

**Introduction to African-American History 211  
FALL 1998**

Russell Wigginton

Office: 401 Clough

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 p.m.; by appointment

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Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to attain a fundamental understanding of the diverse experiences of black people in the United States from the colonial period through the Civil Rights movement. While the time period discussed is extensive, we will examine each era through three themes; social, economic, and political. In analyzing these themes, this course will consider the overall United States racial climate during specific eras and its impact on African-Americans. Additionally, we will discuss how some blacks responded to their status in society.

Readings:

Franklin, John Hope, From Slavery to Freedom, McGraw-Hill, 1990.

Supplementary readings packet available through the History Department (110 Clough)

Grading:

Grades will be determined from the following course requirements:

1. **45% (15% each)** - Three 2-4 page "reaction" papers. Throughout the semester, students will write
2. **20%** - Exam I. The examinations will consist of a few short answers as well as at least one more
3. **25%** - Final Exam. Same format and expectations as Exams I and II, however this exam will cover
5. **10%** - Attendance/Participation. Although lectures will take up much of class time, student discussion

**\*Late Policy** - There will be no extensions given on any written assignments without penalty (1 letter grade per day). The only exceptions will be those that the College deems as "acceptable" in the Student Handbook.

**Class Assignments:**

**Colonial Period**

8/27 Introduction

- 9/1 Franklin, chapter 3  
 9/3 Jordan, "Unthinking Decision," pg. 26-54  
 9/8 Franklin, chapter 4; Wood, "More Like a Negro Country, pg. 131-166;"  
 9/10 Breen, "A Changing Labor Force and Race Relations in Virginia, 1670-1710, pg. 3-25"

**9/15 Paper #1 Due (15%)  
 Antebellum Slavery**

- 9/17 Blassingame, "Culture, pg. 41-76"  
 9/22 Blassingame, "Plantation Stereotypes and Institutional Roles, pg. 132-153;" Puttin' On Ole Massa, "Narrative of Henry Bibb, pg.64-67, 74-80;" "Narrative of William Wells Brown, pg. 181-182;" "Narrative of Bethany Veney, pg. 7-9, 26-30"  
 9/24 Franklin, chapter 9  
 9/29 **Exam 1 (20%)**

**Civil War/Reconstruction**

- 10/1 Franklin, chapter 11; McPherson, "The Negro's Civil War, pg. 17-21, 26-28, 77-97, 224-233, 241-245"  
 10/6 Franklin, chapter 12  
 10/8 Franklin, chapter 13

**Progressive Era**

- 10/13 Franklin, chapter 14  
 10/15 Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address, pg. 145-151;" Dubois, "The Niagara Movement, pg. 236-253"  
 10/22 Crowe, "Racial Violence and Social Reform---Origins of the Atlanta Riot of 1906, pg. 234-256"  
 10/27 **Paper 2 Due (15%)**

**New Negro/Harlem Renaissance**

- 10/29 Huggins, "The New Negro, pg. 52-83"

11/3 Franklin, chapter 18

11/5 Wald, "The Visible Empire: The KKK as an Electoral Movement, pg. 217-234"

### **New Deal/WWII/Cold War**

11/10 Franklin, chapter 19; Grant, "The Promise, pg. 3-17"

11/12 Sitkoff, "Changing Ideas: Race and Racism, pg. 190-215;"

11/17 Kelley, "The Riddle of the Zoot, pg. 162-181"

11/19 Franklin, chapter 22

11/24 **Paper #3 Due (15%)**

### **Civil Rights/Affirmative Action**

12/1 Morris, "Beginnings and Confrontations, pg. 17-39;"

12/3 Sowell, "From Opportunity to Affirmative Action, pg. 37-60;" Larew, "Who's the Real Affirmative Action Profiteer?, Pg. 247-260"

12/8 Final Review; no reading

12/16 **Final Exam (25%); 8:30-11:00 a.m.**