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AFAM 200: Introduction to African American Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Derrick D. McKisick

Office Location: Waters Library #182

Office Hours: T/R –10:00 – 11:00 am/ 1: 30 – 2:30 pm

Office Phone:903.886.5222

Office Fax: 903.468.3230

University Email Address: derrick.mckisick@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: within 24-hours except for Friday - Sunday

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

James Stewart and Talmadge Anderson, *Introduction to African American Studies: Transdisciplinary Approaches and Implications* (ISBN: 978-1-58073-039-6)

Zora Neale Hurston, *Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo,”* New York: Amistad, 2018. (ISBN: 978-0-06-274821-8)

William Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom, or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery,* (London: William Tweedie, 1860) (D2L Link)

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/craft/craft.html>

Reading List (D2L) Additional Readings

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to vital historical, social, economic, and cultural issues associated with people of African descent in the United States and their rich cultural legacy. Students will explore African Americans' historical and cultural roots from their African beginnings to the emergence of the modern fight for social and economic equality. Through assigned readings, class discussions, writing assignments, and documentaries, the course examines how African American culture developed, charted an independent course, and resisted oppression in their struggle for freedom and liberation.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Effectively describe concepts and philosophy associated with African American Studies through written, oral, or visual communication (CT)
2. Demonstrate intercultural competence and knowledge of civic responsibility (SR)
3. Connect the struggle to achieve African American freedom and liberation to ethical decision-making (PR)
4. Work collaboratively to develop a coherent activity that engages the campus community (TW)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Student must have access to and ability to use D2L, library databases, and Microsoft Word or some other word processing program.

Instructional Methods

In this course, instruction will include reading various types of materials, lectures, and virtual instruction.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Student success requires students to complete all reading assignments and course work in a timely manner.

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GRADING

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades:

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

The grading criteria of all written work will be based on the following descriptions:

A = Superior mastery of content and reading material; clear organization and factual accuracy; innovative interpretation or argument that responds to the specific directions of the assignment, test, or essay; clearly written.

B = Excellent command of the content and reading material; factual accuracy; a generally solid thesis driven historical argument backed with specific relevant evidence.

C = Average command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to produce a specific thesis driven argument that may not be original and is not supported by the evidence.

D = Poor command of content and failure to follow directions; historical errors of fact; no real thesis or argument driving the essay.

Assessments

Discussion Boards 5x12	60 pts
Presentation	50 pts
Writing Assignments 3x30	90 pts
Proposal	100 pts
Exams 2x100	200 pts

Required Reading: All students will be required to read and to discuss the assigned books. The books are available for purchase at internet websites (Amazon), and at a variety of regional retailers.

Discussion Board

During this course, there will be weekly discussion board questions based on assigned readings from Stewart and Anderson, *Introduction to African American Studies*, Hurston, *Barracoon*, and additional assigned readings. All students must post an answer to the question and respond to the responses of two different classmates. There are three parts to the discussion board responses. To receive full credit for the assignment, students must respond to the discussion question with a 150-word post, include an original question at the end of the initial post, and respond to at least two classmate's questions with at least 100-word responses each that directly address their response. **If you do not participate in all parts of each discussion board thread, you will not receive full credit for your response.**

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Discussion Board Post (Quantity)

- You are required to post one original message for each topic.
- The post should be 150-words that directly address the discussion question, not merely describing the historical events or person in the discussion prompt. Each response should indicate awareness of historical context and importance.
- You must respond to at least two of your classmate's questions and your response must be at least 100-words each that directly address your classmate's response and question.

Discussion Board Post (Quality)

- Your posts must demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the topic being discussed.
- You must demonstrate connections between lecture materials, textbook content, and discussion.
- You should relate discussion responses to material covered earlier in the course to give your responses clarity and context.
- Your post should be grammatically correct and proofread.
- Your post should go beyond reciting facts, but it should examine the material at a critical level and include facts from Stewart and Anderson, *Introduction to African American Studies*, Hurston, *Barracoon*, and Coates, *Between the World and Me*.

Discussion Board (Timeliness)

- You must provide at least three days for your classmates to respond, so it is incumbent for every student to post and respond as soon as possible to give all students an opportunity to participate. If you do not post a response with an ample amount of time for your classmates to respond, you will not receive credit for your discussion board post.
- You will be given one week to respond to each topic.

