

**Intro to African American Studies**  
AFA 2000 – Class Number 10302 – Spring 2019  
African American Studies Program – The University of Florida  
Dr. Ashley Robertson Preston- Lecturer

Class Times & Location: MWF 1:55-2:45 pm/ FAC 0120

Office Hours & Location: Virtual Office Hours MWF 3:00-4:00 pm (Canvas)/Also available by appointment

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**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An integrated interdisciplinary exploration of selected themes and representative materials in the African American experience in North America, emphasizing continuity and change. (H) (WR) 4000.

**COURSE GOAL:** The goal of this course is to critically examine some of the key concepts, theories, issues, people, moments and events related to the African American experience in North America.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The experience of Africans in America and the Diaspora has been broad and deep. Our study of that experience will begin in Africa, the birthplace of civilization and humanity. It will focus on the Black experience in North America and incorporate elements of the African Diaspora.. We will take an interdisciplinary approach to explore some of the political, cultural, economic, artistic and social themes that have influenced the construction of Black American realities in the past and present. Class sessions will consist of lectures, discussions, debates, powerpoint presentations, media clips, and attendance at an outside lecture or panel discussion.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students will 1) gain a general introduction to the origins of African American Studies 2) learn about some of the theories and theorists of African American Studies 3) be exposed to interdisciplinary approaches to the study of African American people, experiences, beliefs, cultures and conditions. 4) demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts common in discourse about African Americans, 5) be able to present a general historical overview of the history of African Americans 6) be exposed to some of the contemporary socio-cultural issues facing African Americans, 7) enhance critical analysis and research skills.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOK & ARTICLES:** Franklin, John Hope and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. (2011). *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (9th Ed.). NY, NY: McGraw Hill.

**REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION AT A GLANCE:**

**Participation & Attendance 15%**

**Discussion Boards 30%**

**Reflection Papers 25%**

**Midterm & Final Quiz 10%**

**Research Paper & Presentation 20%**

**REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION:**

### **Participation & Attendance:**

We will start class with a current event that will be presented by a student. The event will be presented and together as a class we will discuss its significance to events and/or topics being discussed in African American Studies. Each student is expected to present one current event as part of their participation grade. Please be on time to class, engage in class discussions and complete all readings before class. Even when you are not in class you are still responsible for the material that was covered. You will also be expected to participate in class discussions and you will need to read before every class.

Attendance will be taken during **EVERY** class. You are allowed up to three unexcused absences and thereafter I will deduct 2 points per missing class. Missing more than six unexcused classes will result in failing the course. Also, please do not arrive to class late or leave early. Late assignments will receive 50% credit and no late assignments will be accepted after 48 hours. No exceptions (unless hospitalization has occurred).

### **Discussion Board:**

Students will be expected to watch the weekly online video lectures (on Friday's) and develop a critical analysis to the weekly discussion board question. All discussion questions and responses will be posted to Canvas. **Again, every Friday there will be a video lecture that will be posted and you will need to watch and respond via the discussion board. This will serve as the meeting for the Friday class with the exception of our library day with Ms. Birch.**

### **Reflection Papers:**

There will be four reflection papers this semester. Each paper should be a minimum of two pages (500 words). The papers should fully analyze and discuss the questions. Although sources may be consulted as part of your research of the topic please develop your responses from a personal perspective.

### **Midterm & Final Quiz**

Quizzes will cover class readings, lectures, discussions, and films. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and short (essay) items). Quizzes will only be rescheduled in the case of a medical emergency.

### **Research Paper:**

Research and write a 6 - 8-page paper on your pre-proposed topic (this does not include your outline and reference page). The paper must include cited references from scholarly journals, books and newspapers. Below are 6 topics that can be chosen:

Dr. Carter G. Woodson & Black History Month  
Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
The Black Studies Movement  
The Back to Africa Movement  
Black Athletes and Social Justice  
Police Violence and African Americans

**University of Florida Honor Code**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Florida's Student Honor Code and Code of Conduct. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Do not plagiarize. All work must be cited. Students suspected of academic dishonesty or of violating the Honor Code will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. To learn more about the UF policy regarding Academic Honesty, please visit: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

### Students with Disabilities

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### Evaluation of all Assignments Criteria

1) Quality, scope and organization of documentation; 2) Clarity and coherence of expression; 3) Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation; 4) Quality of critical analysis; 5) Demonstration of an understanding of information and concepts addressed in the readings and/or discussed in class; 6) Following directions and completing assignments on time. See Grading rubric for specified distribution of points. UF has an online writing for students Visit their site at <http://web.cwoc.ufl.edu/owl>

Required Textbook Franklin, John Hope and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. (2011). *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (9th Ed.). NY, NY: McGraw Hill.

