

History 396
African American History to 1865
Fall 2012

Department of History
Purdue University

MWF 9:30 – 10:20 PM
University Hall
Room 201

Instructor: Cornelius L. Bynum, Ph.D.
Office: University Hall 024

Email: bynum@purdue.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

History 396, African American History to 1865, is designed to introduce students to the trends, events, issues, and people that shaped African American history from its West and Central African roots through the Civil War. In particular, this course will focus on presenting black people as active agents in the American historical narrative that significantly shaped the course of their own lives even within the context of slavery. To this end, this course sets out to discredit American myths about people of African descent, examine key elements of black slavery and freedom in the United States, analyze the slave experience with special emphasis on black resistance and resiliency, and identify the economic, political, and social factors that shaped and were shaped by African slaves, their descendants, black communities and institutions, and plantation society.

Assigned Texts:

Hine, Darlene Clark, William C. Hine, Stanley Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey, Volume One*, 5th edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: 2007).

Klein, Herbert S., *The Atlantic Slave Trade* (New York, 1999).

Mason, Matthew, *Slavery and Politics in the Early Republic* (Chapel Hill, 2006).

Levine, Bruce, *Half Slave and Half Free: The Roots of the Civil War* (New York: 2005).

Course Requirements and Policies:

There will be three (3) exams for this course and each will constitute one-third of your final grade. Exams are to be completed in class and you will have fifty (50) minutes to complete your work. Each exam will consist of two sections, a short-answer identification section and an essay section. Identification questions will be drawn from lecture material and the Hine, Hine, and Harrold textbook, the *African American Odyssey*; the essay questions will come from the other assigned course reading.

Lastly, this syllabus maybe 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 policies 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.**

Syllabus:

Week One: Ancient Africa

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 1: "Africa."
Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 1 – 35.

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| Monday, August 20, 2012 | Course Introduction: From Human Beginnings to the Rise of Egypt |
| Wednesday, August 22, 2012 | The Kingdoms of West and Central Africa |
| Friday, August 24, 2012 | African Culture |

Week Two: Africa and the Atlantic World

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 2: "Middle Passage."
Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 36 – 71.

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| Monday, August 27, 2012 | The Fateful Connection between Africa and Europe |
| Wednesday, August 29, 2012 | Africa and the Rising Atlantic World |
| Friday, August 31, 2012 | Early Africans in North America |

Week Three: Africans in Early North America, 1619 – 1726

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 3: "Black People in Colonial North America, 1526 – 1763."
Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 72 – 107.

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| Monday, September 3, 2012 | <u>Labor Day</u> (No Classes) |
| Wednesday, September 5, 2012 | The First Africans in English North America |
| Friday, September 7, 2012 | The Fateful Transition |

Week Four: African in Early North America, 1619 – 1726 (continued)

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 3: “Black People in Colonial North America, 1526 – 1763.”

Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 108 – 143.

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| Monday, September 10, 2012 | Defining Slavery, Defining Race |
| Wednesday, September 12, 2012 | Slavery and Race North of the Chesapeake |
| Friday, September 14, 2012 | Slavery Elsewhere in the New World |

Week Five: Africans in Bondage: Early Eighteenth Century to the American Revolution

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 3: “Black People in Colonial North America, 1526 – 1763.”

Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 144 – 179.

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| Monday, September 17, 2012 | Colonial Slavery at High Tide |
| Wednesday, September 19, 2012 | Negotiated Bondage |
| Friday, September 21, 2012 | Becoming African Americans |

Week Six: African Americans and the Revolutionary Era

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 4: “Rising Expectations: African Americans and the Struggle for Independence, 1763 – 1783.”

Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, pp. 180 – 206.

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| Monday, September 24, 2012 | African Americans and the American Revolution |
| Wednesday, September 26, 2012 | Rhetoric and Reality in the New Nation |
| Friday, September 28, 2012 | Exam 1 |

Week Seven: After the Revolution: Constructing Free Life and Combating Slavery, 1787 – 1816

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 5: “African Americans in the New Nation, 1783 – 1820.”

Mason, *Slavery and Politics in the Early Republic*, pp. 1 – 41.

