

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**African American Studies Program**  
**Spring Term 2024**  
**African American History Since 1865**  
**Course Numbers: AFST 3390 (CRN: 22026) and HIST 3390 (CRN: 27573)**

**I. Professor's Information**

Name: Dr. Michael Williams

Course Location: **Psychology Building 307**

Course Meeting Times: Tues/Thur. 1:30-2:50 p.m.

Office Location: **LART, Rm 401**

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:00-10:30 a.m. and by appointment

Phone number: 915-747-7822

E-mail: [mvwilliams@utep.edu](mailto:mvwilliams@utep.edu)

UTEP Technology Support: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

**II. Course Description:**

This course examines African American History from 1865 to the present emphasizing the role of African American leaders, the struggle against oppression, and the evolution of race relations. Although covering an extensive time period, central themes will help connect the parts to the whole, revealing an overall picture of African American culture and its importance to American social and political development. Themes treated in this course include: the successes and failures of Reconstruction, the social and cultural impact of Jim Crow segregation and the age of lynching, African American leadership during the twentieth century, African Americans and World War I, the Harlem Renaissance, and the cultural significance of the 1920s. Additional topics include the effects of the Great Depression and New Deal legislation on African Americans, World War II and its connection to Black resistance, sociopolitical struggle during the 1950s, the Civil Rights movement, the 1960s and the rise of Black Power, Vietnam, conservatism and the 1980s, contemporary developments of the late twentieth century; the social, cultural and political significance of the Barack Obama Presidency and the presidential election of Donald J. Trump.

By the end of the course, students should have a sound grasp of the social, cultural, and political aspects of the African American experience since 1865 and be able to think critically about significant historical issues regarding African American life and history.

**Academic Objectives:**

- a.) Gain basic knowledge of the time period and the life experiences of those involved
- b.) Enhance critical thinking skills and its application towards dissecting and understanding the significance and impact of historical issues

### III. Required Readings:

Students should purchase the required readings at the very start of the semester to avoid difficulties resulting from availability issues. Any student who has trouble locating the material must notify me immediately. Lack of a book, however, does not equal a legitimate excuse for incomplete work.

#### Required Readings:

- John Hope Franklin, *From Slavery to Freedom*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition (2021)
- Thomas C. Holt and Elsa Barkley Brown, *Major Problems in African American History Vol. II From Freedom to Freedom Now, 1865-1990s* (2000)
- Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (1968)
- Chana Kai Lee, *For Freedom's Sake: the Life of Fannie Lou Hamer* (2000)
- The required books above are available at the UTEP Bookstore. Please visit [UTEP Bookstore](#). If you are unable to acquire your textbooks through UTEP, please feel free to consult an internet provider such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Make sure, however, that the editions are the same as those listed above.

**Exam Booklets:** Three Blue Books must be turned in to the professor by January 23<sup>rd</sup>

**The UTEP Edge** is our philosophy that acknowledges the many assets our students bring to the University. We provide a variety of high-impact experiences both in and out of the classroom through work of our faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners that build on these assets and talents. Many of the assignments and discussions in this class will further develop the talents you bring to this class such as developing your communication skills, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving.

#### Course Requirements:

Students are required to attend each class meeting, read all assignments with a critical eye and complete and submit all assigned work by the given deadline. Students can expect absences to negatively affect their overall grade. If a student **has** to miss a class, s/he must present an official document of excuse; all excuses will be filed away and reexamined at the end of the semester. It is important that students (if possible) avoid missing any classes. Students with disabilities, **verified through the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)**, should notify the professor immediately of any required classroom accommodations. **"The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so**

would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.” See, [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

**Grades:**

There will be a total of **three major written exams including the Final worth 100 points each, two book exams worth 100 points total, a series of course quizzes worth 50 points and an attendance/participation grade worth 50 points total.** Students have a total of **500 possible points** over the course of the semester.

**Total Points earned:**

**500-450**  
**449-400**  
**399-350**  
**349-300**  
**299-**

**Final Grade:**

**A**  
**B**  
**C**  
**D**  
**F**

**The grading scale used for this course reflects the standard A through F scale:** 100-90= A; 89-80= B; 79-70= C; 69-60= D; 59 and below = **F**. To calculate your final grade I will add the total number of points scored on all assignments and divide that number by the total number of points possible. I will not percentage anything as everything is weighted the same.

**Examination Makeup Policy:**

If you miss an assignment because of a legitimate excuse (supported by documentation) you must contact the professor immediately to schedule a makeup test. **Students have one day after the day of the missed exam to make it up**, after that he or she will earn a zero on the assignment unless an extended rescheduling period has been agreed upon. **If a student has a problem with an earned grade on an assignment, s/he must wait 24 hours before meeting with the professor to discuss it.**

Below please find computer lab hours for the Liberal Arts Center for Instructional Technology (LACIT) and additional computer labs:

**[LACIT](#)**

**[Additional Labs and Facilities](#)**

Again, if you have a disability and need course-related accommodations, please contact **The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148**, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

#### **IV. Class Behavior:**

##### **Absence and Tardiness:**

When you enroll in this course you are, in effect, agreeing to attend scheduled meeting times. Be forewarned that attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting and one can expect absences to have a negative impact on your overall grade. If you are absent for a class meeting it is your responsibility to makeup any work, acquire any missed information from your fellow classmates, and provide documentation to the professor. Tardiness will not be tolerated and habitual lateness can also hurt your grade so do not make a habit of arriving late for class.

**Students acquiring three or more unexcused absences will lose 15 points off their attendance/participation grade.**

##### **Cheating:**

University of Texas at El PASO has an approved Academic Integrity Policy that applies to all students. The policy states: “Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.”

Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures* (HOP) [[Scholastic Dishonesty](#)], can result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing a grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or expulsion, among others.

Under no circumstance will cheating of any kind be tolerated. Cheating on an assignment will result in an automatic **F** and may result in university actions, so refrain from engaging in any unethical behavior as your work will be monitored. For further information regarding UTEP’S Academic Integrity policy. Again, please see [UTEP’s Handbook of Operating Procedures](#). Students please be aware that **ALL** suspected violations of academic integrity will be addressed and may also be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#).

##### **Cell Phones and other Electronic Forms of Communication:**

Cell phones and such are not allowed in operation mode at anytime during the class period. If a cell phone or any other unauthorized electronic device interrupts class, the offending student(s) may be asked to leave the classroom and recorded absent regardless of the time of the infraction.

##### **Discussion of Classroom Topics:**

Due to the nature of this course, student participation is paramount. As a result, the class is structured to initiate student participation and to provide opportunities to engage in meaningful dialog regarding specific historical circumstances and events related to African American history. Although lectures make up a large part of the class structure, the overall objective is to create an environment conducive to the expansion of ideas, arguments, and subjects introduced in lecture and to the development of individual perspectives regarding the period outlined. Thus, individuals who actively participate in course discussions will benefit the most from this course.

### **Sleeping and Newspapers:**

It is a known and accepted fact that we all get tired at some point in time, sleeping in class however, is not an accepted remedy. Napping in class is not only rude to the professor and all those assembled, it also reflects poorly upon the offending individual. Reading of newspapers in class is simply rude behavior and will not be tolerated. Infractions of either sort will result in the student being asked to leave the class and awarded an absence for the day.

### **Important Dates:**

Exam # 1.....	February 13, 2024
Reading Exam # 1 (Hamer) .....	February 27, 2024
Exam # 2.....	March 21, 2024
Reading Exam # 2 (Moody).....	April 2, 2024
Discussion of the Moody Book.....	April 9, 2024
<b>Holiday (Spring Break).....</b>	<b>March 11-15, 2024</b>
<b>Holiday (Cesar Chavez Day).....</b>	<b>March 29, 2024</b>
<b>Final Exam.....</b>	<b>May 9, 2024 @ 1:00-3:45 pm</b>

### **V. Class Schedule for Required Readings and Assignments: (Schedule subject to changes.)**

The following outlines the completion dates for each reading assignment so that students are prepared to participate in class discussions and follow the course of the lectures.

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#### **Week I: Jan. 16-18: Course Introduction**

Franklin (Ch. 11)

#### **Week II: Jan. 23-25: Reconstruction and the Effort to Attain Peace**

Franklin (Ch. 11)

#### **Week III: Jan./Feb. 30-1: Reconstruction's Collapse and Racial Impact of the Color Line**

Franklin (Ch. 12) and Holt & Brown, "A Share of Wages," pgs. 43-44

#### **Week IV: Feb. 6-8: African American Self-Help Movement and the Importance of Education**

Franklin (Ch. 13) and Holt & Brown, "Ida B. Wells Urges Self-Defense," and "Booker T. Washington Promotes," pgs. 158-61

#### **Week V: Feb. 13-15: "In Pursuit of Democracy" and the African American Experience**

Franklin (Ch. 14) and Holt & Brown, "The Great Migration," pgs. 138-144 and **Exam # 1.**

#### **Week VI: Feb. 20-22: African American Protests and Reactions**

Franklin (Ch. 15) and Holt & Brown, "Marcus Garvey Assesses the Situation," pgs. 169-170

#### **Week VII: Feb. 27-29: The 1920s and the Harlem Renaissance**

Franklin (Ch. 16); Holt & Brown "Alain Locke,..." and the Blues....," pgs. 192-194 and 202-209 and **Reading Exam # 1 (For Freedom's Sake)**

- Week VIII: Mar. 5-7: **Great Depression and the Era of the New Deal**  
Franklin (Ch. 17) and Holt & Brown, “Radical Organizing During the Depression,” pgs. 232-239
- Week IX: Mar. 12-14: **Double V at Home and Abroad**  
Franklin (Ch. 18) and Holt & Brown, “Theaters of Resistance,” 265-273
- Week X: Mar. 19-21: **The American Dilemma**  
Franklin (Ch. 19) and **Exam # 2.**
- Week XI: Mar. 26-28: **The American Dilemma Contd.**  
Franklin (Ch. 19)
- Week XII: Apr. 2-4: **“We Shall Overcome,” The Civil Rights Movement**  
Franklin (Ch. 20) **Reading Exam # 2 (Coming of Age in Mississippi)**
- Week XIII: Apr. 9-11: **The “Black Revolution” and the Pivotal 1960s**  
Franklin (Ch. 21) and Holt & Brown, pgs. 286- 294, 314-316 and **Discussion of Coming of Age in Mississippi**
- Week XIV: Apr. 16-18: **Progress and Poverty in America**  
Franklin (Ch. 22)
- Week XV: Apr. 23-25: **Half a Century of Change: “Perspectives on the Present”**  
Franklin (Ch. 23) and Holt & Brown, “Twenty-first Century Politics,” pgs. 370-378 and “The Changing Face of the Continuing Struggle,” pgs. 378-388
- Week XVI: Apr./May 30-2: **Half a Century of Change: “Perspectives on the Present” contd.**  
Franklin (Ch. 23) and Holt & Brown, “Twenty-first Century Politics,” pgs. 370-378 and “The Changing Face of the Continuing Struggle,” pgs. 378-388 and **Course Review and wrap-up**

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: May 9, 2024 @ 1:00-3:45 p.m.\*\*\***