

University of Texas at El Paso
African American Studies Program
Spring Term 2023
African American History To 1865
Course Numbers: AFST 3390/HIST 3390 CRN's: 22520/27344

I. Professor's Information

Name: Dr. Michael Williams

Course Location: **LART 102**

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

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II. Course Description:

African American History to 1865 focuses on the diverse social, political, economic, cultural and historical experiences of African Americans. The course begins in West Africa (1400s) and ends with the conclusion of the American Civil War. Although an extensive period of time, central themes help connect the parts to the whole revealing an overall picture of African American culture, connections to Africa, life experiences, organized struggle, leadership and the impact African Americans have had on the social and political development of the United States. Themes treated in this course include: early West African civilizations and cultural expressions; the Atlantic slave trade and its social, political, and cultural impact; colonial and antebellum slavery; Black participation in the American Revolution; revolts carried out by enslaved men and women; the auction of enslaved men, women and children; the abolitionist movement; intersectional strife; and the role African Americans played during the Civil War.

By the end of the course, students should have a sound grasp of the social, cultural, and political history of African Americans to 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

The UTEP EDGE:

The UTEP EDGE is a 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 the 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.

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*, 10th edition (Main Text)
- Deborah Gray White, *Ar'n't I a Woman? Female Slaves in the Plantation South*, Revised Edition (1999)
- David Blight, editor, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave, Written by Himself* (2003)

******Readings listed as Reserve derive from the book Major Problems in African American History Vol. 1 by Thomas Holt and Elsa Brown and will be available for student checkout (2hr limit) at the circulation desk of the University Library. ******

- 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 Exam Blue Books will be provided for the class

Students are required to attend each class meeting, read all assignments with a critical eye and complete all written work when given. Students can expect absences to negatively affect their overall grade. If a student **must** miss a class, she or 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.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to attend each class period, read all assignments with a critical eye and complete and submit all assigned work by the given deadline. Students who miss classes can expect such absences to negatively affect their overall grade. If a student **has** a problem with attending a class for whatever reason, she or he must contact the professor immediately to explain the issue. The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students 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 with disabilities, **verified through The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)**, should notify the professor immediately of any required accommodations. 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

299-0

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, she or 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 (**Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, computer lab hours may be altered**):

[LACIT](#)

[Additional Labs and Facilities](#)

Available Student Resources: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. If needed, please take advantage the resources below:

- **UTEP Library** (<https://www.utep.edu/library/>) Access a wide range of resources including online full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- The History Tutoring Center (HTC) @ <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/history/resources/student-resource/history-tutoring-center.html>: Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history-based resources. **Due to the ongoing pandemic, please double check to see if this service is available during this term.**
- 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, 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 make-up any work, acquire any missed information from your fellow classmates, and provide proper 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 from their attendance/participation grade.

COVID-19 Protocols:

Any student who contracts COVID-19, or who must care for someone who has contracted the COVID-19 virus, must let me know immediately so that I can plan with the impacted student regarding the class and coursework. As a means of protecting your privacy, and that of your family, please do not email me any health-related information. Instead, I am asking that students send me an email with a viable phone number and a request that I call you back.

You must STAY AT HOME and let your Professor know if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID- 19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. UTEP also requires that any student who reports a positive COVID-19 test must report this via covidaction@utep.edu. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

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 any time 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 for the day 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, magazines or any other unauthorized materials in class (including social media) 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 regardless of the time of the infraction.

Important Dates:

Exam # 1... ..	February 16 th
Reading Exam # 1 (<i>Ar'n't I a Woman</i>)	March 23 rd
Exam # 2... ..	March 14 th
Reading Exam # 2 (Frederick Douglass).....	April 16 th
Holiday (Spring Break).....	March 13-17, 2023
Holiday (Cesar Chavez Day).....	March 31, 2023
Final Exam.....	May 11th 1:00-3:45 pm

IV. 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.

Week I: Jan. 17-19: **Course Introduction/“Ancestral Africa”**
Franklin (Ch. 1)

Week II: Jan. 24-26: **“Ancestral Africa” Continued and “Africans in the Atlantic World”**
Franklin (Ch. 1-2)

- Week III: Jan./Feb./ 31-2: **“Establishing North American Slavery”**
 Franklin (Ch. 3), Holt & Brown, “African Societies were Transformed by the Slave Trade,” pgs. 52-65 **(Reserve)**
- Week IV: Feb. 7-9: **“18th Century Slave Societies”**
 Franklin (Ch. 4), Holt & Brown, “How Africans Became African Americans,” pgs. 182-94 **(Reserve)**
- Week V: Feb. 14-16: **“Slave Societies” Continued: Geographical Variations of Slavery and Resistance Tactics and Strategies of the Enslaved**
 Franklin (Ch. 4) and Holt & Brown, “Margaret Garner, a Slave Mother, Kills her Child to Prevent Enslavement, 1856,” pgs. 246-249 **(Reserve)**
- Week VI: Feb. 21-23: **“Give Me Liberty”: Slavery and the Revolutionary Philosophy**
 Franklin (Ch. 5) Various Calls for Resistance
 Holt & Brown, pgs. 295-300, 304-05 **(Reserve)**
- Week VII: Feb./Mar. 28-2: **“Building Communities in the New Republic”**
 Franklin (Ch. 6)
- Week VIII: Mar. 7-9: **African Americans, the Meaning of Expansionism and “Southern Slavery”**
 Franklin (Ch. 7)
- Week IX: Mar. 14-16: **“Antebellum Free Blacks” and the Overall Struggle for Freedom**
 Franklin (Ch. 8) **SPRING BREAK WEEK**
- Week X: Mar. 21-23: **“Abolitionism in Black and White”, the Enslavement Argument, Resistance and the Struggle for Definition**
 Franklin (Ch. 9) and Holt & Brown, “The Roots of Resistance in Free Black Communities,” 308-321 and Reading Exam # 1 (*Ar’n’t I a Woman*)
- Week XI: Mar. 28-30: **Female Slaves and the World they Made: Slavery and the Gender Issue**
 Nell Irvine Painter, “Soul Murder” (document will be provided)
 Holt & Brown “Slave Communities Are Grounded in Family Kinship,” 264-268 and “Gender Roles and Gender Identity in Slave Communities,” 268-277 **(Reserves)**
- Week XII: Apr. 4-6: **Cultural Resistance**
 Discussion of White’s *Ar’n’t I a Woman* and Holt and Brown, “The Slaves’ World-View Revealed in Their Stories,” 277-292 **(Reserve)**
- Week XIII: Apr. 11-13: **“Civil War”**
 Franklin (Ch. 10)

Week XIV: Apr. 18-20: **“Civil War” Continued**

Franklin (Ch. 10) and Holt & Brown, “Soldiers of God’s Wrath,” pgs. 343-356
(Reserve); *Reading Exam # 2 (Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas)*

Week XV: Apr. 25-27: **What Now? African Americans’ Adjustment in a Changed
Society: The Question of Labor:**

Holt & Brown, “Defining Free Labor,” pgs. 401- 406; “The labor of
Politics”: Holt & Brown pgs., 407-417 **(Reserves)**

Week XVI: May. 2-4: **“The Work of Reconstruction”**

Holt & Brown, “The Slaves Strike for Freedom,” pgs. 356-367; “Schools
for Freedom,” Holt & Brown pgs., 388-401**(Reserves)** and **Review and Course
Wrap-up**

******FINAL EXAM: May 11, 2023 @ 1:00-3:45 p.m.**

