

**University of Detroit Mercy**  
348: History of African Americans  
3.0 Credits, Section R1  
Winter 2004

Instructor: D. Muhammad  
Office: Briggs 323  
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Course Meetings: Thurs: 6:40-9:10, Briggs 211  
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**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of African American history, although we will review the African background. We will explore the following themes throughout the semester: freedom, justice, equality, democracy, culture, and “race.” In addition, significant attention will be given to historiography, while chronology will be the vehicle that carries the course from its inception to its conclusion.

Students will be required to take three exams; each exam will contain at least two essay questions, multiple choice selections, key terms that were discussed in the readings and lectures, and true/false statements. In order to earn an “A,” each student must complete all of the reading assignments, recall some of the information, analyze it, and interpret in a contemporary framework; that is to say, how does the information relate to the United States today. In addition, students must complete all writing assignments.

**Course Structure:** Normally, the instructor will lecture three-fourths of each class session. The remainder of the class will be given to a discussion session based on assigned readings and relevant issues from the lectures; this also the appropriate time to extend conversations in the general textbook, as well as relevant current events. Occasionally, the instructor will show a video documentary at the end of a class session.

**Course Objectives:** (1) Students will know basic timelines and watersheds in African American history, as well as many prominent people, organizations, and concepts in context (2) Students will be able to discuss competently the themes of liberty, justice, inequality, culture, democracy, and “race” as they relate to the development of Black America. (3) Students will be able to write a persuasive historical essay free of grammatical and logical errors based on factual information.

**Required Books:** Finkenbine, Roy, ed. Sources of the African American Past: Primary Sources in American History. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Longman, 2004)

Franklin, John Hope. From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: McGraw Hill, 2000)

Douglass, Frederick, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave, As Written by Himself (New York: Dell Publishing, 1997)

**Written Assignments:** Students are required to write five three-page summaries and submit a seven to ten page book review. All assignments must be typed in black ink, double spaced, and submitted on white paper respectively. No late papers will be accepted unless an authorized excuse is presented.

**Grades** will be calculated in the following manner on a 500 Point Scale:

Discussion Summaries.....	50 Points
Quizzes.....	50 Points
Test 1.....	100 Points
Test 2.....	100 Points
Bookreview/Presentation.....	50 Points
Final Exam (Comprehensive).....	150 Points

**Other Considerations:** (1) No prerequisites are required for the course. (2) Attendance rules: If a student is absent three or more times, his or her grade will be reduced by one letter (3) Basic civil manners that are conducive to learning will be upheld. (4) No extra credit will be assigned; simply do what is required. (5) Exceptional Rule: If a student earns 97 percent or higher on the first two exams, he or she will be exempted from the Final Exam.

### Course Calendar and Reading Assignments

#### Week 1

Jan. 08 First Day of Class: Introduction, Review of Course Syllabus, Define "History;" Begin Book List

#### Week 2

Jan. 15 Complete Book List

The African Background. Franklin, Chp. 1

#### Week 3

Jan. 22 The African Background Continued. Franklin Chps. 1 and 2; **Quiz** on Selection from They Came Before Columbus

Franklin, Chp. 2 Continued

Film: "Ship of Slaves"

#### Week 4

Jan. 29 Slavery in America and the American Revolution, Franklin, Chps. 3-5

Discussion of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Chps. 1-8  
(**Summary Due**)

**Week 5**

Feb. 05

Historiography. Article on Library Reserve: "On the Evolution of African American History"

Discussion of Articles of Library Reserve: "Still on the Case, Carter Woodson: Father of Black History" by Lerone Bennet and "Black Women's, White Women's History" by Darlene Clark Hine. (**Quiz**)

**Test Review**

**Week 6**

Feb. 12

**Test 1**

Blacks and the New Republic. Franklin, Chp. 6

**Week 7**

Feb. 19

Blacks, Manifest Destiny, and Western Expansion. Franklin, Chps. 7-8.  
Return Test 1

Discussion of the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Complete Remainder (**Summary Due**)

**Week 8**

Feb. 26

Quasi-Free Blacks, Slavery and Sectional Strife Franklin, Chp. 9-10  
Selection from Finkenbine  
Discussion of "Suffer with Them to Death--Slave Women and Their Children" by Wilma King. (**Quiz**)

Review for Test 2

**Week 9**

March 01-08 No Class/Spring Recess

**Week 10**

March 11

**Test 2**

Civil War and Reconstruction. Franklin, Chp. 11-12

**Week 11**

March 18

Reconstruction through the Age of Booker T. Washington.  
Franklin, Chp. 13-15

Selection from Finkenbine Reader  
Film: "W. E. B. DuBois of Great Barrington" **Quiz**

**Week 12**

March 25

The Color Line through the New Deal. Franklin, Chps. 16-19  
Selection from Finkenbine Reader (**Summary Due**)  
Selection from Aristocrats of Color by Willard Gatewood

**Week 13**

April 01

World War II and Civil Rights. Franklin, Chps. 20-22  
Selection from Finkenbine Reader  
Video: Selection from Eyes on the Prize

**Week 14**

April 08

Civil Rights Continued. Franklin, Chps. 22-23  
Selection from Finkenbine Reader  
"Nkrumah: The Man and His World" by Selwyn R. Cudjoe (**Summary Due**)

**Week 15**

April 15

Black America to the Present. Franklin, Chps. 23-25  
Selection from Member of the Club by Lawrence O. Graham  
(**Summary Due**)

**Week 16**

April 22

**Final Exam**

**Book Review Due**

## General Discussion Questions

Who is the author or editor?

What is the main idea? Or, what is the author's basic argument or overall thesis?

When do the events occur? Cite specific details and support?

Who are the characters?

What evidence did the author use to support his or her claims?

What are the author's conclusions? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

What audience is being addressed? Consider language usage and subject?

How is this reading related to the general lectures and Black America today?

To whom would recommend this book or article and why?