attendance at this required event, an alternative project will be assigned.)

Tuesday February 15, 2011
Painter Chapter 12

Thursday February 17, 2011
Painter Chapter 12

Tuesday February 22, 2011
Painter Chapter 13
Due: Reflection Essay #2

Thursday February 24, 2011
Painter Chapter 13

Tuesday March 1, 2011
Painter Chapter 14

Thursday March 3, 2011
Painter Chapter 14

Tuesday March 8, 2011
Painter Chapter 15 and Epilogue

Thursday March 10, 2011
Jackson pp. 53 – 69

Tuesday March 15, 2011
Jackson pp. 70-88, 123-147, 162-188
Thursday March 17, 2011
Jackson pp. 95-122, 189-208, 209-231

Selected article assigned to class

--SPRING BREAK--

Tuesday March 29, 2011
Selected article (will be assigned before Spring Break)

Thursday March 31, 2011
Pre-Presentation Open Research Day

Tuesday April 5, 2011
Short Research Presentations

Thursday April 7, 2011
Short Research Presentations

Tuesday April 12, 2011
Short Research Presentations

Thursday April 14, 2011
Ogbar Introduction and Chapter 1

Tuesday April 19, 2011
Ogbar Chapter 2

Thursday April 21, 2011
Ogbar Chapter 3

Tuesday April 26, 2011
Ogbar Chapter 4

Thursday April 28, 2011
Ogbar Chapter 5 and Epilogue

Due: Reflection Essay #3 - Hip Hop Culture and the Black Experience in Hawai‘i

Tuesday May 3, 2011
Last Class – Final discussions

Final Papers must be received by Tuesday May 10, 2011 no later than 4PM.
No late papers will be accepted.