**History 398**

**African American since 1865**

**Spring 2017**

MWF 2:30 – 3:20

University Hall 219

Instructor: Cornelius L. Bynum, Ph.D.

Office: University Hall 024

Office Hours: TTH 1:00 – 2:00 or by appt.

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Course Description:

History 398, African American History since 1865, is designed to introduce students to key events, themes, and people that shaped African American and American history from the end of the Civil War into the twentieth century and beyond. To this end, this course focuses on the rise of racial violence in the nineteenth century and African Americans’ response to it, African Americans’ efforts to carve out a place for themselves in a modernizing America, and African Americans’ demands for equal justice and civil rights.

Assigned Texts:

Bynum, Cornelius L. *A. Philip Randolph and the Struggle for Civil Rights*.

Hine, Darlene Clark, William C. Hine, and Stanley Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey, Volume II: Since 1863*, 6th edition.

McNeil, Genna Rae, *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights*.

Sitkoff, Harvard, *The Struggle for Black Equality, 1954 – 1992*.

Course Requirements and Policies:

Exams

There will be three (3) exams for this course. Each exam will constitute one-third (33.3%) of a student’s final grade. Exams are to be completed in class and students will have fifty (50) minutes to complete their work. Each exam will consist of two sections, a short-answer section and an essay question. Short-answer questions will be drawn from class lectures, films, and the Hine, Hine, and Harrold textbook, *The African-American Odyssey*; exam essay questions will come from the other assigned course reading. Exams will be specifically designed to test students’ mastery of course material. It will not be possible to do well in this course without completing the assigned course work and attending class. Moreover, **no** extra credit assignments will be offered in this course. In the event of a scheduling conflict, students should make arrangement with me prior to the exam date to take a make-up. I will be the sole determiner of whether a make-up exam is warranted and will make decisions on a case by case basis. In the event that a student misses an exam for any reason, s/he will receive zero (0) credit unless I determine that a make-up exam is warranted.

**This syllabus is subject to change as dictated by class needs and at the instructor’s discretion.**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. **In the event of such an emergency, I will notify you of key schedule or policy changes by email.**

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Syllabus:

**Week One: Reconstruction and Its Demise**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 12, “The Meaning of Freedom: The Promise of Reconstruction, 1985 – 1868.”

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 13, “The Meaning of Freedom: The Failure of Reconstruction.”

Monday, January 9, 2017 Lecture: “Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction”

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 Lecture: “Postwar Reconstruction and the 15th Amendment”

Friday, January 13, 2017 Film: *Black American History Series, Volume 3: Reconstruction*

**Week Two: The Post-Reconstruction Era**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 14, “White Supremacy Triumphant: African Americans in the Late Nineteenth Century.”

McNeil, *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, pp. xxiii – xxv, 3 – 45.

Monday, January 16, 2017 No Class: MLK Day

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 Lecture: “Education: Making a Living and a Life”

Friday, January 20, 2017 Film: *Booker T. Washington: The Life and the Legacy*

**Week Three: The Post-Reconstruction Era** (continued)

**African Americans and the Progressive Era**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 15, “African Americans Challenge White Supremacy.”

McNeil, *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, pp. 46 – 85.

Monday, January 23, 2017 Lecture: “Finding a Place to Uplift the Race”

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 Lecture: “Racial Segregation and the Problem of the Color Line”

Friday, January 27, 2017 Film: *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice*

**Week Four: African Americans and the Progressive Era** (continued)

**The New Negro, World War I, and the Great Depression**

Assigned Reading

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 16, “Conciliation, Agitation, and Migration: African Americans in the Early Twentieth Century.”

McNeil, *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, pp. 86 – 127.

Monday, January 30, 2017 Lecture: “Accommodation or Agitation?”

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans At Home and Abroad”

Friday, February 3, 2017 Lecture: “Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association”

**Week Five: The New Negro, World War I, and the Great Depression** (continued)

**African Americans and the Great Depression**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 17, “African Americans in the 1920s.”

McNeill, *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, pp. 131 – 175.

Monday, February 6, 2017 Lecture: “The New Negro in the Jazz Age”

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans in Desperate Times”

Friday, February 10, 2017 Exam 1

**Week Six: African Americans and the New Deal**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 18, “Black Protest, the Great Depression and the New Deal.”

McNeil, *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, pp. 176 – 224.

Monday, February 13, 2017 Lecture: “A New Deal for African Americans?”

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 Film: *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*

Friday, February 17, 2017 Film: *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*

**Week Seven: African Americans and World War II**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 19, “Meanings of Freedom: Culture and Society in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s.”

Bynum, *A. Philip Randolph and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, Introduction, Chapters 1 – 2.

Monday, February 20, 2017 Lecture: “African Americans in the Armed Forces”

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 Lecture: “Racial Issues on the Home Front”

Friday, February 24, 2017 Lecture: “The Cold War Spirit in African American Politics”

**Week Eight: *Brown* and Beyond**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 20, “The World War II Era and the Seeds of a Revolution.”

Bynum, *A. Philip Randolph and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, chapters 3 – 6.

Monday, February 27, 2017 Lecture: “Attacking ‘Separate but Equal’”

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 Film: *The Road to Brown*

Friday, March 3, 2017 Lecture: “*Brown* and Beyond”

**Week Nine: *Brown* and Beyond** (continued)

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 21, “The Long Freedom Movement, 1954 – 1965.”

Bynum, *A. Philip Randolph and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, chapters 7 – 9, Epilogue.

Monday, March 6, 2017 Lecture: “The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the SCLC”

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 Lecture: “Little Rock”

Friday, March 10, 2017 Exam 2

**Week Ten: Spring Break**

Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 17, 2017 Spring Vacation (No Classes)

**Week Eleven: *Brown* and Beyond** (continued)

Assigned Reading:

Sitkoff, *The Struggle for Black Equality*, pp. 3 – 87.

Monday, March 20, 2017 Lecture: “The Student Sit-In Movement”

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Awakenings*

Friday, March 24, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Awakenings*

**Week Twelve: *Brown* and Beyond** (continued)

Assigned Reading:

Sitkoff, *The Struggle for Black Equality*, pp. 88 – 154.

Monday, March 27, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Fighting Back*

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Fighting Back*

Friday, March 31, 2017 Lecture: “Grassroots Struggles in the Deep South”

**Week Thirteen: Marching Toward Freedom**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 22, “Black Nationalism, Black Power, Black Arts.”

Sitkoff, *The Struggle for Black Equality*, pp. 155 – 235.

Monday, April 3, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Jails*

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Jails*

Friday, April 7, 2017 Lecture: Freedom Summer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

**Week Fourteen: Freedom Summer in Mississippi**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 23, “African Americans in the Twenty-First Century.”

Monday, April 10, 2017 Lecture: Freedom Summer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk*

Friday, April 14, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk*

**Week Fifteen: Freedom Now to Black Power**

Assigned Reading:

*The African-American Odyssey*: Chapter 24, “Black Politics from 1980 to the Present: The President Obama Era,”

Monday, April 17, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is this America?*

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 Film: *Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is this America?*

Friday, April 21, 2017 Lecture: “Malcolm X and the Freedom Struggle”

**Week Sixteen: Freedom Now to Black Power** (continued)

Monday, April 24, 2017 Lecture: “A New Racial Consciousness”

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Lecture: “The Rise and Fall of Black Power Militancy”

Friday April 28, 2017 Lecture: “Diverging Direction in Black Politics”

**TBA Exam 3**