

African-American History Since 1865

Spring 2008

HIST 236

Instructor: Franklin Forts
Office: 202A Arter Hall
Office Hours: M, 2 - 4/T&Th, 12:30 – 1:30/W, 10 – 12/ By appt.
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Course Description: This course is designed to give you an overview of the significant role people of African descent played in shaping of the cultural, political and economic life of the United States. Not only will our class examine the “major figures” that embodied this significant role, but we will also analyze the part played by the “ordinary” men and women of African descent who have left their mark on this nation. Our task will be aided through lectures, video, class discussion, textbook readings and “classic” autobiographies in the field of African-American history.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn the broad survey of the political, economic, social and cultural history of African Americans in the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present time.
- Students will improve their analytical skills through the interpretation of primary source documents.
- Students will engage in class discussions in order to improve their analytical skills and to discern the inherent link between the historical development of the American nation and the growth of the African American community.

Course Requirements (percentage of final grade)

3 books Quizzes	30% (10% each)
Midterm	25%
Final exam	25%
Class participation	10%
Poster Presentation	10%

Required Texts

- *The African American Experience: From Reconstruction*, Vol. II. Joe William Trotter, Jr. Houghton Mifflin, 2001.
- *The Souls of Black Folks*, W.E.B. DuBois, Bedford/St. Martin, 1997.
- *Black Boy*, Richard Wright. HarperCollins, 1998 Ed.
- *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Anne Moody. Dell-Laureleaf edition, 1997.
- Various handouts from the Instructor.

Exams: Each exam (midterm and final) will consist of two essays questions and identifications. Essay questions will cover lecture material (including videos, discussions, textbook material and other texts). Identifications (ids) are people, places, or concepts you will define and or describe in one paragraph.

Quizzes: Before each discussion class a short quiz will be administered. This quiz will cover names, places, and events from the book under discussion. These will be open book quizzes.

Poster: Working in pairs, students will design an original poster sized exhibit of visual images and narrative or quotations that bring to life a key moment in African American History. You will hand in your poster proposal (in the form of a one page prospectus) on February 5th. Your poster will be completed by February 26th, at which point you will present them to the class, along with your rationales for the choices you made about images and narratives. On February 28th posters will be displayed in the Campus Center lobby in a competition that is spread across several courses. A winning pair will be selected and prizes will be awarded.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Your regular attendance and participation are both necessary in order that we may reach our class goals and to insure a constructive learning environment. If you are late to class it is your responsibility to inform the instructor of your presence. **You are allowed three unexcused absence after that 5 points per unexcused absence will be taken away from your next exam.**

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Allegheny College operates under an Honor Code, to which all students are subject. See The Compass: Student Handbook, 2007-2008, <http://allegheny.edu/campus/policies/handbook.pdf>. You should educate yourself as to how these policies apply to you. In particular, Article III, paragraph 3 specifically forbids plagiarism, “defined as using the ideas or words of another without citing the sources from which the ideas or words are taken.” A clear statement of what constitutes plagiarism is provided at: <http://webpub.allegheny.edu/dept/writingcenter/links/plagiarism.htm>.

DISABILITY CONCERNS: If you have a documented disability, please let the instructor know as soon as possible so that he may make the appropriate accommodations. If you have provided documentation of a disability of any kind to the Learning Commons, and will need academic accommodations please arrange these with the Learning Commons and your instructor.

Classroom rules: No eating food or reading newspapers during lectures. Turn off all cell phones. Students violating these rules will be asked to leave.

N.B.: This syllabus is subject to change.

Class Schedule Spring 08

Jan	17	Introductions	
	22	The Civil War Ends & Presidential Reconstruction	Ch 11 AAE
	24	Congressional Reconstruction and its failure	
	29	<i>Birth of a Nation</i> (Video)	
	31	Attendance at <i>Focus the Nation Lectures</i>	
Feb.	5	Sharecropping and the Rise of Jim Crow	Ch 12 & 13 AAE
	7	The Great Migration & World War I	Ch 15 AAE
	12	W.E.B. DuBois & Booker T. Washington (Poster Proposal Due)	
	14	Discussion: <i>The Soul Of Black Folks</i> (Quiz)	
	19	Harlem Renaissance & the New Negro	Ch 16 AAE
	21	NO CLASS	
	26	Poster Presentations / Review	
	28	Exam	
Mar	4	<i>Ida B. Wells</i> (video)	
	6	Marcus Garvey, the Great Depression and A New Deal	Ch 17 AAE
	11	World War II: Fighting on Two Fronts	Ch 19 AAE
	13	Discussion: <i>Black Boy</i> (Quiz)	
	18	Spring Break	
	20	Spring Break	
	25	Civil Rights Movement I	Ch 20 AAE
	27	<i>Eyes on the Prize</i> (Video)	

Apr.	1	Civil Rights II	Ch 21 AAE
	3	Discussion: <i>Ann Moody</i> (Quiz)	
	8	Rise of Black Power	Ch 22 AAE
	10	White America Reacts: Conservative Backlash	
	15	Black Political Power Since 1968	
	17	The Coming of Hip Hop	
	22	Gender & the Black Community Today	
	24	Open	
	29	Last Day of Classes	

Final Exam Group "D": Saturday May 3 @ 9am