



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY 1877-PRESENT
01:512:263:E8
SUMMER 2021 M/W 6:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M. (Remote)

Welcome! My name is Prof. Joseph Williams and my contact info is below. If you run into any problems throughout the semester, please do not hesitate to reach out.

EMAIL: jtw89@history.rutgers.edu

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. 2:00pm-3:00pm OR by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on the black American's role in the United States from the end of Reconstruction (1877) to the present.

LEARNING GOALS: At the end of this course, students should:

- 1) Be familiar with the broad patterns and major historical events related to the role of African Americans in the United States from the late nineteenth century to the present.
- 2) Be able to link historical patterns to contemporary events, and understand what these connections can tell us about our world today.
- 3) Be able to interpret and critically engage with written primary sources.
- 4) Be able to create and defend an original historical argument with evidence drawn from primary source documents.

TEXTBOOKS:

- 1) Deborah Gray White, Mia Bay, and Waldo E. Martin Jr. *Freedom on My Mind: A History of African Americans with Documents* 3rd Edition (Mac Higher, 2021). ISBN: 9781319210151.
- 2) Please find all other readings on Canvas.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: This course consists of weekly response posts (30%), and two exams (30% each). In addition, attendance is worth ten percent of the final grade.

- 1) Response Posts (30%): these posts are short summaries based on class readings for the day. Your post should include at least two paragraphs and one question about the reading. Please be sure to post your response on the assigned due date by 11:59 pm. Unless otherwise noted, only respond to the chapters from the textbook. Late posts will not be accepted.
- 2) Exam 1 (30%): this exam will consist of IDs from the readings and lectures. You must be available to sit for the exam during the regularly scheduled class time.
- 3) Exam 2 (30%): this exam will consist of IDs from the readings and lectures. You must be available to sit for the exam during the regularly scheduled class time.
- 4) Attendance and Participation (10%)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: This class will operate on a hybrid format with synchronous and asynchronous components. I will upload lectures to Canvass, but we will also convene at least once a week for a live session during the course's regularly scheduled meeting time. Please read the syllabus carefully, take note of each live session date, and **plan to be in attendance and prepared to engage in discussion**. For live sessions, I provide a grace period of five minutes, after which you are considered tardy. Four tardies equate to one absence. Should you arrive more than twenty minutes late to class, I will mark you absent.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1

06/28: **RECONSTRUCTION**

- a. **WE WILL CONVENE FOR A LIVE SESSION.**
- b. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 9
- c. Read "Proceedings of the National Conference of Colored Men" (1879)
- d. Complete *R1*.

06/30: **THE NEW SOUTH, THE NADIR, AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW**

- a. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 10
- b. Read Ida B. Wells, "Southern Horrors" (1892)
- e. Complete *R2*.

WEEK 2

07/05: **THE GREAT MIGRATION AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

- a. **WE WILL CONVENE FOR A LIVE SESSION.**
- b. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 11 and Chapter 12
- c. Read an excerpt from “Negro Migration in 1916-1917,” a report by the U.S. Department of Labor, Division of Negro Economics (1919)
- d. Read an excerpt from Isabel Thompson and Louise T. Clarke, “Ghost Town Almost: The Depression Hits a Negro Town, Opportunity,” *Journal of Negro Life* 13 (September 1935): 277
- e. Complete R3.

07/07: **THE DOUBLE V CAMPAIGN AND WWII**

- a. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 13
- b. Read A. Philip Randolph, “Why Should We March?” (1942)
- c. Read Claudia Jones, “An End to the Neglect of the Problems of the Negro Woman!” (1949)
- d. Complete R4.

WEEK 3

07/12: **THE EARLY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

- a. **WE WILL CONVENE FOR A LIVE SESSION.**
- b. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 14
- c. Read Malcolm X and Bayard Rustin, “A Choice of Two Roads” (1960)
- d. Complete R5.

07/14: **EXAM I**

WEEK 4

07/19: **BLACK WOMEN’S ACTIVISM AND GENDER POLITICS IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

- a. Read Charles Payne, “Men Led, But Women Organized: Movement Participation of Women in the Mississippi Delta” in *Women and the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers and Torchbearers*: 1-12
- b. Read Mamie E. Locke, “Is This America? Fannie Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party,” in *Women and the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers and Torchbearers*: 27-39.
- c. Read Danielle McGuire, “‘It Was like All of Us Had Been Raped’: Sexual Violence, Community Mobilization, and the African American Freedom Struggle.” *The Journal of American History* 91, no. 3 (2004): 906-31.
- d. Read Ella Baker, “Bigger Than a Hamburger” (1960)
- e. Complete R6.

07/21: **BLACK POWER AND BLACK FEMINISM**

- a. **WE WILL CONVENE FOR A LIVE SESSION.**
- b. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 15
- c. Read Kimberly Springer, “Black Women’s Issues as Feminist Issues,” in *Living for the Revolution: Black Feminist Organizations, 1968-1980* (Durham: Duke University, Press, 2005), 88-112
- d. Complete R7.

WEEK 5

07/26: **THE POST CIVIL RIGHTS ERA**

- a. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 16
- b. Read Deborah King, “Unraveling Fabric, Missing the Beat: Class and Gender in Afro-American Social Issues” (1992)
- c. Read Angela Davis and Ice Cube, “Nappy Happy: A Conversation with Ice Cube.” (1992)
- d. Complete R8.

07/28: **AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE NEW CENTURY**

- a. **WE WILL CONVENE FOR A LIVE SESSION.**
- b. Read *Freedom on My Mind* Chapter 17
- c. Complete R10.
- d. View Boondocks S3E1: “It’s a Black President, Huey Freeman” (2010)
- e. Discuss readings and clip.

WEEK 6

08/02: **SAME PROBLEMS, NEW PERSPECTIVES: #BLM and #METOO**

- a. **WE WILL CONVENE FOR A LIVE SESSION.**
- b. Read Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness* (Chapter 5)
- c. Read Kali N. Gross and Cheryl D. Hicks. “Introduction—Gendering the Carceral State: African American Women, History, and the Criminal Justice System.” *The Journal of African American History* 100, no. 3 (2015): 357-65.
- d. Complete R10.
- e. Listen to excerpts from The Call EP 021: Tarana Burke (2018)
 - i. Feel free to listen to the podcast before class as well, which you may access [here](#).
- f. Discuss readings and podcast.

08/04: **EXAM II**