Graduate African American History Reading List, Department of History, Rutgers University 09/12/2012

Overview
The following reading list provides a general overview of the subjects and texts that students should study in preparing to write their African-American Minor and Major exams. Students are encouraged to use this list to develop their own personalized exam reading lists.

How to Use this List
Beginning well in advance of the planned exam date, you should plan to update and personalize this list to include any recently published works not yet on the list, as well as any important African American history texts you consider central to your own study of the field.

From there, you can plan your exam reading by marking off texts that you have read, and the texts you plan to read. You will not be expected to master all the books and articles on the list, but should have some command of most of the subject areas.

Once you have put together your own annotated and updated version of the list you should plan meet with your examiners to discuss and review your personalized list and reading plan. Such meetings should occur well in advance of your exam date and will allow you to confirm that your list is up-to-date, and that you are reading a suitable selection of texts.

Please submit a final copy of your updated and approved list to your examiners (and Dawn Ruskai) when you hand in your completed exam.

List of Books and Articles

1. Africa and the Slave Trade


### 2. Becoming African American


3. The African American Revolution


Holton, Woody. Black Americans in the Revolutionary Era: A Brief History with Documents. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s,


4. Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic


Waldstreicher, David, "Reading the Runaways: Self-Fashioning, Print Culture and Confidence in Slavery in the Eighteenth-Century Mid-Atlantic," *William and Mary Quarterly* (April, 1999)


5. The Plantation South


Fields, Barbara, *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland During the Nineteenth Century* (1985)


Fraser, Rebecca J., *Courtship and Love Among the Enslaved in North Carolina* (Univ. Press of Mississippi, 2007)


Johnson, Michael, “Denmark Vesey and His Co-Conspirators.” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 58.4 (2001)


Alice Kessler-Harris, and Kathryn Kish Sklar, 1995


Schwartz, Marie Jenkins, *Birthing a Slave: Motherhood and Medicine in the Antebellum South*, 1st edn (Harvard University Press, 2010)


6. Free Blacks, Racial Thought, and the Battle over Slavery


Bruce, Dickson D. *The Origins of African American Literature: 1680-1865*. University of


King, Wilma, *The Essence of Liberty: Free Black Women During the Slave Era* (University of Missouri, 2006)


Webber, Christopher, *American to the Backbone: The Life of James W. C. Pennington, the Fugitive Slave Who Became One of the First Black Abolitionists* (Pegasus, 2011)


7. The Black Civil War and Reconstruction

Elsa Barclay Brown “*Negotiating and Transforming the Public Sphere-African American Political Life in the Transition from Slavery to Freedom*,” *Public Culture* 7 (fall 1994)-107-46


8. Redemption and the Segregated South


Kelley, Robin. "'We Are Not What We Seem' : Rethinking Black Working Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South," *Journal of American History* (June, 1993)


Ortiz, Paul, *Emancipation Betrayed: The Hidden History of Black Organizing and White Violence in Florida from Reconstruction to the Bloody Election of 1920*, 2005


Barbara Welke “When All the Women Were White, and All the Blacks Were Men-Gender, Class, Race, and the Road to Plessy, 1855-1914.” 1995 *Law and History Review* 13 -261-316


9. New Negroes: Race Leadership in the Early Twentieth Century


Kelley, Robin D.G. *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communist During the Great Depression*, 1990


10. African Americans in the Industrial Era


Shapiro, Herbert, *White Violence and Black Response from Reconstruction to*


11. Race and Black Struggle: New Deal through the Cold War


12. Modern Civil Rights Movement: North and South


Clarence Lang, *Grassroots at the Gateway: Class Politics and Black Freedom Struggle in St. Louis, 1936-7, 2009*


13. Black Power/Black Radicalism/Black Feminism


14. Post Civil-Rights Era: 1980s and Beyond


MacLean, Nancy, *Freedom is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Work Place*, 2010


15. Useful Overviews and Documents