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| Monday, October 1, 2012 | The Emergence of Free Black Communities |
| Wednesday, October 3, 2012 | Independent Black Institutions |
| Friday, October 5, 2012 | The Haitian Revolution and Its Consequences |

Week Eight: After the Revolution: Constructing Free Life and Combating Slavery, 1787 – 1816 (continued)

Assigned Reading:

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 5: “African Americans in the New Nation, 1783 – 1820.”

Mason, *Slavery and Politics in the Early Republic*, pp. 42 – 86.

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| Monday, October 8, 2012 | <u>October Break</u> (No Classes) |
| Wednesday, October 10, 2012 | Retrenchment and Resistance |
| Friday, October 12, 2012 | Black Identity in the New Nation |

Week Nine: African Americans in the Antebellum Era

Assigned Reading

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 6: “Life in the Cotton Kingdom.”

Mason, *Slavery and Politics in the Early Republic*, pp. 87 – 129.

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| Monday, October 15, 2012 | The Expansion of Slavery |
| Wednesday, October 17, 2012 | Slave Life and Labor |
| Friday, October 19, 2012 | Resistance and Rebellion |

Week Ten: African Americans in the Reform Era, 1831 – 1850

Assigned Reading

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 7: “Free Black People in Antebellum America.”

Mason, *Slavery and Politics in the Early Republic*, pp. 130 – 176.

Monday, October 22, 2012 Black Americans in the Expanding Nation

Wednesday, October 24, 2012 Black Americans and Reform

Friday, October 26, 2012 The Abolitionist Movement

Week Eleven: African Americans in the Reform Era, 1831 – 1850 (continued)

Assigned Reading

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 8: “Opposition to Slavery, 1800 – 1833.”

Mason, *Slavery and Politics in the Early Republic*, pp. 177 – 237.

Monday, October 29, 2012 The Abolitionist Movement (continued)

Wednesday, October 31, 2012 Limitations and Opportunities for Freedom

Friday, November 2, 2012 **Exam 2**

Week Twelve: Prelude to War: The 1850s

Assigned Reading

Hine, Hine, Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 9: “Let Your Motto Be Resistance, 1833 – 1850.”

Levine, *Half Slave and Half Free*, pp. 1 – 73.

Monday, November 5, 2012 The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

Wednesday, November 7, 2012 The Changing South

Friday, November 9, 2012 Regional Crisis

Week Thirteen: Civil War and the Promises of Freedom: The Turbulent 1860s

Assigned Reading

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 10: ““And Black People Were at the Heart of It””: The United States Disunites over Slavery.”
Levine, *Half Slave and Half Free*, pp. 74 – 147.

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| Monday, November 12, 2012 | Lincoln and the War |
| Wednesday, November 14, 2012 | War and Freedom |
| Friday, November 16, 2012 | Emancipation as Military Strategy |

Week Fourteen: Civil War and the Promise of Freedom: The Turbulent 1860s (continued)

Assigned Reading

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 11: “Liberation: African Americans and the Civil War.”
Levine, *Half Slave and Half Free*, pp. 148 – 221.

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| Monday, November 19, 2012 | African Americans and the War Effort |
| Wednesday, November 21, 2012 | <u>Thanksgiving Vacation</u> (No Classes) |
| Friday, November 23, 2012 | <u>Thanksgiving Vacation</u> (No Classes) |

Week Fifteen: Civil War and the Promises of Freedom: The Turbulent 1860s (continued)

Assigned Reading

Hine, Hine, and Harrold, *The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 12: “The Meaning of Freedom: The Promise of Reconstruction, 1865 – 1868.”
Levine, *Half Slave and Half Free*, pp. 222 – 292.

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| Monday, November 26, 2012 | 1863 |
| Wednesday, November 28, 2012 | An Incomplete Victory |
| Friday, November 30, 2012 | An Incomplete Victory |

Week Sixteen: Post-Civil War Reconstruction: Legacies of American Slavery

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| Monday, December 3, 2012 | Postwar Reconstruction |
| Wednesday, December 5, 2012 | Elected Black Leaders |
| Friday, December 7, 2012 | The End of Reconstruction (Last Day of Class) |

Exam 3 **TBA**