

**History 264: 01E African American History**  
**Spring 2014**  
**FH 103, MWF 11:00-11:50**

**Instructor:** Kerry L. Goldmann

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**Office hours:** Monday- 1pm-3pm, Wednesday 1pm-2pm, Friday 9am-11pm (or by appt)

**Course Purpose:** This course will survey the major historical events in African American history from the origins of slavery in North America through the present. Themes addressed in the course will include: the creation of African American identity, African cultural continuity, the construction of race in the context of the U.S., the relationship of people of African descent to American political and social institutions, black resistance, white oppression, the impact of gender on the black historical experience, African American cultural expression, and black community life in both slave and free communities in the North and in the South. We will also discuss the history of the field of African American history and endeavor to understand how a deep understanding of black history has altered and shaped broader narratives of American history. By the end of the semester, students should possess not only a broad familiarity with the experiences of black Americans during the time period but should also possess a more sophisticated understanding of how to interpret both primary sources and historiographical texts.

**Student Learning Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course:

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

**Communication:** I want to be as accessible to you as I can be. I will hold regular office hours for at least five hours per week on a first-come, first-served basis, and I will also be happy to schedule an appointment with you at a time outside of regular office hours on which we can both agree. I encourage you to visit me in office hours to discuss any aspect of this course or whatever else is on your mind. If you can't visit during office hours, please call or email me. I will do my best to respond immediately.

**Required Texts:**

- Henry Louis Gates, Jr. editor, *The Classic Slave Narratives* (2012)
- David F. Godshalk, *Veiled Visions: The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot and the Reshaping of American Race Relations* (2005)
- *Other various readings will either be handed out in class or emailed to you*

**Assignments:**

Attendance/Participation	10
Quizzes (3)	30 (10 points each)
Book Review	20
Book Review Presentation	40
Midterm Exam	100
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>200</u>

**400 Points Total****Grade Breakdown:**

360-400 =A

320-359=B

280-319=C

240-279=D

**Book Reviews:** In this class, you will learn how to write book reviews of historical books that are significant to the study of history. Each student will write two 500-750-word book reviews during the semester. In the middle of the semester, each student will review the same book to turn in (Godshalk's *Veiled Visions*), and each student will choose a book on their own to review for the end of the semester. For the review due at the end of the semester, each student will do an oral presentation of their book review for the class. These reviews should be modeled on the book reviews found in scholarly journals. For good book review style, refer to the reviews in *The Journal of Southern History*, *The Journal of American History*, or *Reviews in American History*. **These reviews MUST include an explanation of the author's thesis, and they should analyze the content, method, and judiciousness of the author's approach to the topic. See separate assignment handout for details.**

**Midterm Examination:** Details will be distributed later.

**Final paper:** The final paper will serve as your final examination. It will be analytical in nature and will ask you to synthesize the broad array of materials we will encounter in class. You will write a 3-4 page essay synthesizing what you have learned about African-American history around one of the following themes:

- 1) resistance and cooperation
- 2) economics and work
- 3) culture and community

--More specific guidelines will be distributed later in the term--

**Missed Assignments:** If you are late in turning in your mid-semester book review, points will be deducted from your review grade. Missing your book review presentation at the end of the semester will result in an even greater grade drop. If you miss a film quiz (there are 3), you have one week from when we took it in class to make it up during my office hours. If you are aware you are going to miss the Midterm, please do not wait until the day of or after to tell me. If you let me know beforehand I will be more able to accommodate you if it is extenuating circumstances.

**Expectations:** The attached class schedule lists weekly reading assignments, which you should ideally complete before the first lecture of that week. Whether or not you can complete

reading assignments before I deliver the corresponding lectures, I do expect you to keep up with the readings. Your grade depends in part upon your attendance and your ability to participate meaningfully in classroom discussions. The practice of history is about making and supporting arguments, but I do expect you to remain civil and respect the opinions of your classmates during these dialogues.

**Attendance:** I do have an attendance policy, and there will be a daily sign-in sheet. You absolutely cannot expect to do well in this course if you miss class often. If you do miss a lecture it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate; I will share my lecture outlines with you, but I will not share my lecture notes.

I hope you will find that I work hard to prepare for class, make a point of arriving on time, do my best to return graded assignments promptly, treat my students with respect, and maintain a sense of humor. I ask no more—or less—than the same from you. **Please turn your cell phone off before you enter my classroom or prepare to be embarrassed.**

### **Withdrawal Policy:**

If you are unable to complete the course, you must withdraw by the **12<sup>th</sup> University class day for a refund**. A student wishing to withdraw from a course before the end of the semester must initiate the process by filling out the official withdrawal form, which can be found on the University's website or at the Registrar's office.

