

**African American History to 1865**  
**History 3333**

**Instructor: Dr. Charmayne E. Patterson**

**Tuesday and Thursday 2:00- 3:15 p.m.**

**Social Science Building, Room 1020**

**Office: English Building, Room 109**

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Email: [cpatte32@kennesaw.edu](mailto:cpatte32@kennesaw.edu)**

**Course Objective:**

The purpose of this course is to explore the role of the African American experience within the larger context of United States History as well as the history of the African Diaspora in general. Although we will primarily investigate the role of Blacks within the United States, we will consider their relationship to people of African descent throughout the entire Diaspora. This course also will to explore the social, political and economic aspects of the African American experience. During the semester, we will examine the experience of the African American (both slave and free) within these larger contexts, the diversity of the African American community as a whole, and the ways in which African Americans have been portrayed throughout history in various venues of mainstream society (such as the media, literature, music, and film).

It is important to note that there is no monolithic experience within the African American community. This course will examine class, gender, and ethnic differences among African Americans throughout the history of the United States.

**This syllabus serves as your contract with me. Please read the entire list of course requirements and expectations below:**

**Required Texts:**

The African American Odyssey, volume I, fourth edition by Darlene Clark Hine, William Hine, and Stanley Harrold

The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet Jacobs (the two works were combined and edited by Kwame Appiah)

**Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance and Participation - Regular prompt classroom attendance and participation is expected. Students should attend all sessions of the class, from beginning to end. Students who arrive late or leave early will be counted present at the discretion of the instructor. Students who fall asleep will be counted absent for the day. Each student is permitted two absences, for any reason. A deduction of five points from the attendance grade will be made for each subsequent absence. *Students who miss more than six class sessions will not pass the course.*

Students should read the assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Because participation is expected, students receive no extra points for doing so, except when completing assignments related to films that we will watch in class. A student's grade will be adjusted downward by up to ten percent of the course grade for failure to participate in an adequate and satisfactory manner.

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, including the use of electronic devices and laptops for anything other than note taking will not be tolerated.

2. Examinations - There will be two in-class examinations. The examination format may include multiple choice, short answer identifications, matching, and essay questions. There is no cumulative final examination for this course. Prior to each exam, students will be given some guidelines to help them prepare. Students are responsible for all of the information covered in this course including lectures, readings, and films.

3. Papers - Each student will produce two original papers related to the autobiographies that we will read in class. Papers will address a specific question circulated by me later in the semester. Each paper should be a *minimum* of five full pages, double spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font. Papers must include a required cover page and a bibliography for any and **all** other sources utilized. Each page must be numbered, starting with the first page of text (not the title page). Papers are expected to be proof-read with no grammatical or spelling errors. Each paper must include a thoughtful introduction with a thesis statement, and a conclusion. Students should feel free to take draft copies of their papers to the Writing Center on campus before turning them in. Late papers will be reduced by a letter grade for every day up to the third day. After the third day, no late papers will be accepted.

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be determined as follows:

Exams – 20% each (40% total)

Papers – 25% each (50 % total)

Attendance and participation – 10 %

**Grading Scale:**

**A = 90 – 100, B = 80 – 89, C = 70 – 79, D = 60 – 69, F = 59 & Below**

**Course Rules and Policies:**

1. Cellular phones, Instant Messaging, Two-way paging, Text Messaging are all strictly prohibited. **Be sure to turn all communication devices off before entering the classroom.** Likewise, no headphones, iPods, mp3 players, or other music devices are allowed in class. Students using any of the above in class will be asked to leave. In addition, laptops are allowed **only** for purposes of taking notes. Anyone engaging in any other activity on their laptops will be asked to turn the device off and/or leave the classroom.

2. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class – no exceptions, and no excuses. Anyone doing so will be reported to the Office of Judiciary Programs, and will receive an automatic **F** for the course. Please read the [KSU Statement of Academic Integrity](#) below:

To promote academic integrity among Kennesaw State University students and ensure that students understand the expectations of their professors, all faculty members are required to include the following statement, under the heading "Academic Integrity," in their class syllabus:

“Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.”

3. Students are expected to treat each other with the utmost respect in this class. Students who do not show respect for others, including the professor, will be asked to leave the classroom. Students are advised that this course covers very socially sensitive subject matters, and need to govern themselves accordingly.

4. Assignments and exams may not be made-up except in instances of verifiable emergencies and only with my prior consent. All make-up exams will be exclusively essay. 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.

5. Grades are non-negotiable. Students who have concerns about their grades in the class or on an assignment are required to discuss this with me in person. I am unable to discuss grades over email, telephone, or any other telecommunications device.

6. Students have a right to privacy. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) strictly prohibits me from discussing a student's performance (including grades) with anyone unaffiliated with the University without the express written consent of the student. This includes parents, spouses, and other family members. Although there are very few exceptions, students should refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

7. As mentioned above, students are responsible for taking their own notes, and being prepared for all of the exams. Students may not circulate any course materials (notes, exams, etc.), to any entity outside of the course.

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

**Course Schedule:**

August 18, 20	Introduction
August 25, 27	Ancient Africa - Chapter 1
September 1- 10 <b>September 15</b>	from Africa to America - Chapter 2, 3 Olaudah Equiano <b>Olaudah Equiano paper due</b>
September 17, 22	The Revolutionary Era - Chapter 4
Sept 24, 29	Life in the New Nation - Chapter 5
October 1, 6	Cotton becomes King - Chapter 6
<b>October 8</b>	<b>Examination I - Covers all readings, lecture materials, and films to date</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Last day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty</b>
October 13, 15	Free Blacks - Chapter 7
October 20-29 <b>October 29</b>	Abolition and Reform Movements - Chapters 8 and 9, Douglass and Jacobs <b>Douglass and Jacobs paper due</b>
November 3-5	The 1850s - Chapter 10
November 10-12	The Civil War - Chap. 11
Nov. 17-19	Reconstruction Era - Chapter 12
Nov. 24-26	Thanksgiving Holiday - no class
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Examination II - Covers all readings, lecture materials, and films since Exam I</b>