

African-American History to 1877
HIST 3327-110
Online
Fall 2021

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Office Hours: Time by appointment.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is a survey of African-American history to 1877. Students will be able to recognize and engage issues emanating from the research and historiography of the African-American community, analyze and critically review works of scholarship in the African-American history, and further develop their reading and writing skills. Topics and themes under consideration will include, but are not limited to: African origins, the Transatlantic slave system, the construction of race and racism, community and identity formation, slavery and resistance, and emancipation and assimilation. Topics and themes will be explored within the overarching context of U.S. history, but also with an eye towards the broader experiences of the African diaspora in the Atlantic world.

Mode of Instruction and Course Access

This is a fully online course with no scheduled face-to-face meetings.

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System
<https://tamuct.instructure.com>.

Contacting the Professor

All communications in this course between students and the professor should take place using the Canvas message system. You can expect to receive a reply to any message in about 24 hours, except on weekends (Fri. evening through Sunday evening) when the turnaround time may be a bit longer. In most cases, however, replies will be made much sooner than that. If for some reason you are unable to access Canvas, you may contact me via email. If you desire a face-to-face meeting, Webex, Telephone, or Skype meetings can be arranged. Please message me if you would like to schedule a meeting and we will work out a time on a case-by-case basis.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate factual knowledge and an understanding of fundamental theories: Students will examine and evaluate the major issues related to African-American history.
2. Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view: Students will analyze and critically evaluate different approaches African-American history.
3. Apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students will apply course material to improve thinking and decision making by constructing and analyzing interdisciplinary methodology, and drawing conclusions from studied work.
4. Demonstrate specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course: As future historians and teachers, students will evaluate and critically review of the work of other scholars and develop personal methodologies for historical scholarship
5. Demonstrate skill in expressing themselves in writing: Consistent with an upper-level history course, students will develop skills in written and/or oral communication including essays, reviews, and examinations.
6. Use required resources and find additional scholarly resources for answering questions or solving problems: Students will utilize the learning management system Canvas and assigned books and articles as well as independent research in the completion of their course work.

Required Readings:

Judith Van Buskirk, *Standing in Their Own Light*, U Oklahoma Press, 2017
McGraw, Mary, *An African Republic*, U. North Carolina Press, 2009
Sitton, Thad and James Conrad, *Freedom Colonies*, U Texas Press, 2005
Franklin, John Hope and Lauren Schwening, *In Search of the Promised Land*, Oxford, 2006

Grading

The final average will be calculated based on the number of points received out of a total of 750. The following point ranges correspond to the final grade for the course: 450 and above = A; 400-449 = B; 350-499 = C; 400-699 = D; below 600 = F. (On the percentage scale: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59 %.). Students will be graded and earn points for:

RESPONSE PAPERS: Students will turn in six reaction papers (one for each of the assigned texts) over the course of the semester. Each reaction paper is worth 25 points for a total of 150 points, or 20% of the course grade. Instructions on preparing the reaction papers are

located on Canvas in the “Assignment Instructions” page. Reaction papers must be submitted as a file uploads on Canvas by the due date indicated in the course schedule at the end of the syllabus. They will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

UNIT EXAMS: Students will complete four exams during this course. Each exam is worth 100 points and exams total just over 50% of the course grade. Exams will be a mixture of some objective questions (multiple choice, short answer etc) based on the course lectures, and detailed essay questions related to the course readings, films, and lecture material.

HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY: Students will write an 8-10 page historiographical essay covering the scholarship of a topic of their choice in African-American history. The essay is worth 200 points, for just over 25% of the course grade.

LATE WORK: Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% of the assignment grade for each day past the due date. Make-up assignments will be given on a case-by-case basis and only for documented reasons such as hospitalization/illness, incarceration, military service etc. Students are responsible for securing all necessary documentation for consideration when asking for a makeup.

INCOMPLETES: Incomplete grades are reserved for extraordinary circumstances such as Hospitalization, Incarceration, Deployment etc. that arise after the university drop date and which prevent the student from completing any outstanding course work. Inability to complete assigned work for whatever reason before the drop date should be handled via dropping the course. Decisions to allow an incomplete are made at the sole discretion of the professor.

