

Course Portfolio For:
African American Studies 004

The African American in the History of the United States

Dr. Michael Carter

African American Studies 004: The African American in the

History of the United States

Course Perspective:

The academic course is a survey of the historiography of the United States relative to the African American experience. From this perspective, the course will interrogate the ethno-genesis of the African American culture in the Caribbean, the early Colonial era, the Civil War, the European Trans-Atlantic Enslavement of Africans, and the early free and autonomous Black towns and communities that they established before the Civil War. Through a selection of readings and films, the salient and transformative contributions of African Americans to the socio-cultural, religious, philosophical, political, and literary oeuvre of the United States will be discussed.

Heuristic Objectives of the Course:

- I. The student should be able to demonstrate basic historical research techniques, and apply these techniques to the study of the early period of African American history.
- II. The student should be able to identify and define the historical facts of the African American experience in the United States before 1865.
- III. The student should be able to analyze the social, political, and economic contributions of African Americans within the framework of the general history of the early period of the United States.

Theoretical Orientation:

The analysis of the course materials and discussions will be framed by Dr. Ronald Taakaki's the "Master Narrative" and the existential efforts of African Americans to reduce social differentiation.

Textbook:

Gary B. Nash, et al., *The Struggle for Freedom: A History of African Americans, Volume One to 1877*, Second Edition. (2011), Pearson: ISBN: 0.205.83242.3.

Grades and Grading Criteria:

There are two examinations: Midterm and Final. The students are graded on an absolute scale of relative to their Midterm (40%) and the Final examinations (40%) in the determination of their final course grade. Ten percent of your grade is determined by the average grade of the two In Class Interim Essay questions. And, class participation is (10%) of your grade and it determined by several factors: class conduct, this includes, but is not limited to your participation in class discussions in a germane and constructive manner and your professional/collegial comportment in class. Attendance expected and it is vital to your grade.

No penalty for up to three hours of being absent. Absences of more than three hours will begin to lower your overall course grade. Absences that

exceed nine hours will make it impossible to pass the course. Tardiness will count as 1/3 of an absence. Contact me if a problem arises.

All absences must be reported to the Professor. More than one unexcused absence may result in the student being dismissed from the class. A pattern of consistent tardiness will result in the lowering of the grade at the end of the semester.

The Midterm Examination will be administered on September 27, 2012. The examination will consist of true and false questions and one essay question. The essay will consist of two to three pages in length.

The Final Examination will be administered at the end of the semester. The Final examination will consist of true and false questions and two essay questions.

Student Comportment and Potential Sanctions Related to behavior in the

Classroom:

All students are expected to conduct themselves in an intellectual, constructive, and appropriate manner in the classroom. A student that engages in unprofessional, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior is subject to being removed from the classroom by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department. Their unprofessional behavior will be reported to the

administrative authorities of this institution, and it may result in the suspension of the student and the incident may become a permanent part of their academic record. In addition, no eating, no cell phones, no reading of newspapers, no video games, no audio devices, etc., taping of lectures, etc., are not permitted.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic Dishonesty Policy: the LACCD Student Code of Conduct that pertains to student dishonesty (Board Rule 9803.28) is as follows: “violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides the grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Violations of Academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an examination, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated that students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one’s identity for the purpose of enhancing one’s grade.

Reasonable Accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability who qualifies for accommodations through DSP&S, please contact me privately. The sooner that I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the

DSP&S Office in providing assistance. For students with disabilities, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in the Instructional Building 1018 (telephone number: 818.364.7732 / TTD 818.364.7861) and bring me a letter indicating what accommodations that are needed.

Medical Conditions:

If you have a condition that I need to know about, please notify me immediately by email.

Emergencies:

Please program the Campus Sheriff's telephone number in your cell phone: 818.364.7843.

Student Portal:

Update your email address, and view your schedule and grades from past semesters through the portal: www.lasmission.edu-students-My "Mission student portal access." If you have not yet changed your pin it is your birth date (MMDD).

Schedule of Assignments

First Week:

- I. Introduction to the purview of the course.
- II. Lecture on the social construction and the absurdity of the concept of
“Race” in reference to Albert Camu and Chester Himes.
- III. Video: Dr.Spencer Wells: “The Journey of Man”.
- IV. Assignment: “The Social Origins of the Concept of “race”

Second Week:

- I. Discussion about: “The Social Origins of the Concept of ‘race’”
- II. Video: “Hidden Colors”
- III. Video: Bernal: “Black Athena”
- IV. Assignment: Chapters: One and Two

Third Week:

- I. Discussion: Chapters: One and Two and Videos
- II. Videos: “Africans in America: America’s Journey Through Slavery ~ Part I.
- III. Assignment: Chapter: Three

Fourth Week:

- I. Discussion: Chapter Three and Video
- II. Video: "Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery ~ Part II.
- III. Assignment: Chapter Four

Fifth Week:

- I. In Class Interim Essay Question I.: (minimum 2 1/2 pages) "identify and define the historical facts of the African American experience in the United States before 1865."

Sixth Week:

- I. Discussion of the Interim Essay Question
- II. Discussion of Video and Chapter Four

Seventh Week

- I. Video: "Roots: The Next Generations" ~ Part I.
- II. Assignment: Chapter Five

Eight Week:

- I. Discuss: Chapter Five and Video
- II. Video: "Roots: The Next Generations" ~ Part II.

III. Assignment: Chapter Six

Ninth Week:

- I. Discussion: Chapter Six and Video
- II. Video: "Roots: The Next Generations" ~ Part III.
- III. Assignment: Chapter Seven

Tenth Week:

- I. In Class Interim Essay Question II.: (minimum 2 ½ pages) "analyze the Social, political, and economic contributions of African Americans within the framework of the general history of the early period of the United States."

Eleventh Week:

- I. Discussion: In Class Interim Essay II.Chapter Seven, Video
- II. Video: "Roots: The Next Generations" ~ Part IV.
- III. Assignment: Chapter Eight

Twelfth Week:

- I. Discussion: Chapter Eight and Video
- II. Video: "Beloved"

Thirteenth Week:

- I. Discussion: Video
- II. Video: "The Feast of All Saints"
- III. Assignment: Chapter Nine

Fourteenth Week:

- I. Discussion: Chapter Nine and Video
- II. Assignment: Chapters Ten and Eleven

Fifteenth Week:

- I. Discussion: Chapters Ten and Eleven
- II. Preparation for the Final Examination

Note

The syllabus represents an itinerary that is subject to revision. That is, the Professor reserves the prerogative to change points and/or the dates that assignments are due for submission.

Logistical Information:

Location of the classroom: Inst: 1001

Time: 12:15 ~ 3:25pm

Day: Thursday

Office Hours:

Location: Cubicle 31

Day: Thursday

Time: 11:30am ~ 12:15pm

Final Examination Information:

Date: TBD

Time: TBD

Location: Inst:1001

Contact Information:

Dr. Michael Carter

P.O. Box 1407

Studio City, California 91614

Telephone:

213. 300.2592 V.M.

818. 732.5536 Text Messages Only (No V.M.)

Email: Olmeces@gmail.com