

AFR S317D (81557)/ HIS S317L (85625)
Introduction to African American History
The University of Texas at Austin – Summer 2011
MTWTHF 8:30-10:00am GSB 2.122

Dr. T.M. Gill

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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 Modern Black Freedom Struggle. 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, and the modern black freedom struggle. 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.

- Ray Fikienbine, ed. Sources of the African American Past: Primary Sources in American History (2nd edition). New York: Longman, 2003.
- 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	July 22	20%
Examination #1	July 29	30%
Examination #2	August 12	30%
In-Class Quiz	To Be Determined	10%
Class Participation	Every Class	10%

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

I expect that you will attend every class session and always be on time. I also expect that you will do the reading closely and come to class prepared with discussion questions and ways to engage the material. My goal is for an active and enthusiastic classroom environment; each one of us must do our part to ensure that this happens. Your participation grade will depend on your active engagement in the class. Do not underestimate the importance of this portion of your grade.

On examinations, the majority of the material you will be responsible for will come from the in-class lectures and discussions. Class discussions and lectures will sometimes highlight or review material covered in the readings, but will often cover material that is not duplicated in the texts. **Therefore, in order to have a chance at doing well in this course, you must attend ALL classes.** If you miss a class, 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.**

Course Policies

Absenteeism and Lateness

You will only be excused from class for extreme and documented circumstances. If you have more than three unexcused absences during the session, two points will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence in excess of three. Lateness disrupts the classroom environment. If you are not in class when attendance is taken, you will be considered absent, so be on time.

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 5 points for every calendar day it is late. Any assignments more than 2 calendar days late will not be graded and you will receive a 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 Friday July 29th and the final exam is scheduled for Friday August 12th. 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 class:

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

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 Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1400-1600

Monday July 11	Course Introductions
Tuesday July 12	*Joe Trotter, "African American History: Origins, Development, and Current State of the Field" (AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)
Wednesday July 13	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , vii-x; Chapter 1.
Thursday July 14	*Lorena Walsh, "The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Colonial Chesapeake Slavery" (AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)
Friday July 15	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 2.

Week Two

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

Monday July 18	*Shane White, "Slavery in the North" (AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)
Tuesday July 19	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 3.
Wednesday July 20	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 4.
Thursday July 21	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 5.
Friday July 22	*READING QUESTIONS DUE

Week Three

That "Peculiar Institution": Slave Life in the Antebellum South

Monday July 25	White, <u>Ar'n't I A Woman</u> , pp.13- 62-118.
Tuesday July 26	White, <u>Ar'n't I A Woman</u> , pp. 119-160.
Wednesday July 27	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 6.
Thursday July 28	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 7.
Friday July 29	EXAMINATION #1

Week Four

Reconstruction and the Rise of the Color Line, 1865-1920

Monday Aug 1	White, <u>Ar'n't I a Woman</u> , pp. 161-190
Tuesday Aug 2	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 8.
Wednesday Aug 3	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 9.
Thursday Aug 4	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 10.
Friday Aug 5	Fikembine, ed. <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 11.

Week Five

The Modern Black Freedom Struggle, 1930-1965

Monday Aug 8	Fikembine, <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 12.
Tuesday Aug 9	Fikembine, <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 13.
Wednesday Aug 10	Fikembine, <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 14.
Thursday Aug 11	Fikembine, <u>Sources of the African American Past</u> , Chapter 15.
Friday Aug 12	*FINAL EXAM