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2022

African American History since Emancipation

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CUNY City College

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City College of New York
HIST 36500/BLST31521 African-American History since Emancipation
AKA: From Blackface to Black Power:
Twentieth-century African American History and Culture
Spring 2022

Description:

From Blackface to Black Power looks at the formation and representation of African American identity within the context of the quest for the full rights of United States citizenship during the twentieth century. Throughout this complex period, African Americans made considerable gains in their pursuit of equal civil and human rights. Simultaneously, black identity underwent dramatic and subtle changes as the majority of African Americans transformed themselves from enslaved human beings to free men and women to New Negroes to Proud and Beautiful Black Americans. As cultural mediators, black artists simultaneously illustrated and provoked transformations of black identity and black sociopolitical consciousness.

Focusing upon the intersection between the cultural and political realms, this course will explore the roots and routes of the African cultural Diaspora as the foundation of urban, northern, politically-conscious, cultural production and activism. Delving into a variety of texts including primary and secondary literature, plays, and films, we will examine touchstone moments of the African American experience including Reconstruction; the Great Migration and WWI; the New Negro Renaissance; the Great Depression and the New Deal; post-war America and the Civil Rights, Black Power, and Black Arts movements.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

From Blackface to Black Power invites students to delve into key moments and foundational, as well as lesser known, texts of the African American experience during the 20th century. Students will gain a working knowledge of the broad academic discourse around African American history, cultural production, identity formation and representation, and critical race theory. Students will further develop their ability to think critically about texts and to synthesize myriad forms of information as they enhance their own intellectual curiosity, creativity, and flexibility. Focusing upon analysis and persuasion, students will further hone their writing skills to produce clear and effective essays. As they enhance their understanding of how to read, especially against the grain, cultural production, students will also gain a deeper understanding of cultural production as a primary source and the ways in which it impacts the disciplines of history and African American/Black Studies and the larger world.

Requirements

Students are required to complete pre-class meeting assignments, including reading, viewing, and listening, and a limited number of pre-recorded presentations. They must also be prepared to discuss these materials during class meetings. To facilitate discussion, students are to complete ten 1-page structured reading responses, including questions for discussion. These short papers should demonstrate not only that students have completed the assignment, but also that they have engaged with it. Students will also write one 4-page analytical essay and a concise proposal and complete a

final research project that culminates in a 12-page paper on a topic of their own choosing. This topic must be approved by the instructor. There will be five unannounced quizzes and a final exam.

Evaluation/Grading

Attendance	10%
Response Papers	20%
Analytical Essay	15%
Proposal	5%
Final Project	20%
Quizzes	20%
Final Exam	10%

Class Policies

Be on time.

Attendance is mandatory.

If you have a compelling reason for missing class, talk to me ***in advance***. Three unexcused absences will result in a full letter grade reduction of your final grade.

All assignments are due on blackboard (BB) no later than 11:30pm EST.

Late papers will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

All citations should be in Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) formatting.

Please remember to silence your cell phones.

You may take notes on a laptop or other device. Please be gracious: no texting, twitting, Instagram, etc.

Academic Integrity

In accordance with College policy, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism entails copying material from another source or failing to provide quotation marks or citations to work that is not your own. The College policy on academic integrity and cheating may be found here:

<http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>

All forms of academic dishonesty, including turning in work that was written by someone else or reusing a paper produced for another class, will result in a failing grade and could lead to sanctions or expulsion.

AccessAbility Center

In compliance with CCNY policy and equal access laws, appropriate academic accommodations are offered by the AccessAbility Center. Students who are registered with the AccessAbility office and are entitled to specific accommodations must arrange to have the office notify the professor in writing of their status at the beginning of the semester. If specific accommodations are required for a test,

students must present the instructor with a form from the AccessAbility office at least one week prior to the test date in order to receive their accommodations.

For additional information please refer to: www.ccnycuny.edu/accessibility

Counseling Center at CCNY

The Counseling Center sponsors free workshops on numerous topics (stress management, test anxiety, time management, conflict resolution, and others) and provides high quality counseling services that are accessible to all CCNY students. For more information on these workshops and services, call the center at (212) 650-8222, send them an email to counseling@ccny.cuny.edu, visit them at the Marshak Science Building Room J-15, or check online at: www.ccnycuny.edu/counseling

Writing Center at CCNY

The CCNY Writing Center offers one-on-one assistance for students working on writing assignments and projects from any discipline. Visit them whenever you need someone to listen to your ideas, discuss your topics or assignments, or read your drafts. Writing consultants will work with you on planning, drafting, and revising, which are all important steps in your writing process. More information is available at: www.ccnycuny.edu/writing

Food Insecurity & Emergency Support

Students who find themselves experiencing difficulties obtaining food every day or who lack a stable and safe place to live are urged to come to Benny's pantry for assistance:

<https://www.ccnycuny.edu/bennysfoodpantry>

Benny's pantry is located on the ground floor of the North Academic Center (NAC) and is open to anyone within the CUNY community (students, staff, faculty) in need of support. The pantry is open from 10am to 6pm and is self-serve. Additional emergency support for financial, health and housing needs are also available through Benny's.

