History 105
Race and Citizenship in the United States
TTh 2:00-3:15

Instructor: Brian D. Page
Office: Buckman 206-A
Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:50 and Wednesday 1:00-2:15 or by Appointment
Email: pageb@rhodes.edu

Course Description

From the very beginning of this nation’s founding, historical perceptions of race have shaped definitions of citizenship and what it means to be an American. This course will examine how social and cultural constructions of race changed over time and influenced who could and could not be considered an American citizen from the colonial and American revolutionary period to the late nineteenth century. Students will read primary and secondary sources on race and citizenship that compare and contrast the experiences of American Indians, African Americans, European immigrants, and Asian Americans in the United States. As the nation expanded in size and population, questions about race and citizenship became central to this nation’s history.

Required Readings


* Students will also be required to read additional material throughout the semester. These items will be located either online via the Rhodes Library or on Moodle. See the schedule of assignments for additional readings.
Course Objectives

Students will learn the methods, terminology, and historical approaches used to studying race and citizenship in American history, analyze these ideas and apply them to the study of change over time, and work on improving their analytical skills in a series of essays.

Course Requirements: All assignments are mandatory.

This is a writing intensive course. Students will be required to write interpretative and analytical essays in response to the in-class readings, submit rough drafts to the instructor and peers for revisions for the first two papers, and identify and utilize outside sources in order to review one of the films shown in the class. These papers will be geared to improving students understanding of the terminology and historical approaches to studying race and citizenship and improving students’ analytical writing skills in preparation for the final essay. Instructions and topics will be handed out in advance.

Paper #1 (20%); Paper #2 (20%); Paper #3 (25%); Film Review (20%); and Class Participation (15%).

All out of class written work must be typed, double-spaced, and in 10 or 12 point font and documented according to the Chicago Manuel of Style. Papers are due at the beginning of class.

Class participation: All students are required to participate in class discussions. Students must take notes on the assigned readings, identifying main ideas and theses that examine the evidence, and identify questions for in-class discussions. Simply reading the material once before class is not enough! Students should read well before class and take time to prepare before each individual class.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. If students miss more than two class periods a mandatory five point deduction will be applied to the student’s final grade for every absence over two. Students are also required to meet with the instructor if they miss more than two classes. It is the students’ responsibility to inform the instructor of any excused absences, illnesses, and/or medical emergencies that require them to miss class. Please note a doctor’s appointment, etc. does not count as an excused absence.

Deadlines: All deadlines are final and not negotiable. No late papers will be allowed unless arranged well in advance with the instructor. If you fail to meet a deadline because of a medical or family emergency you must contact the instructor via email (pageb@rhodes.edu) within 24 hours or, in cases of extenuating circumstances, as soon as possible. All papers are due at the beginning of class and not in the instructor’s mailbox or by email.

Honor Code: All work turned in for this course is to be completed in accordance with the Rhodes College Honor Code. To demonstrate your commitment to the Code, each
A student must write “pledge” and sign his/her name on every assignment. If you have any questions about plagiarism you should talk to me directly.

Students who require special arrangements due to physical or learning disabilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, problems, or concerns about this course.

Schedule of Assignments: The following schedule of assignments is subject to change. Students are responsible for keeping track of all deadlines and any changes/additions made throughout the semester. All readings/assignments are to be completed prior to the class date they are assigned.

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<th>Week One</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<td>January 15: Course Overview</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Two</th>
<th>Race in America Today</th>
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<td>January 20: Class does not meet.</td>
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Assignment: President Barack Obama’s Inauguration Ceremony 12:00. Watch and listen to President Obama’s swearing-in ceremony. If you have a class at noon, more than likely the ceremony and inaugural address will be repeated on one of the major television networks or available online.

January 22: Race in the Twenty-First Century

Assignment: President Barack Obama’s Speech on Race

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<th>Week Three</th>
<th>Frameworks on Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship</th>
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<td>January 27: Historical Definitions of Race</td>
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<tr>
<th>January 29: Citizenship, Nations, and Imagined Communities</th>
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Week Four  
New Encounters

February 3: Black Robe

February 5: Black Robe (continued)


Week Five  
Historical Origins and Transformations of Race

February 10: Native Americans and Conceptions of Race


February 12: Slavery and Racism in American History


* Rough Draft Paper 1 distributed via email to instructor and peer group by 5pm Friday February 13 (See handout for instructions)

Week Six  
The American Revolution and the New Republic

February 17: Slavery, the Constitution, and the First Emancipation


* Peer review comments Paper 1 due in-class (See handout for instructions)

**Film Review/Critique Option 1 Black Robe Due in-class** (See handout for instructions)

February 19: Gender and Republicanism

**Week Seven**

**Democracy in America**

February 24: American Political Democracy in the Nineteenth Century


**Final Draft Paper #1 Due in-class**

February 26: Race, Class, and Jacksonian Democracy


**Week Eight**

**“Civilized” Defined**

March 3: The Debate on Cherokee Removal

Assignment: Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green, *The Cherokee Removal*, 1-70

March 5: The Debate on Cherokee Removal (continued)


**Week Nine**

**Race, Gender, and the Abolition Movement**

March 10: The Abolition Movement in the Nineteenth Century


March 12: The Women’s Rights Movement


* Rough Draft Paper #2 distributed via email to instructor and peer group by 5pm Friday (See hand-out for instructions)

**Week Ten**

**Spring Break**

March 17: No class. Spring break
March 19: No class. Spring break

Week Eleven Working-Class Culture

March 24: The Gangs of New York


* Peer review comments Paper #2 due in-class.

March 26: The Gangs of New York (continued)


Week Twelve Race and Citizenship in the Civil War Era

March 31: Whiteness, Culture, and Democracy on the Eve of the Civil War.


**Final Draft Paper #2 Due in-class.**

April 2: The Civil War and American Citizenship


Week Thirteen Race and Citizenship in the Civil War Era

April 7: The Politics of Reconstruction


**Film Review/Critique Option 2 Due in-class** (See handout for instructions)

April 9: No class.
Week Fourteen  “New” Frontiers on Race

April 14: The End of the Frontier


April 16: Asian Americans in the American West

Assignment: Selected Readings from *Claiming America: Constructing Chinese Identity during the Exclusion Era* (Online).

Week Fifteen  The Problem of Race in the Twentieth Century

April 21: Asian Americans and Citizenship


April 23: Jim Crow in the American South


Week Sixteen  Twentieth Century Consequences

April 28: Field Trip at the National Civil Rights Museum

April 30: Final Comments

**Final Paper #3 Due in-class.**