FEEDBACK: As all written assignments will be submitted electronically, feedback on papers will also be delivered electronically and will generally be available within 7-10 days of the due date. Often, grades will be posted much more quickly, and occasionally they will take a bit longer.

PLEASE NOTE: All written electronic assignments must be submitted in one of the either Microsoft, Open Office, or Libre Office formats. All other formats, such as Apple .pages or .wps will not be accepted.

Withdrawals/Drop Date

It is the sole responsibility of the student to initiate a drop request. If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

The last day to drop this course with a “Q” or withdraw with a “W” is Friday, Nov. 5

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Technology Support

For log-in and other TAMUCT system support needs, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

For Canvas help, use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

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The University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading,

understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

Academic Integrity:

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to adhere to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

NOTE: At the very minimum, students who violate the academic integrity policy will receive an “F” for this course, and the professor reserves the right to initiate further sanctions.

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required)

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs’ Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#). Students may also contact the institution’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

Library Services

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](#)

Classroom Decorum and Other Policies

Students in an online course are expected to behave professionally and courteously with the professor and their peers. Although personal interactions in this course are limited, in the event that online discussion or meeting formats are utilized, please be respectful in your posting and comments.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY: Official communication is via your official Texas A&M University–Central Texas e-mail address, online via Canvas, and in-person in-class. Please check these places frequently for updates and information. It is the policy of the instructor to communicate sensitive information with students via e-mail only through an official TAMUCT e-mail address.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND COPYRIGHT POLICY: You may download course recordings, but recordings may *only* be used for personal, private, research and study purposes only, and *must not be disseminated publicly in any way*.

Copyright Notice: The electronic content and materials in this course are for the sole purpose of instruction as part of this course offered by Texas A&M University–Central Texas, and are solely for university students registered in this course, and are subject to copyright protection law. Students who disregard United States copyright policy and institution policy do so at their own risk and assume all liability.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](#) to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan. For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19 see the Texas A&M University-Central Texas [Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan](#)

Course Outline:

Please Note: This outline is intended a general guide only. As the instructor, I reserve the right to adjust this syllabus or the class schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

All assignments will be due at 11:59 p.m. on the day indicated below and in Canvas

Week 1 (Aug 23) UNIT 1 Begins; Introduction to Course; Start Reading Van Buskirk

Week 2 (Aug. 30) West Africa prior to the transatlantic slave trade **Response Paper #1 Due Tues. 9/7**

Week 3 (Sept. 6) The transatlantic slave trade and the construction of race **Response Paper #2 Due Tues. 9/14**

Week 4 (Sept. 13) Black Americans in British North America **Exam 1 Due Tues 9/21**

Week 5 (Sept. 20) Unit 2 Begins; Start reading McGraw The Black community in the Revolutionary era

Week 6 (Sept. 27) Black Americans in the early Republic, north and south **Response Paper 3 Due Tues. Oct. 5**

Week 7 (Oct. 4) Growth of the southern cotton kingdom **Response paper 4 Due Tues Oct. 12**

Week 8 (Oct. 11) Emancipation and freedom in the North; freedmen in the South **Exam 2 Due Tues. Oct 19**

Week 9 (Oct, 18) Unit 3 Begins Start reading Franklin and Scheweninger; The abolition movement; education, labor, and religion in the north;

Week 10 (Oct. 25) Resistance, Rebellion, Maroon communities **Response Paper 5 Due Tues. Nov. 2**

Week 11 (Nov. 1) Politics of Race, Black Americans move west, Sectional Crisis; **Response Paper 6 Due Tues. Nov. 9**

Week 12 (Nov. 8) Exam 3 Due Tues Nov. 16

Week 13 (Nov. 15) Unit 4 Begins Start reading Sitton and Conrad; African-Americans and the Civil War

Week 14 (Nov. 22) Reconstruction and the meaning of freedom in North and South

Week 15 (Nov. 29) Failures and successes of Reconstruction, rise of Jim Crow; **Exam 4 Due Tues. Dec 7**

Week 16 (Dec. 6) Assessment of the Black experience, intellectual movements, looking ahead to the 20th century; **FINALS WEEK ; HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS Due Fri. Dec. 10**