HIST/AFST 300: Blacks in the United States, 1607-1877
Fall, 2012
MWF 12:40-1:30
Glasscock 008

Professor Al Broussard
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Office Hrs. 11:15AM-12:00PM daily
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Course Description:
This course examines, through significant topics, individuals, and issues, the collective experience of African-Americans. The course's scope is the historical continuum from African origins to the end of Reconstruction in the United States; its focus, the people of the African continent, uprooted and enslaved, who continually grappled with the problem of how to preserve their dignity and identity in a hostile environment. The African-Americans' adjustment to American society, their struggle against political oppression, the dynamic nature of their group life, the development of black institutions, the status of free blacks, and the impact of the American Revolution, Civil War, and reconstruction are some of the issues that the course will explore.

Prerequisites:
Junior or senior classification

Core Objectives for American History Foundational Component Area

Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information).

Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication)

Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities)

Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through this course, students will be able to:
1) evaluate and synthesize secondary historical writings related to the history of Africans in America from 1607-1877

2) express their own ideas effectively in written and oral form.

3) identify historical and social contexts that created diversity in the American past, in present-day America and in human cultures more generally.

4) apply knowledge about the human condition- in the American past and present- to their personal lives and studies.

**Required Texts:**

Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years a Slave*
Wilma King, *Stolen Childhood*
James Roark and Michael Johnson, *Black Masters*

**Course Assessment:**

Your grade will be based on:

**two** mid-term, non-cumulative essay exams that incorporate lecture, reading materials and class discussion. These essay exams address the following core objectives: critical thinking, written and visual communication, social responsibility.

**one** final essay exam that incorporates lecture, reading materials and class discussion. This essay exam addresses the following core objectives: critical thinking, written and visual communication, social responsibility.

**five** in-class quizzes that incorporate lecture, reading materials and class discussion. These quizzes address the following core objectives: critical thinking, written and visual communication and social responsibility.

**Grading Summary**

Exam 1: 100 pts.
Exam 2: 100 pts.
Final Exam: 100 pts.
Quizzes (5): 10 pts x 5=50 pts.

Total points possible= 450 pts.

**Grading Scale (by percentage):**

90-100 A
Class discussion:

Although this class does not have a graded discussion component, several times during the semester we will discuss connections among readings, lecture and your own contemporary experiences. I will incorporate these discussions into the course midterms, final and in-class quizzes.

Attendance:

Attendance is required, and students who miss more than three class periods (unexcused absences) will be penalized one letter grade from their final grade. Thus you are urged to be diligent about attending class on a regular basis and completing all class assignments. Students will be required to submit an excused absence in the event that you miss an examination. There will be no exceptions. All assigned articles have been placed on two hour reserve in Evans library and can be downloaded from a personal computer. I will handle all excused absences and work related to them according to Student Rule 7. http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm

ADA- Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination law that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If a student believes that they have a disability requiring accommodation, they should contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall (campus phone 845-1637). For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu

Academic Integrity:

Calendar of Topics and Readings
(Please complete all reading assignments by Monday)

Aug. 27-31: The Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on the Western World Wright, chapter 1

Sept. 3-7: The Evolution and Development of Slavery in Colonial America, part 1
Wright, chapter 2 (first ½)

Sept. 10-14: The Evolution and Development of Slavery in Colonial America, part 2
Wright, chapter 2 (second ½)

Sept. 17-21: The Growth and Maturation of Plantation Slavery
Wright, chapter 3

Sept. 24-28: Slavery, Race, and the American Revolution
Jordan, "Thomas Jefferson: Self and Society," (reserve)
Wright, chapter 4

Oct. 1: Exam 1 (Blue Books are required)

Oct. 3-5 The Slave Community, part 1
Northrup’s, Twelve Years a Slave (first ½)

Oct. 8-12: The Slave Community, part 2
Northrup’s, Twelve Years a Slave (second ½)

Oct. 15-19: Family and Gender Roles in the Slave Community, part 1
King, Stolen Childhood (first ½)

Oct. 22-26: Family and Gender Roles in the Slave Community, part 2
King, Stolen Childhood (second ½)

Oct. 29: Exam 2 (Blue Books are required)

Oct. 31- Nov. 2 Protest, Resistance, and Revolution, part 1
Articles on e-Learning

Nov. 5-9: Protest, Resistance, and Revolution, part 2
Articles on eLearning

Nov. 12-16: The Status of Free African-Americans in Northern and Southern Society, part 1
Black Masters, ch. 1 & 2

Nov. 19-21: The Status of Free African-Americans in Northern and Southern Society, part 2
Black Masters, chapter 3 & 4

Nov. 22-23: Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 26-30: The Impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on the Lives of African-Americans, part 1
Dec. 3: "Black Masters," chapter 5 & 6
The Impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on the Lives of African-Americans, part 2
"Black Masters," chapter 7 & 8

Dec. 10: Final Examination 10:30-12:30 p.m.