

FALL SEMESTER, 2005

Course: AFRIAMR 141-01 MODERN BLACK AMERICAN HISTORY
MW 2:15 – 3:45pm WH1012

Text: The African American Experience. Trotter, Joe W., 2001

Recommended: African Americans in Wisconsin. Slesinger, Doris P. & Grigsby, E.Howard, 2000.

Instructor: Dr. E. Howard Grigsby

Office Hours: 12:00-2:00pm Wednesday

Phone: 262 -472-4121

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to introduce students to the post slavery experience of African Americans in the United States. The course is structured thematically - examining the most important events that greeted and affected African Americans after the Civil War (1865). However, because the Civil War is viewed as the landmark of the post Civil War Black experience, it is important that the student be familiar with the War, especially its impact on African Americans whether free or captive, and how it affected and influenced whites' attitude towards Blacks.

Reconstruction in all aspects during the post slavery era is considered by many to be the litmus test of the US Government's commitment to help African Americans to partake in the benefits of being citizens of the republic. For this reason, close attention will be given to the pros and cons of reconstruction and ultimately how it failed and left the African Americans on a trail to the status quo ante - that is slavery. This period may be viewed as "invisible slavery or slavery without shackles." As a whole, all major themes in the post slavery African-American experience will be examined.

The teaching format will be through lectures, class discussions, and films when possible. Students are encouraged to read newspapers, magazines, and periodicals that address the African American experience.

Class attendance and participation is expected and required. Poor attendance and failure to read the assignments prior to class meetings may result in not passing the course.

Final grade will be based on a quiz, accounting for approximately 25%, and a mid-term and final exam accounting for approximately 65%. The additional 10 percent will be based on class attendance and participation. Tentative dates for the exams are:

Quiz one-----28 September

Mid-term-----19 October

Final-----16 December 1:00 – 3:00 PM

[Make-up exams will not be given without official excuse]

ACCOMMODATION

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination an Absence for University Sponsored Events. (For details please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables; the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures” [UWS Chapter 14]; and the “Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures” [UWS Chapter 17]).

COURSE CONTENT

- I. The Transatlantic Trade
 - A. Conditions in North America that created the need for Slave Labor.

Assigned Readings: text, chapters: 2, 3

- II. The Plantation System, Slave Codes, and Response to Bondage
 - A. Antislavery Sentiment, the Revolution, and Forms of Resistances.

Assigned Readings: text, chapters: 4, 5

- III. The Civil War and Black Freedom.

Assigned Readings: text, chapters: 9, 10

- IV. The Politics of Emancipation
 - A. Social and Economic Emancipation

Assigned Readings: text, chapters: 11, 12

- V. Freedom, Social Conditions, and the Rise of Jim Crow.

Assigned Readings: text, chapters 13, 14

- VI. Industrialization and the Great Migration

Assigned Readings: text, chapters: 15, 16

- VII. Emergence of a New Deal

Assigned Readings: text, chapter 17, 18

- VIII. The Modern Civil rights Movement

Assigned Readings: text, chapters 20, 21

- IX. The Black Power Movement, Black Culture, and Politics

Assigned readings: text, chapter 22, 23

- X. Viable Models and Ideals for Positive Social

Assigned readings: “Assimilation for African Americans? Feagin, Joe R. 2003 [on reserve]

PBS REFERENCES

Africa and Slavery - African History on the Internet

<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/history/hislavery.html>

This annotated guide to Internet resources on slavery and the African Diaspora is part of Stanford University Libraries' "Africa South of the Sahara" Internet resource guide.

The African American: A Journey from Slavery to Freedom

<http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/aaslavy.htm>

This site presents brief essays on aspects of slave life, significant historical events related to slavery and important figures in the history of African Americans during the Antebellum and Civil War periods. It includes a valuable list of Internet resources and suggestions for further reading.

The African-American Mosaic

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>

This resource guide leads to documents in the Library of Congress collection that are relevant to black history and culture. Topics include colonization, abolition, migration, and the WPA interviews with former slaves.

African-American Odyssey: A Quest for Citizenship

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/>

This Online exhibit showcases the incomparable African-American holdings at the Library of Congress. It includes links to Library of Congress collections including the Frederick Douglass Papers, "From Slavery to Freedom: The African-American Pamphlet Collection, 1824-1909," and "Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860."

African American Women On-Line Archival Collections

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>

This site offers primary documents related to African-American women from the Duke University Special Collections. It includes rare examples of letters written by female slaves to both their relatives and their white mistresses.

African American World

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/>

This site focuses on investigating the cultural contributions African Americans have made throughout history. The site presents comprehensive information on the history of black America, African-American art, and profiles of prominent intellectuals, social critics, and civil rights leaders important in African-American history. Other noteworthy components of the site include resources for children, a look at ongoing issues, and a detailed timeline.

Africans in America

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html>

This companion site to the PBS television series "Africans in America" examines the history of slavery in America in four chronological parts. It offers historical narratives, a resource bank of images and documents, and a teacher's guide to using the site and series in the classroom.

The Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas: A

Freedmen's Bureau Online

<http://www.freedmensbureau.com>

This site, which is searchable by type of document or by state, contains records on crimes, marriages, and labor from the Reconstruction period. It also offers links to related sites and an online bookstore specializing in relevant texts.

Freedom's Journal

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/aanp/freedom>

This digitized collection of the first newspaper owned and produced by African Americans (1827-1829) is made available from the Wisconsin Historical Society. The site contains links to other 19th century African American newspapers, to David Walker's APPEAL TO THE COLOURED CITIZENS OF THE WORLD, and to SOLDIERS WITHOUT SWORDS, a PBS/WETA documentary on the history of African-American journalism.

The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition

<http://www.yale.edu/glc>

This site provides access to resources from the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, a division dedicated to the examination of the Atlantic slave system and its destruction. The site addresses academic studies of the role of slavery, slave resistance, and abolition, and it links to information regarding curriculum, bibliographies, and calendar of events.

Making of America (MOA)

Cornell University Library's contributions

<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/index.html>

University of Michigan's contributions

<http://www.umdl.umich.edu/moa>

These digitized collections offer primary and secondary sources dealing with the social history of America from the Antebellum period through reconstruction.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

<http://www.freedomcenter.org>

This site is noteworthy because of its comprehensive encyclopedia of people and places associated with the Underground Railroad. It also contains links to related sites useful for students and educators.

Reconstruction: The Second Civil War

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction>

This site serves as a companion to THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE series on the reconstruction period in America. The site's features include a map detailing post-war developments in diverse regions of the country, an examination of African American participation in government, and a virtual road-trip with the films' production team.

The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow>

This companion site to WNET/Channel Thirteen's television

Visual Record

<http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/>

This site provides a collection of images related to American slave trade and slave societies. The images were compiled from a variety of sources and are comprised primarily of visual documents dating to the period of slavery. The exhibit is sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and by the Digital Media Lab at the University of Virginia.

Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture

<http://www.cofc.edu/avery>

This site presents the Avery Center's archival and museum collections of primary documents relating to the history and culture of African Americans in Charleston and South Carolina. The site also offers a schedule of center programs, including conferences, lectures, and exhibits

Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

This site contains transcripts from more than 2,000 first-person accounts of slavery collected in the 1930s under the sponsorship of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It also includes 500 photographs of former slaves.

The Church in the Southern Black Community, 1780-1925

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/ncuhtml/csbhome.html>

These digitized texts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill libraries were compiled by the Library of Congress, and they reveal the development of Protestant Christianity within the African American community in the American South.

Digital History: African American Voices

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/black_voices/black_voices.cfm

This site offers links to primary documents related to slavery in America and essays on various aspects of the slave experience, including the middle passage, family life, economics, and abolition.

Documenting the American South: The Southern Experience in 19th-Century America

<http://docsouth.unc.edu>

This site provides access to digitized texts, images, and audio files related to Southern history from the colonial period to the early 20th century. The collection of books, diaries, and letters offers a rich selection of sources on slavery and the African American experience. The site is sponsored by the University Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

series examines the institutionalization of segregation following emancipation. It includes essays on the history of "Jim Crow" laws, related stories, interactive maps, activities, teacher resources, and more.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

<http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>

This site allows users to search the New York Public Library's invaluable holdings of books, art objects, and videos related to the African Diaspora and African American culture and history. Of special interest are links to Digital Schomburg: Images of African Americans from the 19th Century, and "Lest we forget: The Triumph over Slavery," an online version of the UNESCO traveling exhibition.

Slavery in America

<http://www.slaveryinamerica.org>

This site for educators, on "Slavery and the Making of America," was created by series underwriters, New York Life. It includes an image gallery, lesson plans, an encyclopedia of topics relevant to slavery, and an interactive exhibition called "Roads to Freedom," which examines the ways slaves faced the challenges of escape.

Third Person, First Person

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/slavery>

This online exhibit reveals rare documents that recount the experience of slavery in America during the late 18th and 19th centuries from the point of view of the enslaved. The project belongs to the Duke University Special Collections Library.

The Time of the Lincolns

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lincolns>

Companion to film series ABRAHAM AND MARY LINCOLN: A HOUSE DIVIDED, this site includes a section entitled "Slavery & Freedom" which deals with four specific aspects of the history of slavery in the 19th century: abolition, the Underground Railroad, slavery in the North, and slavery in the South. The site includes links to primary documents, a virtual tour of a slave cabin, maps, and teacher resources.

Toward Racial Equality: HARPER'S WEEKLY Reports on Black America, 1857-1874

<http://blackhistory.harpweek.com>

This site reveals a leading newspaper's treatment of African Americans and the issues that affected them in Antebellum society and the Reconstruction period. The site includes digitized editorials, news stories, news briefs, cartoons, illustrations, advertisements, and other texts as well as an interactive game about Reconstruction for classroom use.

Virginia Runaways

<http://people.uvawise.edu/runaways>

Part of the Virtual Jamestown project, this site provides a collection of ads placed by slaveholders searching for fugitive slaves. The site is searchable by gender, age, skill, and other variables and is a project of the University of Virginia's Virginia Center for Digital History.