

AFR 317D (30425)/ HIS 317 L (39475)
Introduction to African American History
The University of Texas at Austin – Spring 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:00am GAR 0.102

Dr. T.M. Gill

Office: GAR 0.114
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00am-1:00pm, Thursdays 8:30-9:30am, and by appointment
Office Phone: 512-475-7925
E-mail: tmgill@mail.utexas.edu

Teaching Assistants:	Adam Paddock	Aragorn Storm Miller (SI)
Office:	BUR 412	BUR 416
Office Hours:	F 1:00-4:00pm and by appt.	W 1:00-4:00pm and by appt.
E-mail:	paddock@gmail.com	asm667@mail.utexas.edu

Course Overview

This course will provide an introduction to the major themes, issues, and debates in African American History from its African roots to the contemporary era. Brought to America in chains and denied the rights of citizenship for centuries, the struggles and triumphs of African Americans are a crucial part of the American experience. Through readings, lectures, film, and music the topics we will address include: the African roots of American culture, colonial and antebellum slavery, abolition movements in free black communities, the process of emancipation, Jim Crow segregation and racial violence, black cultural production, the modern black freedom struggle, and the current triumphs and challenges of African American life. This course will rely heavily on primary sources and firsthand accounts to highlight the impact of gender, class/status, and color in shaping the interior life of African American communities.

Course Objectives

Students should leave the course with a foundation to better understand many of the discussions surrounding contemporary ideas about race in American society. Particular attention will be paid to helping students learn to think critically about historical issues. Students will gain the skills necessary to evaluate the different and sometimes contradicting interpretations offered by historians as well as gain insight into the methods used by historians in interpreting the past.

Required Texts:

The following books are available at the University Co-op on Guadalupe Street.

- William Jelani Cobb, The Substance of Hope: Barack Obama and the Paradox of Progress. New York: Walker and Company, 2010.
- Ray Fikienbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past: Primary Sources in American History (2nd edition). New York: Longman, 2003.
- Ernest J. Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.
- Deborah Gray White, Ar'n't I a Woman: Female Slaves in the Plantation South (2nd edition). New York: WW Norton, 1999.

GRADING and ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Due Date	Grade Percentage
Reading Questions	FEB 10	20%
Mid-term Examination	MAR 8	25%
Response Paper	APR 19	25%
Final Examination	MAY 5	30%

Grading Rubric:

94-100 A	90-93 A-	87-89 B+	83-86 B	80-82 B-	77-79 C+
73-76 C	70-73 C-	67-69 D+	63-66 D	60-63 D-	59-0 F

On examinations, the majority of the material you will be responsible for will come from the lectures. Lectures will sometimes highlight or review material covered in the readings, but will often cover material that is not duplicated in the textbook. **Therefore, in order to have a chance at doing well in this course, you must attend ALL lectures.** If you miss a lecture, neither I nor the TAs will provide you with lecture notes. No lecture notes or materials may be published in any form or distributed via the internet. **You may not record my lectures without my permission.**

Supplemental Instruction Sections

This class has been selected to have Supplemental Instruction (SI). SI consists of optional discussion sections led by one of your TAs, Storm Miller. These sessions will help reinforce and clarify course content PLUS help you to learn the material more effectively. SI also gives you a smaller forum for discussing course content and getting to know your classmates. Regular participation in SI discussion has been shown to improve students' performance by an average of one-half to a full letter grade higher than the class mean. Meeting times and places will be announced in class.

Course Policies

Statement on Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five business days before an exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed. See following website for more information: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>

Statement on Electronic Communication

In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements. We will also use Blackboard—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>—to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give you online surveys. You can find support in using Blackboard at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

Policy on Late or Missed Assignments/Examinations

If you fail to turn in an assignment during class time on the date on which it is due, you will lose five (5) points for every calendar day it is late. Any assignments more than three (3) calendar days late will not be graded and you will receive a zero (0) for the assignment.

Make-up in-class assignments or examinations will only be given with a documented reason for absence. If the Professor determines that the excuse given for missing class is not valid or verifiable, the student will receive a zero (0) for the examination.