Please contact Dee Dee Mozeleski at dmozeleski@ccny.CUNY.edu or Charles Ramirez @cramirez@ccny.CUNY.edu for additional details.

Texts (This course is zero textbook costs. All texts are available electronically for free)

BLACK THOUGHT & CULTURE DATABASE

(AVAILABLE VIA ALEXANDER STREET FOUND AT CCNY LIBRARIES): <https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccnyc-proxy1.libccny.cuny.edu/bltc>

Du Bois, W.E.B., "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others" (chapter 3) in *Souls of Black Folk*:

https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccnyc-proxy1.libccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cbibliographic_details%7C4387052#page/47/mode/1/chapter/bibliographic_entity%7Cdocument%7C4387056

Washington, Booker T., "The Atlanta Cotton Exposition Address" (chapter 14) in *Up From Slavery*:

https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccnyc-proxy1.libccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cbibliographic_details%7C4387052#page/47/mode/1/chapter/bibliographic_entity%7Cdocument%7C4387056

proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cbibliographic_details%7C4386162#page/220/mode/1/chapter/bibliographic_entity%7Cdocument%7C4386176

Wells-Barnett, Ida B., "Southern Horrors" in *On Lynchings*:

[https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccny-](https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cbibliographic_details%7C4402381#page/7/mode/1/chapter/bibliographic_entity%7Cdocument%7C4402387)

[proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cbibliographic_details%7C4402381#page/7/mode/1/chapter/bibliographic_entity%7Cdocument%7C4402387](https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cbibliographic_details%7C4402381#page/7/mode/1/chapter/bibliographic_entity%7Cdocument%7C4402387)

INTERNET ARCHIVE OPEN LIBRARY: <https://openlibrary.org>

Ransby, Barbara, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement*

[https://openlibrary.org/works/OL5968623W/Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL5968623W/Ella_Baker_and_the_Black_Freedom_Movement)

PDFS (AVAILABLE ON BB)

Ashbee, Edward, "The Republican Party and the African-American Vote Since 1964,"

in Peter Eisenstadt, ed., *Black Conservatism: Essays in Intellectual and Political History*

Baldwin, James, "Sonny's Blues"

Benjamin, Jules R. "Documentation Models," in Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History*

Delgado, Richard & Jean Stefancic, "Introduction," in Delgado & Stefancic,

Critical Race Theory: An Introduction

Hill, Abram Barrington, *On Striver's Row*

Hunter, Tera, *To 'Joy My Freedom*:

Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors after the Civil War (excerpt)

Orlandersmith, Dael, *Yellowman*

Powell, Richard J., "Enter and Exit the 'New Negro'," in Richard J. Powell,

Black Art and Culture in the 20th Century

Tarrow, David, "Introduction," in the Liner Notes to "Field to Factory:

African American Migration 1915 – 1940" in *Field to Factory - Voices of the Great Migration:*

Recalling the African American Migration to the Northern Cities, Liner Notes

Walker, Alice, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens* (excerpt)

New Negro Poetry, Plays, and Essays amassed by Prof. Woodard

Sound Recordings

ALEXANDER STREET (AVAILABLE VIA CCNY LIBRARIES)

Field to Factory - Voices of the Great Migration: Recalling the African American Migration to the Northern Cities

[https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccny-](https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Crecorded_cd%7C73329)

[proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Crecorded_cd%7C73329](https://search-alexanderstreet-com.ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Crecorded_cd%7C73329)

BB Presentations

Week Two Presentation: Reconstruction

Week Three Presentation: Redemption & the Nadir

Week Nine Presentation: WWII & the New Deal

Week Fourteen Presentation: Black Power & Blaxploitation

Week Fifteen Presentation: The Rise of Conservatism

Films

FREE SCREENINGS TBA; ALL FILMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE NYPL

Anker, D. and Goodman, B., dirs., *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy* (2001)

Burns, Ken & Sarah, *Central Park Five* (2012)

Lee, Spike, *Do the Right Thing* (1989)

Lee, Spike, *4 Little Girls* (1997)

Parks, Gordon, *Shaft* (1971)

Werker, Alfred L., dir., *Lost Boundaries* (1949)

Recommended Texts

Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History*

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, Seventh Edition.

