Graduate African American History Reading List,
Department of History, Rutgers University

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


### 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)


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


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


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)


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


Woodruff, Nan Elizabeth, American Congo :The African American Freedom Struggle in

Wright, Gavin, Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy


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

Baldwin, Davarian, Chicago’s New Negroes: Modernity, the Great Migration, and Black

Bates, Beth Tompkins. Pullman Porters and the Rise of Protest Politics in Black

Brock, Lisa & Digna Castañeda Fuertes, eds., Between Race and Empire: African-
Americans and Cubans before the Cuban Revolution, 1998.

Carroll, Anne Elizabeth, Word, Image, and the New Negro: Representation and Identity

Dagbovie, Pero, The Early Black History Movement, Carter G. Woodson, and Lorenzo

Gaines, Kevin, Uplifting the Race: Black Leadership, Politics and Culture in the
Twentieth Century, University of North Carolina, 1996.

Gates, Henry Lewis, “The Trope of a New Negro and the Reconstruction of the Image of
the Black,” Representations (Fall 1988).

Grant, Colin, Negro with a Hat: The Rise & Fall of Marcus Garvey & His Dream of

Foley, Barbara, Spectres of 1919: Class and Nation in the Making of the New Negro,
2003.


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


10. **African Americans in the Industrial Era**


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


12. Modern Civil Rights Movement: North and South


Green, Laurie B. *Battling the Plantation Mentality: Memphis and the Black Freedom*


13. Black Power/Black Radicalism/Black Feminism


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


15. Useful Overviews and Documents


*Been Here So Long: Selections from the WPA American Slave Narratives,* [http://newdeal.feri.org/asn/asn00.html](http://newdeal.feri.org/asn/asn00.html)

*Behind the Veil: Documenting Life in the American South,* [http://cds.aas.duke.edu/btv/](http://cds.aas.duke.edu/btv/)


*North American Slave Narratives: Beginnings to 1920*,


Roberts, Dorothy, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of*