General Education Learning Outcomes AFA 2000 is a 4000 (approximately 16-18 pages) word Gordon Rule course which satisfies the General Education requirements for Humanities (H). You must complete and turn in at least 4000 words of evaluated writing during the semester in order to receive credit. You must earn a grade of "C" or better to earn general education credit.

Student Learning Outcomes- Content and Skills

### Humanities

Content	Critical Thinking	Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know the history, underlying theories and methodologies used within the discipline of African American Studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within African American Studies.</li> <li>Approach issues and problems within that discipline from multiple perspectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively in forms appropriate to African American Studies, individually and/or in groups</li> </ul>

### Weeks 1 & 2 Course Overview & Introduction to African American Studies

January 7

## Welcome & Course Overview

### January 9

*Intro to Afro-American Studies: A Peoples College Primer Chapter 1*

<http://www.eblackstudies.org/intro/chapter1.htm>

### January 11

Online Lecture: Dr. Kendi Ibrams

Black Campus Movement in Higher Education, 1965-72

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xJ6cLKoyy4>

Discussion Board

### January 14

"The Struggle and Dream of Black Studies" Carlene Young (Via UF Online Library Database)

"Africology, Black studies, African American Studies, Africana Studies, or African

World Studies? What's So Important about a Given Name?" Victor Oguejiofor Okafor, Ph.D

<http://www.jpanafrican.org/docs/vol6no7/6.7-9Okafor.pdf>

### January 16

African American Studies at UF

African American Studies History <https://afam.clas.ufl.edu/history/>

Virgil Hawkins and the Fight to Integrate the University of Florida Law School

<https://www.floridamemory.com/blog/2014/06/25/virgil062514/>

"UF in 1958: I was the first black student" *Orlando Sentinel*

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-first-black-student-at-uf-shares-story-20170915-story.html>

### January 18

Online Lecture: Dr. Molefi K. Asante

Molefi Kete Asante Speaks on the African American PhD Program at Temple University

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNck7m5jjxw&t=1s>

Discussion Board

## **Week 3 African Origins**

### January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance

### January 23

Chapter 1

Watch Mansa Musa (4 min video clip) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3YJMaL55TM>

### January 25

Chapter 2 (pages 23-40)

Read selected pages of chapter 7 of *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South* by Michael Gomez

(The E-Book is available on the UF Database)

Discussion Board

## **Week 4 The African Diaspora & Slavery**

### January 28

## Chapter 3

January 30

Chapter 4

**Reflection Paper Due**

February 1

Online Lecture: Florida Historical Society

Florida Frontiers TV - Episode 9 - Fort Mose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYybsYkJu9M>

Discussion Board

## **Week 5: Building Communities of Resistance**

February 4

Chapter 5

February 6

Chapter 6

Read "The Dark Side of Thomas Jefferson" by Henry Wiencek

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-dark-side-of-thomas-jefferson-35976004/>

February 8

Library Research Workshop

Ms. Stephanie Birch

(Meeting in the Smathers Library)

## **Week 6 Slavery & Abolitionism**

February 11

Chapter 7

**Reflection Paper Due on Nate Parker's Interview with the Breakfast Club**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hMDO-7NZuM&t=1479s>

February 13

Chapter 9

February 15

Online Lecture: Dr. Kate Clifford Larson

Harriet Tubman: Bound for the Promised Land

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ0tmNfgB7A>

Discussion Board

## **Week 7 Civil War & Reconstruction**

February 18

Chapter 10

Watch: Voices of the Civil War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE3UeGncxDM>

Watch: Behind the Emancipation Proclamation

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/behind-the-emancipation-proclamation/>

February 20

Chapter 11

Read "The History of the KKK in American Politics"

<https://daily.jstor.org/history-kkk-american-politics/>

Reflection Paper-Compare the tactics and ideals of the current alt-right and the KKK.