Turabian, Kate L., *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers*

Additional Resources

AVAILABLE ON BB

ON-LINE WRITING LAB: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

CITATION COMPARISON CHART:

https://docs.google.com/gview?url=http://owl.english.purdue.edu//media/pdf/20110928111055_949.pdf&chrome=true

LIBRARY SUBJECTS GUIDE: <http://subjectguides.library.american.edu/citation>

Class Schedule

Week One: Setting the Stage

Monday, 1/31

Wednesday, 2/2

Week Two: Nuts, Bolts, & Reconstruction

Monday, 2/7

Please be prepared to discuss: "Introduction" From *Critical Race Theory*

Wednesday, 2/9

Please be prepared to discuss: *To 'Joy My Freedom* & BB Week Two Presentation: Reconstruction

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 2/8**

Week Three: Redemption & the Nadir

Monday, 2/14

Please be prepared to discuss: BB Week Three Presentation: Redemption & the Nadir

Wednesday, 2/16

Please be prepared to discuss: "Southern Horrors" (Preface & Chapters 1-6)

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 2/16**

Week Four: A New Negro for A New Century

Monday, 2/21: College Closed

Wednesday, 2/23

Week Five: Strategies

Monday, 2/28

Please be prepared to discuss: "The Atlanta Cotton Exposition Address"

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **SUNDAY, 2/27**

Wednesday, 3/2

Please be prepared to discuss: "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others"

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 3/1**

Week Six: The Great Migration & WWI

Monday, 3/7

Wednesday, 3/9

Please be prepared to discuss: "Introduction," in the Liner Notes to "Field to Factor" and the sound recording, *Field to Factory*

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 3/8**
- Analytical Essay due no later than 11:30pm on **WEDNESDAY, 3/9**

Week Seven: The New Negro Renaissance

Monday, 3/14

Please be prepared to discuss: "Enter and Exit the 'New Negro',"

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **SUNDAY, 3/13**

Wednesday, 3/16

Please be prepared to discuss: New Negro Poetry, Plays & Essays

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 3/15**

Week Eight: The Great Depression

Monday, 3/21

Wednesday, 3/23

Please be prepared to discuss: *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*

- Screenings on Sunday, 3/20 & on Tuesday, 3/22, times: TBA
- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 3/22**

Week Nine: WWII & The New Deal

Monday, 3/28

Please be prepared to discuss: *On Strivers Row* & BB Week Nine Presentation: WWII & the New Deal

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **SUNDAY, 3/27**

Wednesday, 3/30

Please be prepared to discuss: *Lost Boundaries*

- Screenings on Sunday, 3/27 & on Tuesday, 3/29, times: TBA
- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 3/29**

Week Ten: Post-War America

Monday, 4/4

Wednesday, 4/6

Please be prepared to discuss: "Sonny's Blues"

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 4/5**

Week Eleven: Civil Rights & Desegregation

Monday, 4/11

Please be prepared to discuss: *Ella Baker*, Introduction & chapters 1-4

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **SUNDAY, 4/10**

Wednesday, 4/13

Please be prepared to discuss: *Ella Baker*, chapters 5-7

WEEK TWELVE: SPRING BREAK! 😊

MONDAY, 4/18

WEDNESDAY, 4/20

Week Thirteen: Civil Rights & Desegregation (Cont.)

Monday, 4/25

Please be prepared to discuss: *Ella Baker*, chapters 8-12

- Proposal due no later than 11:30pm on **MONDAY, 4/25**

Wednesday, 4/27

Please be prepared to discuss: *4 Little Girls*

- Screenings on Sunday, 4/24 & on Tuesday, 4/26 Times: TBA
- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm on **TUESDAY, 4/27**

Week Fourteen: Black Power, Black Arts, & Black Feminism

Monday, 5/2

Please be prepared to discuss: BB Week Fourteen Presentation: Black Power & Blaxploitation & *Shaft* (1971)

- Screenings on **FRIDAY**, 4/29 & on **SUNDAY**, 5/1, times: TBA
- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm On **SUNDAY, 5/1**

Wednesday, 5/4

Please be prepared to discuss: *In Search Of Our Mothers Gardens*

- Structured Response Paper due no later than 11:30pm On **TUESDAY, 5/3**

Week Fifteen: The Rise of Conservatism

Monday, 5/9

Please be prepared to discuss: BB Week Fifteen Presentation: The Rise of Conservatism; “The Republican Party and the African-American Vote Since 1964;” & *The Central Park Five*

- Screenings on **FRIDAY**, 5/6 & on **SUNDAY**, 5/8, times: TBA

Wednesday, 5/11

Please be prepared to discuss: *Do the Right Thing*

- Screenings on **SUNDAY**, 5/8 & on **TUESDAY**, 5/10, times: TBA

Week Sixteen: The New Black Renaissance – Last Day Of Class! 😊

Monday, 5/16

Please be prepared to discuss: *Yellowman*

FINAL EXAM: TBA

FINAL PROJECT DUE: ON BB NO LATER THAN 11:30pm ON FRIDAY, 5/20