



**HIST 4382 African-American History Since 1876
Spring 2024**

Instructor: Dr. James Thomas Jones III
Section # and CRN: P01 23865
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Office Hours: TR 8:00 – 11:00 --- By Arrangement (Zoom)
Mode of Instruction: In Person

Course Location: W.R. Banks #208
Class Days & Times: TR 11:00 – 12:20

Catalog Description: The course examines the post-Civil War history of African-Americans. Lectures, films, and presentations will follow a chronological time line that highlights several prominent thematic strains of thought. Students should be prepared to examine major issues and historical events including, but not limited to: American Reconstruction, the Nadir, Populism, the Great Migration, Jim Crow, the Industrial Revolution, WWI, the Red Scare, Labor strife, the Cold War, WWII, the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power Era, the Rise of Black Political Power in America's central cities, gender wars and women's rights, and more contemporary issues and dilemmas. Special emphasis is paid to the social, economic, political, and cultural forces that have informed the American protest community.

Prerequisites: N/A
Co-requisites: N/A

Required Texts: *The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley*
Additional readings will be provided throughout the semester.

Recommended Texts: N/A

Student Learning Outcomes:

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	Learn basic facts of American history;	1	Critical Thinking
2	Be Better able to think critically, recognize change over time, and demonstrate an understanding of how actions have consequences.	2	Critical Thinking
3	Relate present-day issues and experiences to those of the past, in order to provide a better basis for personal responsibilities, appreciating challenges, and possibilities of contemporary times.	3	Communications
4	Supplement knowledge of sources and methods of learning American history.	4	Personal Responsibility
5	Develop global perspective and social responsibility by recognizing and remarking upon relationships between domestic and foreign affairs.	5	Social Responsibility

Major Course Requirements

Attendance Policy

Two unexcused, meaning approved by me in advance, absences will result in the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade. Three unexcused absences will result in the reduction of your final grade by another letter grade. A failing grade will result from more than three absences. You will be considered absent if you arrive late for or depart early from any class meeting.

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value	Total
1. Mid-Term Examination	10%	100 Points
2. Response Papers	70%	700 Points
3. Final Examination	10%	100 Points
4. Final Essay	10%	100 Points
Total:	100%	1000 Points

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 1000 – 900

B = 899 – 800

C = 799 – 700

D = 699 – 600

F = 599 – 0

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

**Assignment Title or
Grade
Requirement**

Description

Essay:

There will be one major final essay, 7 pages in length, required for this course. Student will receive their topic from the instructor. The decision to venture off and compose an alternative topic will result in a grade of zero for this assignment.

Exams:

There will be two exams given during the semester. Exams will be essay and short question style. The midterm and final exams will weigh equally with other exams. Make up exams are given on the rarest occasions at the instructor's discretion.

Response Papers:

As indicated above, response papers in the “Method of Determining the Final Course Grade” section serve as the major element in the evaluation of your performance. Considering the weight that response papers carry, is crucial that you do not fall behind in the engagement of readings and videos that you will encounter during this course. I will NOT reopen the submission portals if you miss the deadline; do not put your grade in peril by missing deadlines for any reason.

Your full 2-page response papers MUST be turned in prior to the beginning of class.

As you already know, this is an unusual moment for all of us and your inability to attend class due to any situation is not an excuse for not engaging your readings/videos and submitting your work on time. Your 2-page completed response paper must be pasted onto the assigned spot in Canvas, do NOT upload the file as there is so much that could go wrong with uploaded documents such as formatting problems that will result in you receiving a grade of zero for the submission.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (January 16 – 20)

(Introduction)

Topic: General meeting to discuss the syllabus, course requirements, and evaluation process.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- ***Sold Down the River*** (Response Paper Required)
- ***Unchained Memories***

Week 2 (January 21 - 27)

(Reconstruction + the Nadir)

Topic: Overview of the Slave experience and post-emancipation status of freed negro men, women, and children.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- ***Slavery by Another Name*** (Response Paper Required)

Key Issues: Emancipation, Sharecropping, Reconstruction, Freedmen's Bureau, Black education, the Convention Movement, Radical Reconstruction, suffrage rights, white reaction, Civil Rights Act of 1975, political activism, disfranchisement, segregation, black migration.

Week 3 (January 28 – February 3)

(The Plan of the Race {Washington + DuBois} / The Great Migration)

Topic: Educated negroes begin to see the fruits of education and political agitation. Class discussion will focus upon an examination of the leading spokespersons of the race (Washington, Cooper, DuBois) and their solutions to the “negro problem”. There are several factors that either push or pull Blacks out of the South to the North, one of the major ones being factory jobs opened up to the nation due to the absence of white male workers. However, in the Post-War period we see the nation take a horrible turn towards “nativism”.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- ***Separate but Equal: Homer Plessy and the Case that Upheld the Color Line*** (Response Paper Required)
- ***Booker T. Washington & W.E.B. DuBois*** (Response Paper Required)
- ***Booker T. Washington: The Atlanta Compromise*** (Response Paper Required)

- ***W.E.B. DuBois: Activist Leader***
- ***Booker T. Washington: Founder of Tuskegee University***

Key Issues: The Hampton Model, Black Capitalism, The Black Church, Black Culture, Progressivism, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, The Niagara Movement, NAACP, Black political maturation, WWI, racial conflict, The Great Migration.

