

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of Afro-American Studies
Fall 2006

Course 106-231
M + W 11:00 plus discussion section
1111 Humanities

Professor William L. Van Deburg
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Introduction to Afro-American History - 231

COURSE CONTENT

Afro-American Studies 231 is a basic "foundations" survey of black history from the middle ages of West Africa to the 1990s. The course presupposes no previous exposure to the study of the black past. In fact, it is assumed that the prior, limited knowledge which many Americans have of these important historical events can lead to oversimplified, incorrect estimations both of the nature of black history and of the character of the African-American people. Course 231 seeks to present this history in an orderly, largely chronological fashion and in the context of the larger national history. Although broad-based, course 231 is not meant to be exhaustive -- or to take the place of other equally specialized Afro-American Studies courses in Sociology (151), Literature (227), or Art (242). Since we cover a fairly extensive series of events in less than four months, the course is, of necessity, lecture-oriented. Videos, handouts, and TA-led discussion sections will supplement the lecture focus.

EXAMS

Two exams will be given. They are non-cumulative, largely objective (multiple choice, short answer, identification, etc.), and based on the lectures, discussions, handouts, and course readings. The final grade in the course is the average of the two exams. One of the exams can be raised one letter grade via satisfactory attendance, active participation, and solid performance on discussion section assignments and activities. Both exams and the final grade are curved. Typically, 15-25 percent of the class earn each of the top three letter grades.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Paperbacks available at Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gilman)

James Horton and Lois Horton, Hard Road to Freedom (Rutgers University Press, 2001)

Kenneth S. Greenberg, ed., The Confessions of Nat Turner and Related Documents (Bedford/St. Martins, 1996)

Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore, Gender and Jim Crow (University of North Carolina Press, 1996)

H.G. Bissinger, Friday Night Lights (Da Capo, 2004)

Reading/Exam Schedule

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For week of:

September	6	No reading assignment. Discussion groups will not meet
	11	Horton, chapter one
	18	Horton, chapter two; Greenberg, pp.1-31, 132-137
	25	Horton, chapter three; Greenberg, pp. 37-58
October	2	Horton, chapters 4 +5; Greenberg, pp. 61-90
	9	Horton, chapter 6 + pp. 150-165; Greenberg, pp. 91-131
	16	Exam week. No reading assignment. No regular discussion sections
	23	Horton, pp. 165-175 + chapter 8; Gilmore, introduction, chapters 1+2
	30	Horton, chapter 9; Gilmore, chapters 3+4
November	6	Horton, chapter 10; Gilmore, chapters 5+6
	13	Horton, chapter 11; Gilmore, chapters 7+8+epilogue
	20	Horton, chapter 12; Bissinger, preface, prologue, pre-season
	27	Horton, chapter 13; Bissinger, season
December	4	Horton, chapter 14; Bissinger, push for the playoffs
	11	Horton, chapter 15; Bissinger, postseason, epilogue, afterword

Exams

October 18 in class (No alternative date makeup is scheduled)

December 19 Tuesday 10:05 a.m. Location TBA (No alternative date. Potential scheduling conflicts with other summary block period exams should be brought to our attention early in the semester)