February 22

Online Lecture: PBS

Slavery By Another Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcCxsLDma2o>

Discussion Board

## **Week 8 Jim Crow & Self Determination**

February 25

Chapter 12

Read: Ida B. Wells: The Unsung Heroine of the Civil Rights Movement

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/27/ida-b-wells-civil-rights-movement-reporter>

Review the Monroe Work Lynching Project <http://www.monroeworktoday.org>

February 27

Chapter 13

March 1

Online Lecture: Celebrating Life and Radical Spirit of Ida B. Wells

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m-8\\_D-dzd8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m-8_D-dzd8)

Discussion Board

## **Week 9 \*Spring Break March 2-9, 2019\***

## **Week 10 Pursuing Democracy & The New Negro Movement**

March 11

Chapter 14

Read: "The Harlem Renaissance" by Cary D. Wintz

<https://www.humanitiestexas.org/news/articles/harlem-renaissance-what-was-it-and-why-does-it-matter>

March 13

Chapter 15

Selected pages from *Philosophies and Opinions of Marcus Garvey*

March 15

Online Lecture: Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g\\_RfSh7Uqg&t=1158s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g_RfSh7Uqg&t=1158s)

Discussion Board

## **Week 11 The New Deal Era, Double V for Victory & The Influence of Mary McLeod Bethune**

March 18

Chapter 17

March 20

Chapter 18

Read: "Three women to thank for Tuskegee Airmen existence"

<https://www.march.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/167712/three-women-to-thank-for-tuskegee-airmen-existence/>

View clips on African American Women's Involvement During World War II:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBMnZJD63I8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P84q-1Xs5jo>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HM6\\_2ZiIqE&t=522s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HM6_2ZiIqE&t=522s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dqIuRyya4U>

March 22

Online Lecture: Christopher Paul Moore, author of "Black Soldiers: The Unsung Heroes of World War 2."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4FYIpnawHQ>

Discussion Board

**Week 12 & 13 The Long Civil Rights Movement**

March 25

Watch "The Murder of Emmett Till" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrHrMHtR1Ds>

March 27

Read excerpts from "Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It" by Jo Ann Robinson

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai3/protest/text5/robinsonbusboycott.pdf>

Reflection Paper Due: Are we living in a modern day "Civil Rights Movement?" If so how can we be involved in it?

March 29

Online Lecture: Eyes On The Prize - (Part 2) Fighting Back 1957-1962

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D5xwC6M\\_Gk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D5xwC6M_Gk)

Discussion Board

April 1

Chapter 20

Read "Bigger Than a Hamburger" by Ella Baker

<http://www.crmvet.org/docs/sncc2.htm>

April 3

Read "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Dr. Martin Luther King

[https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Letter\\_Birmingham.html](https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)

Read "This Nonviolent Stuff Ain't No Good. It'll Get Ya Killed."

[http://www.teachingforchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Crosby-this\\_nonviolent\\_stuff.pdf](http://www.teachingforchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Crosby-this_nonviolent_stuff.pdf)

April 5

Online Lecture: Eyes On The Prize (Part 4): No Easy Walk (1962-1966) America's Civil Rights Movement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YYaaEffMFk>

Discussion Board

**Weeks 14 The Black Power Movement**

April 8

## Chapter 21

Read: "Lowndes County and the Voting Rights Act" by Hasan Kwame Jeffries

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/lowndes-county-and-the-voting-rights-act/>

### April 10

Read "Beyond Berets: The Black Panthers as Health Activists"

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5024403/>

Read "Children can't learn on an empty stomach": The Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast Program

By Husain Lateef & David Androff

### April 12

Online Lecture: Vanguard of the Revolution- The Real Story of the Black Panther Party

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6qb27VJzDY>

Discussion Board

## Weeks 15 & 16 Perspectives on the Present

### April 15

*The New Jim Crow*

**Research Papers Due**

### April 17

*The New Jim Crow*

### April 19

Online Lecture: Michelle Alexander

Michelle Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow" - 2013 George E. Kent Lecture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlnJwDUI64>

Discussion Board

### April 22 & 24

*The New Jim Crow*

### April 26

Reading Day

**Final Quiz : 4/30/2019 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SYLLABUS IS A GUIDE FOR THE COURSE. DR. PRESTON RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE SYLLABUS AT ANYTIME.\*\***