TURNITIN.COM: All typed assignments, exams, papers, and reviews must be uploaded to the appropriate listing of the course's dropbox. Each assignment dropbox automatically uploads the work to turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. This is a requirement for the course, and the students will not receive a grade until they have completed this process.

Writing Assignments

All writing assignments must be typed in 12 pt. New Times Roman font, doubled spaced, stapled and paginated with a 1" margin. Additionally, all assignments must include, on the first page, your name, assignment, my name, course number, and date. Students must submit an electronic copy to dropbox that turnitin.com can analyze. If the student does submit a readable electronic copy to dropbox, the assignment will not be graded, and the student will receive a zero.

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Primary Source Paper

There are a variety of paper assignments that you can use the information gathered from primary sources to address specific questions, make comparisons, and evaluate change over time. In this exercise, I will provide specific questions that students must use primary sources as the basis of their response. Additionally, students are required to produce essays that contain a thesis and specifically respond to the question. All sources must be cited in the paper. If students fail to cite their sources, they will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Student Presentation

All students are required to make a class presentation regarding their research paper. Each presentation should include: a brief statement regarding the historical relevance of the topic, a statement of the research question, an analysis of the different historical arguments on the topic, a discussion of the primary and secondary sources, and finally, statement of the student's position. Additionally, all presentations must include a PowerPoint presentation. The presentations will last approximately 10-15 minutes.

Participation

The student's participation grade will be earned through taking part in classroom discussion sessions and attendance. Each student will lead discussions, participate in group discussions, and present their own research. Although the student will not have a designated discussion leader role in each class, all students are encouraged to be prepared to participate fully in the class discussion and be prepared, if called upon, to take part in the class discussion. Class disruptions will not be tolerated.

Black History Month Proposal Competition

The entire class will be divided into five different groups. Each group is responsible for producing a proposal for a Black History Month program that is consistent with the goals and ideals associated with African American studies. The proposal must include purpose, rationale, description, duration, target audience, budget, and projected outcomes. Complete instructions are posted in D2L.

Late Submissions

All students are required to submit their assignment to the class dropbox and provide a hard copy on the day the assignment is due to the professor. For every assignment, there will be a five-point penalty for each day the assignment is late. The assignment is not complete unless the student has submitted an electronic copy to the dropbox and a hard copy to the professor.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor will respond to emails within twenty-four hours, except on weekends, starting at 5:00 pm Friday to 8:00 am Monday.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

August 30/ September 1

Assigned Reading: Foundations of African American Studies
(Stewart and Anderson, 1-26): Discussion Board #1

September 6/8

Assigned Reading: Introduction and Development of African American Studies
(Stewart and Anderson, 27- 50): Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*, 1-30:
Discussion Board #2

September 13/15

Assigned Reading: The History of Africans in America (Stewart and Anderson, 51-74):
Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*, 31-70.

September 20/22

Assigned Reading: The History of Africans in America (Stewart and Anderson, 75-99)
Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*, 71-111 (Discussion)

September 27/29

Assigned Reading: Assigned Reading: Hurston, *Barracoon*,
William Grimes <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/grimes25/menu.html>
Grimes, Writing Assignment 1 (10/1)

John Joseph <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/jjoseph/menu.html>
Craft, Writing Assignment 2 (Due 10/8)

October 4/6

Assigned Reading: African American Society and Culture (Stewart and Anderson, 105-
169): Hurston, *Barracoon*

October 11/13

Review/ Exam 1
Barracoon: Discussion Board #3

October 18/20

Assigned Reading: Black Psychology and Psychological Well-Being (Stewart and
Anderson, 181-205): Hurston (Discussion)

October 25/27

Assigned Reading: Politics and Public Policy (Stewart and Anderson, 213-278):
Discussion Board #4

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November 1/3

Assigned Reading: Individual and Collective Economic Empowerment (Stewart and Anderson 215 – 324): Discussion Board #5

November 8/10

Assigned Reading: African American Arts and Humanities (Stewart and Anderson, 325-374): Writing Assignment #3

November 15/17

Assigned Reading: Science, Technology, and the Future of African Americans

November 22/24

Thanksgiving Break

Black History Proposal Meetings (11/22)

November 29/ December 1

Black History Month Proposal Presentations

December 6/8

Black History Month Proposal Presentations

Black History Month Proposal Due

Final Exam TBA

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