Week 4 (February 4 – 10)

(WWI/Urbanization/Marcus Garvey's UNIA/Black Nationalism)

Topic: Now a largely urbanized population, African-Americans confronts several new challenges: racism in the military, communism, black separatist leaders, issues on the shop floor. At the same time there will be a huge influx of activity towards gaining first-class citizenship status from organizations such as the Black church and NAACP, however, this period is probably best remembered as the greatest period for Black cultural and literary advancement during the Harlem Renaissance.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- **Marcus Garvey: The Strongest Voice for Black Nationalism in America** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **Ethnic Notions** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **Blackening Up**
- **Elaine Massacre** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **1917 Camp Logan Riot**

Key Issues: Black Labor, Socialism, The Red Scare, UNIA, NAACP, Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, The New Deal and Blacks, Black Protest during the Great Depression, Organized Labor and Blacks, Communism and Blacks, Tuskegee.

Week 5 (February 11 – 17)

(Nativism/Harlem Renaissance/Depression America)

Topic: The Great Depression put a damper upon the roaring twenties economy throughout the American populace. However, the subsiding of the Depression contributed greatly to the immediate flowering of a group of accomplished singers, artists, and novelist in Chicago. Names such as Wright, Parker, Hughes, Holiday, were further entrenched in the minds of the nation. Additionally, in the wake of the depression we see the rise of several black religious orders that call for the separation of African-Americans from the mainstream, the most prominent being Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- **The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance**
- **Scottsboro: An American Tragedy** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **Native Son** (*Response Paper Required*)

Key Issues: Black Culture and Racism, the Chicago Renaissance, Charlie Parker, Langston Hughes, Billie Holiday, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Black Religious Orders.

Week 6 (February 18 – 24)

(WWII/The Double-V Campaign/Cold War)

Topic: When Black soldiers mobilized to venture abroad and represent the nation in WWII, their focus was not solely upon subduing totalitarianism abroad. Instead, they had a double focus, commonly referred to as the Double-V campaign (Victory at home and Victory abroad). It is this politicized group that would return and be stalwarts in the battle for equality. However, they had to combat the repression found in America as a result of the Cold War before their movement was fully to bloom.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- **What if A. Philip Randolph Marched on Washington?** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **10,000 Black Men Named George** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **A Soldier's Story**

Key Issues: A. Philip Randolph, The March on Washington Movement, Executive Order 8802, racism in the Armed Forces, Black Soldier politicization, Black Workers, Race Riots, The Cold War, Paul Robeson, Constance Baker Motley, *Brown*.

Week 7 & 8 (February 25 – March 10)

(The Civil Rights Movement)

Topic: A truly urbanized and politicized people pool their resources to begin the battle for Civil Rights. Led by leaders such as King, Baker, Randolph, Wilkins, and Bates, the Civil Rights Movement struggled in the courts and at the grassroots level with protests to accomplish the singular goal of integration within mainstream society as first-class citizens.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- **Awakenings (1954 – 1956)** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **Fighting Back (1957 – 1962)** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **Ain't Scared of Your Jails (1960 – 1961)** (*Response Paper Required*)
- **Mississippi: Is This America (1962 – 1964)** (*Response Paper Required*)

Key Issues: *Brown II*, Emmett Till, Rosa Parks, MIA, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., SCLC, Little Rock 9, SNCC, Freedom Rides, Fannie Lou Hamer, Albany Movement, Sit-In Movement, JFK, Freedom Summer, MFDP, Edmund Pettus Bridge.

***** March 7 {MID-TERM EXAMINATION DUE}**

Spring Break (March 11 – 16)

Week 9 & 10 (March 17 – 30)

(Black Power/Black Nationalism/Dissident Voices) Topic: Leaders such as Malcolm X, mocked the singular goal of the Civil Rights leaders, as they proselytized that such goals were parochial. Undoubtedly, this position was the minority voice throughout the southern-based Civil Rights Movement, it would gain credibility as federal and state legislature did not transform into socioeconomic improvements in the daily lives of the masses of African-Americans.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- **The Time Has Come (1964 – 1966) (Response Paper Required)**
- **Two Societies (1965 – 1968) (Response Paper Required)**
- **Power! (1967 – 1968) (Response Paper Required)**
- **The Promised Land (1967 – 1968) (Response Paper Required)**
- **Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More (1964 – 1972) (Response Paper Required)**
- **A Nation of Law (1968 – 1971) (Response Paper Required)**

Key Issues: Malcolm X, Black Panther Party, SNCC, A new King, Vietnam, the Moynihan Report, rise of Black elected officials.

Week 11 – Week 15 (March 31 – April 26)

(SNCC/BPPSD/Black Electoral Politics/Future of Black Struggle)

Topic: An examination of the playing field that African-Americans find themselves on, particularly as the nation becomes more diverse. As Dr. King asked previously, *Where Do We Go From Here? Chaos or Community*.

Reading/Viewing Assignment:

- **Black Families (Daniel Patrick Moynihan) (Response Paper Required)**
- **Make It Plain (Response Paper Required)**
- **The Keys to the Kingdom (1974 – 1980) (Response Paper Required)**
- **Freeway Crack in the System**
- **The TRUTH Trickle Down Economics Doesn't Work (Response Paper Required)**
- **Kimberle' Crenshaw on Critical Race Theory (Response Paper Required)**
- **The Truth About Critical Race Theory (Response Paper Required)**
- **The Space Traders**

Key Issues: Black Nationalism, Black Power, Expansion of Black middle-class, Conservative reaction to Black progress, Affirmative Action, Bakke, Black Intellectuals, Black Electoral Politics.

***** April 25th (Final Essay Due)**

Finals Period (April 30 – May 8)

Final Exam: Due May 5th at Noon