

**Introduction to African and African American History**  
**African American Studies / History 1140**  
**Spring Semester 2009**

Instructor: Dr. Charmayne E. Patterson

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:00 p.m. and by appointment

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**Required Text**

Hine and Hine, **The African American Odyssey - Complete Fourth Edition**

Douglass, Frederick, **Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass**

Jacobs, Harriet, **Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl**

**Course Objectives**

The introduction to African and African American history will explore African culture and the development of a distinct African American culture following the arrival of Africans in North America. In particular, we will focus on the central themes of work, family, community, and the continued struggle for liberation and equality.

**Course Requirements**

1. Attendance and Participation - Regular prompt classroom attendance and participation are expected. Roll will be taken at the beginning of most class sessions. Please note that repeated unexcused absences and lateness will negatively affect the final grade. Students will also earn participation points for completing in-class assignments related to films that we will watch in class. Roll will not be taken on the days that films are viewed since completion of the related assignments will serve as proof of attendance.

It should go without saying, but just as a courtesy reminder, this is a college classroom environment and you will be expected to conduct yourself accordingly. Distracting and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cellular phones, Instant Messaging, Two-way paging, Text Messaging are all strictly prohibited. Likewise, no headphones, iPods, mp3 players, or other music devices are not allowed in class. Students caught using any of the above in class will be asked to leave. Laptops are allowed only for purposes of taking notes. Anyone caught engaging in any other activity on their laptops will be asked to turn the device off and/or leave the classroom. Please be aware that all distracting behaviors will be noted by me and will have an impact in determining the final grade.

**\*\*\*Be sure to turn all communication devices off before entering the classroom.\*\*\***

2. Examinations - There will be three in-class examinations. The examination format may include multiple choice, short answer identifications, matching, and essay questions. There is no final examination for this course.

3. Literary Comparison - Students will submit a comparison of the books, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs. These comparisons may focus more heavily on one work than the other, but address their differences, especially in regards to the impact of gender among enslaved men and women. All papers should be at least *four full length double-spaced pages* (Times New Roman Font), exclusive of the required cover page and are due at the beginning of class on February 19, 2008. Late papers will be subject to an automatic ten point deduction per day for one day. **No papers will be accepted after February 20, 2009.**

### **Make-Up Policy**

Assignments and exams may not be made-up except in instances of verifiable emergencies and only with the instructor's prior consent. In the event that a student is absent when an assignment is due, **DO NOT** attempt to submit assignments via e-mail unless you have my prior consent. Any assignments sent without prior approval will not be accepted.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Please refer to the attached Policy on Academic Honesty as presented by the Georgia State University Department of History. Any observed violations of these standards are subject to university disciplinary procedures. Be aware that plagiarism or cheating on any assignment will result in an automatic "F" in the course.

### **Grading Policy**

Students may earn a maximum of 500 points. Grades will be determined as follows:

- Attendance / Participation - 100
- Class Exams - 300 (100 points each)
- Literary Comparison - 100 points

### **Grading Scale**

465-500	A
450-464	A-
435-449	B+
415-434	B
400-414	B-
385-399	C+
365-384	C
350-364	C-
300-349	D
Below 299	- Failure

\* Note - The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

### **Course Schedule**

January 6	Introduction to Class
January 8, 13	Africa - Chap. 1

January 15-22	From Africa to America - Chaps. 2 & 3
January 27	the Revolutionary Period - Chap. 4
Jan. 29, Feb. 3	African Americans in the New Republic - Chap. 5
February 5, 10	the Antebellum South / Slavery - Chap. 6 & 7
February 12	<b>Examination I</b> - Covers all readings and lecture material to date
February 17, 19 <b>February 19</b>	Abolition and the Quest for Freedom - Chaps. 8 & 9 <b>Literary Comparison due</b>
February 24, 26	the 1850s / Pre Civil War Era - Chap. 10
<b>March 2</b> March 3, 5	<b>Last Day to Withdraw from Class and Receive a (W)</b> Spring Break - no class
March 10	the Civil War - Chap. 11
March 12, 17	Reconstruction - Chaps. 12 & 13
March 19	<b>Examination II</b> - Covers all readings and lecture material since Exam I
March 24	Black Responses to White Supremacy - Chaps. 14 & 15
March 26	African American Leadership - Chap. 16
March 31, April 2	the 1920s and the Harlem Renaissance - Chap. 17
April 7, 9	the Great Depression - Chap. 18
April 14	World War II - Chap. 20
April 16, 21	the Civil Rights Movement - Chap. 21
April 23	<b>Examination III</b> - Covers all readings and lecture material since Exam II