***Note: The midterm examination for this course is scheduled for March 8, 2011 and the final exam is scheduled for May 5, 2011. You are expected to take the exams at that time. Make-up examinations will not be given to accommodate your travel plans or non-emergency family events, etc. Please plan accordingly.**

Statement on Religious Holidays

Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. If you miss an examination, work assignment, or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day you will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin that you must notify each of your instructors at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent to observe a religious holy day.

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. As such, scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. Any student who violates the University's rules on scholastic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For further information visit the Student Judicial Services website: www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office

Class Etiquette/ Code of Conduct:

Please make sure that all cellular phones and beepers/pagers are turned off while you are in class so as not to disturb others.

You will be expelled from the lecture hall:

- if your phone rings during the lecture
- if you disturb others by holding a conversation while the professor is speaking
- if you send text messages or play games on a handheld device
- if you read any materials not pertaining to this class.

Lateness disrupts the classroom environment. You may not be allowed to enter the lecture hall if you are more than five minutes late. Be on time.

If you leave the lecture hall during class, you will not be allowed to return.

Respect the classroom environment.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Keep in mind that this is a tentative schedule and may be adjusted by the Professor at any time.

Week One

Course Introductions and the History of African American History

- Tuesday January 18 Course Introductions
Thursday January 20 *Joe Trotter, "African American History: Origins, Development, and Current State of the Field" (AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)

Week Two

Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1400-1600

- Tuesday January 25 Fikensbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, vii-x; Chapter 1.
Thursday January 27 *Lorena Walsh, "The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Colonial Chesapeake Slavery" (AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)

Week Three

Ambiguous Beginnings: The Culture of Status of Africans in America, 1600-1800

- Tuesday February 1 Fikensbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 2.
Thursday February 3 *Shane White, "Slavery in the North" (AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)

Week Four

"Slavery and Freedom: An American Paradox," 1776-1830

- Tuesday February 8 Fikensbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 3.
Thursday February 10 *READING QUESTIONS DUE
Fikensbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 4.

Week Five

That "Peculiar Institution": Slave Life in the Antebellum South, 1820-1860

- Tuesday February 15 Fikensbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 5.
Thursday February 17 White, Ar'n't I A Woman, pp. 13-61.

Week Six

That "Peculiar Institution": Slave Life in the Antebellum South (con't)

- Tuesday February 22 White, Ar'n't I A Woman, pp. 62-118.
Thursday February 24 White, Ar'n't I A Woman, pp. 119-160.

Week Seven

Abolitionism and the Road to the Civil War, 1830-1864

- Tuesday March 1 Fikensbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 6.
Thursday March 3 Fikensbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 7.

Week Eight

- Tuesday March 8 **EXAMINATION #1**
Thursday March 10 White, Ar'n't I a Woman, pp. 161-190

Week Nine – SPRING BREAK

Week Ten

Reconstruction and the Meaning of Freedom, 1865-1880

Tuesday March 22 Fikembine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 8.
Thursday March 24 Fikembine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 9.

Week Eleven

The Rise of Jim Crow Segregation and Racial Uplift, 1880-1920

Tuesday March 29 Fikembine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 10.
Thursday March 31 Fikembine, ed. Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 11.

Week Twelve

Building Black Communities in the Age of Segregation: North and South, 1910-1940

Tuesday April 5 Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying, Chapters 1-10
Thursday April 7 Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying, Chapters 11-22.

Week Thirteen

Building Black Communities in the Age of Segregation, 1940s-1950s

Tuesday April 12 Gaines, A Lesson Before Dying, Chapters 23-31
Thursday April 14 Fikembine, Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 14.

Week Fourteen

The Modern Black Freedom Struggle, 1940-1965

Tuesday April 19 ***RESPONSE PAPER DUE**
Fikembine, Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 15.
Thursday April 21 Fikembine, Sources of the African American Past, Chapter 16
Cobb, The Substance of Hope, pp.1-62

Week Fifteen

The Post-Civil Rights Era and the Obama Ascendancy

Tuesday April 26 Cobb, The Substance of Hope, pp.63-115
Thursday April 28 Cobb, The Substance of Hope, pp. 115-174

Week Sixteen

Review and Final Exam

Tuesday May 3 Exam Review
Thursday May 5 ***FINAL EXAM**