

HIST 251: African American History II

TR, 12:00-1:20PM, GSH 123

Professor

Dr. Malcolm Frierson

Office: McKenzie Hall, Room 315

Office Hours: TR, 1:30-2:30PM, and by appointment

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Course Description

This course focuses on the most intimate expressions of African American life in the racially tumultuous twentieth century. It gives attention to the literary movement concentrated in Harlem in the 1920s, and it considers the often-neglected sociopolitical barometers of music, sport, and comedy. The course features an exciting list of required readings and other materials designed to challenge, enrich, and empower students.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to illuminate the central place of African Americans in U.S. history by telling the story of what it has meant to be “Black in America” and how African American history is inseparably woven into the greater context of American history. Students’ analytical thinking, writing, and speaking skills will be improved in this course.

Methods of Presentation

This is primarily a lecture course, but students are encouraged to participate in discussions over historical issues and topics. We will not only have our usual lectures, but will incorporate scholarly articles, films, documentaries, personal narratives, literature, photographs, and other mediums to accurately capture the African American experience.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have learned to:

1. Create an argument using historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Discuss the effects of historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on the African American experience.

Required Books

Davis, James. [*Eric Walrond: A Life in the Harlem Renaissance and the Transatlantic Caribbean*](#) (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2015) ISBN: 978-0231157858

Ford, Tanisha C. [*Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul*](#) (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2017) ISBN: 978-1469636139

Note: Additional learning materials will be posted in Canvas throughout the semester.

Assignments

There will be three critical analysis writing assignments in this course. Instructions for completing each writing assignment will be provided.

All assignments must be submitted on time. Late work will NOT be accepted. If there is an issue (e.g., illness, family emergency) that you expect will keep you from finishing an assignment on time, please contact me as soon as possible. Issues are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Grading

Participation 25% (class participation = 15%, discussion section participation = 10%)
Writing Assignment #1 ... 25%
Writing Assignment #2 ... 25%
Writing Assignment #3 ... 25%

Grading Scale

A+	97-100
A	93-96.9
A-	90-92.9
B+	87 - 89.9
B	83 - 86.9
B-	80 - 82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
F	0-59.9

Classroom Expectations

All electronic devices should be silenced or turned off during class. Please do not answer your phone in class or repeatedly step out of class. You will be dismissed if you exhibit this behavior.

It is the right of the professor and all students to feel safe and respected in the classroom. Any student who acts in a disrespectful, threatening, or intimidating manner will be dismissed.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the academic integrity of the university in this course. Academic misconduct is defined as all acts of cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and falsification.

Any student who violates these or other provisions of the code of student conduct will receive an F on the respective assignment or in the course. Academic misconduct may result in dismissal from the university.

Accessibility

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 360 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

COVID-19 Containment Policy

As the University of Oregon returns to in-person instruction, the key to keeping our community healthy and safe involves **prevention, containment, and support**. Here is information critical to how the UO is responding to COVID-19.

- **Prevention:** To prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19 in classrooms and on campus, all students and employees:
 1. Must be comply with [vaccination policy](#)
 2. Must [wear face coverings](#) in all indoor spaces on UO campus
 3. Complete weekly [testing](#) if not fully vaccinated or exempted
 4. [Wash hands](#) frequently and practice social distancing when possible
 5. Complete daily [self-checks](#)
 6. Stay home/do not come to campus if [feeling symptomatic](#)
 7. Complete the UO [COVID-19 case and contact reporting form](#) if you test positive or have been in close contact with a confirmed or presumptive case.
- **Containment:** If a student in class tests positive for COVID-19, all relevant classes will be notified via an email by the Corona Corps Care Team with instructions for students and staff based on their vaccination status. Specifically:

Vaccinated and Asymptomatic students: Quarantine not required, but daily self-monitoring before coming on campus is advised; sign up for testing through MAP 3-5 days after exposure if advised you are a contact.”

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students: 14-day quarantine advised – do not come to class – and sign up for testing 3-5 days after notification through [MAP](#), if asymptomatic, or through University Health Services (541-346-2770) or your primary care provider, if symptomatic.

Symptomatic students: stay home (do not come to class/campus), complete the online [case and contact form](#), and contact University Health Services (541-346-2770) or your primary care provide to arrange for immediate COVID-19 testing.
- **Support:** The following resources are available to you as a student.

[University Health Services](#) or call (541) 346-2770

[University Counseling Center](#) or call (541) 346-3277 or (541) 346-3227 (after hrs.)

[MAP Covid-19 Testing](#)

[Corona Corps](#) or call (541) 346-2292

[Academic Advising](#) or call (541) 346-3211

[Dean of Students](#) or call (541)-346-3216

Course Schedule

Week 1 Up from Slavery; Black Political Thought
Reading – Module 11: African Americans and Jim Crow (Canvas), pp.205-220;

[“Year of the Comet: Jack Johnson vs. Jim Jeffries, July 4, 1910”](#) in *Sport and the Color Line*, pp.66-86

- Week 2 The New Negro Movement
Reading – Module 12: Great Migration, World War I, Great Depression (Canvas), pp.221-230 and pp.241-247; [Eric Walrond: A Life in the Harlem Renaissance and the Transatlantic Caribbean](#), pp.1-10 and pp.41-262
- Week 3 The World War II Era and the Seeds of a Revolution
Reading – Module 13: African Americans and World War II (Canvas), pp.249-257; [“We Were Ladies, We Just Played Like Boys: African-American Womanhood and Competitive Basketball at Bennett College, 1928-1942”](#) in *Journal for Sport History*, pp.567-584
Writing Assignment #1 – Due Sunday, October 17 by 11:59PM
- Week 4 The Long Civil Rights Movement
Reading – Module 14: African Americans and the Civil Rights Movement (Canvas), pp.258-289
- Week 5 Black Culture, Black Power – Pt. 1
Album: *Dick Gregory: The Light Side, The Dark Side (1969)*
- Week 6 Black Culture, Black Power – Pt. 2
Reading: [Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul](#), pp.1-158
Film: *Judas and the Black Messiah (2021)*
- Week 7 Guest Lecture: TBA
Veterans Day Holiday – November 11 (No class)
Writing Assignment #2 – Due Sunday, November 14 by 11:59PM
- Week 8 African Americans and the Politics of Conservatism
Album: *What’s Going On (1971)*
- Week 9 The Hip-Hop Revolution
Reading: “Afro-Kinky Human Hair” in *Everything but the Burden* (Canvas), pp.204-216
Thanksgiving Vacation – November 25-26 (No class)
- Week 10 African American Life and Culture, 1980-2000
- Week 11 **Writing Assignment #3 – Due Thursday, December 9 by 11:59AM**