

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 41333 African American History since 1865

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of the socioeconomic, cultural, and political development of African-Americans from the end of the Civil War to the present.

B. Additional Information

Students will examine contributions of African Americans to American history from 1865 to the present. Historical eras under our study will include 1) the Reconstruction period and its Jim Crow aftermath; 2) the rise of black expression especially of music during the segregation era; 3) the sociology of black migration; 4) literature by black authors of segregation and post-segregation years; 5) black sociological responses to systematic discrimination; 6) the struggles for civil rights; and 7) modern African American social and intellectual events.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Exhibit mastery of essential factual material about the history of African-Americans in the United States during the period from 1865 to the present.
2. Analyze African-American history, society, and culture in the United States during the period from 1865 to the present, identifying, discussing, and comparing recurrent and variable concepts and themes.
3. Describe the economic opportunities available to African-Americans since the Civil War.
4. Describe the process of Reconstruction.
5. Describe the Jim Crow system and governmental involvement in the system.
6. Explain the Civil Rights movement.

7. Explain and evaluate the political changes and laws that resulted from the Civil Rights movement.
8. Use tools of historical analysis recovering, researching, and writing about the African-American past.
9. Explain the complexity of both change and continuity over time in African-American society and culture.
10. Evaluate the influence of historical interpretation and historiographical schools of thought, including their sociological elements, as they relate to the history of African-Americans from 1865 to the present.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine how events and ideas in contemporary African-American society and culture have evolved, as well as to determine the contributions of African-Americans to modern American society. Students will demonstrate their understanding of these factors in exams and research projects.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will use the essay format for written presentation of research projects and for exams. Students will participate in class discussions relating to modern African-American history.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will synthesize materials from various sources to complete research projects, accomplish group presentations, and construct answers to essay examination questions.

III. Major Course Topic

- A. The Freedman's Bureau, Development of Sharecropping
- B. The Jim Crow Era
- C. The Harlem Renaissance
- D. The Effects of the Depression and World War II on African Americans
- E. The Early Civil Rights Movement
- F. Desegregation and the Little Rock Crisis
- G. The Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s
- H. Black Power
- I. African-Americans in an Integrated American Society