### **Texas A&M Commerce College Academic Policies:**

#### **Academic Ethics Statement**

Every member of the Texas A&M Commerce community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Texas A&M Commerce may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission of one's own work material that is not one's own. Scholastic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher's editions, use of information about exams posted on the Internet or electronic medium, and/or falsifying academic records. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any conduct through electronic or computerized means:

**Plagiarism** is the use of an author's words or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation.

**Cheating** is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else's work for assignments as if it were one's own; or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

**Collusion** is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

**See the current *Texas A&M Commerce Student Handbook* for additional information.**

**Those found to have taken part in academic dishonesty will receive a zero on the assignment or exam and the instructor will report the event to the Dean of Students Office.**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Students with Disabilities information: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library, Room 132  
(903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 phone  
(903) 468-8148 fax  
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

**Spring 2014 Class Schedule**

**Dates**

**Material Included**

Week 1: Jan 13  
Jan 15  
Jan 17

Class Introduction  
Lecture—African Origins  
Assignment— Read Handout: *Olaudah Equiano Recalls the Middle Passage*  
Discussion: *Olaudah Equiano* reading; Lecture—The Middle Passage

**\*MLK Holiday on January 20\***

Week 2: Jan 22  
Jan 24

Film—*Africans in America Part I: The Terrible Transformation*  
**Film Quiz I**, Lecture—Africans in Colonial North America, Struggle for Independence

Week 3: Jan 27  
Jan 29  
Jan 31

Lecture—A New Nation  
Lecture—Life in the Cotton Kingdom  
Lecture—Free Black People in Antebellum America  
Assignment—Read Frederick Douglas’s narrative in Gates’ *Slave Narratives*

Week 4: Feb 3  
Feb 5  
Feb 7

Lecture—Opposition to Slavery  
Lecture— Disunion Over Slavery  
Film—*Africans in America Part IV: Judgment Day*

Week 5: Feb 10

Lecture—Finish film

Feb 12	<b>Film Quiz II</b> , <u>Lecture</u> —African Americans and the Civil War <u>Assignment</u> —Read Eric Foner Handout
Feb 14	<u>Discussion</u> —Eric Foner’s <i>A Short History of Reconstruction</i> <u>Lecture</u> —Reconstruction
Week 6: Feb 17 Feb 19	<u>Lecture</u> —Reconstruction cont’d <u>Lecture</u> —Failures of Reconstruction <u>Assignment</u> —Read <i>The Age of Jim Crow</i> (Dailey) Handout
Feb 21	<u>Discussion</u> — <i>Jim Crow</i> (Dailey) Handout <u>Lecture</u> —White Supremacy, <b>Book Review Assignment Instructions</b> <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>The Clansman</i> Handout
Week 7: Feb 24 Feb 26 Feb 28	<u>Lecture</u> —White supremacy cont’d, the KKK, Thomas Dixon and <i>The Clansman</i> <u>Lecture</u> —Jim Crow and the Lynching Era (1890-1920) <u>Lecture</u> —Race Riots at the turn of the century <u>Assignment</u> —Read <i>Atlanta Compromise</i> Handout
Week 8: Mar 3 Mar 5 Mar 7	<u>Discussion</u> —Booker T. Washington v. W. E. B. Du Bois <b>**Due: First Book Review**</b> Midterm Review <b>MIDTERM</b>
<b>***SPRING BREAK: March 10-14***</b>	
Week 10: Mar 17  Mar 19 Mar 21	<u>Lecture</u> —African Americans in the early Twentieth Century (NAACP) , D.W. Griffith’s <i>The Birth of a Nation</i> , Oscar Micheaux’s <i>Within Our Gates</i> <u>Assignment</u> —Read <i>Crisis</i> article handouts <u>Lecture</u> —1920s: The Harlem Renaissance and the Art Debates <u>Lecture</u> — Harlem Renaissance cont’d and the Great Depression
Week 11: Mar 24 Mar 26 Mar 28	<u>Lecture</u> —Blacks in the New Deal and WWII <u>Lecture</u> —Revolution in Education in the 1950s <u>Lecture</u> — Civil Rights Movement: MLK Jr. and the SCLC
Week 12: Mar 31 Apr 2 Apr 4	<u>Lecture</u> —MLK cont’d <u>Lecture</u> — Film— <i>Eyes on the Prize</i> , “Mississippi: Is this America? (1962-1964) <u>Lecture</u> — Finish film, <b>Film Quiz III</b>
Week 13: Apr 7 Apr 9 Apr 11	<u>Lecture</u> —The Mississippi Movement <u>Lecture</u> —Student Movements (SNCC), Freedom Rides, and Sit-ins <u>Lecture</u> —Student Movements cont’d
Week 15: Apr 14 Apr 16 Apr 18	<u>Lecture</u> —Black Nationalism and Black Power <u>Lecture</u> —CRM on a National Level Workday for Book Reviews
Week 16: Apr 21 Apr 23 Apr 25	<b>Book Review Presentations</b> <b>Book Review Presentations</b> <b>Book Review Presentations</b>

Week 17: Apr 28                      Discuss Final Paper Assignment  
                 Apr 30                      Work on Final Paper/Make-up work  
                 May 2                                NO CLASS—work on Final Paper

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 7—10:30am – 12:30pm    Final Papers are due in the box on my office door no later than  
May 7 at 12:30!!! I will not accept final examinations via email**

**\*\*\*Syllabus is subject to change at professor's discretion\*\*\***