HIS 547: African American History
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: TW 2-5

Required Book
Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet (2005)
Talitha L. LeFlouria, Chained in Silence (2016)
Richard Mizelle, Jr., Backwater Blues (2014)
Cedric J. Robinson, Forgeries of Memory and Meaning (2007)
Charles Hughes, Country Soul (2017)
Ytasha L. Womack, Afrofuturism (2013)
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Americanah (2014)

Course Description
A survey of the historical content and historiographical contours of African American history. Particular focus will be given to: African diaspora, the transatlantic slave trade, the origins of slavery in North America, the politics of slavery, the revolution of emancipation, post-emancipation tensions and promises, the cultural contributions of black America, the Long Civil Rights Movement, race in contemporary America.

Assignments and Grades
The assignment breakdown for this semester is as follows:

Precis Questions/Participation: 30
Reviews (2): 30
Discussion Lead: 15
Seminar Paper: 25

Course Responsibilities
You are responsible for all registration deadlines. All of the assignments are required. To pass this class you must complete and turn in all of the assignments. Also, course schedules occasionally change and all major changes will be announced on D2L. Other than opportunities I provide for the entire class, no extra credit assignments will be offered during the course of the semester; after the semester is over; or on an individual basis. All work must be submitted by the due date. Late work will incur a ten-point penalty for each day past the due date.
Graduate Student Learning Outcomes Statement

The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning an M.A. degree in History:

1. The student will be able to explain the key issues and developments in at least two historical periods (one per course).
2. The student will be able to identify the main historical works and interpretive debates associated with an event or period.
3. The student will be able to locate, identify, and critically analyze primary sources.
4. The student will be able to research and analyze effectively an issue or topic in writing.
5. The student will be able to present written work in an appropriate academic style, including the proper citation of sources using Chicago Manual of Style (15th or most recent edition).

This course will incorporate to varying degrees on each of these PLOS, with a particular emphasis on PLOs 1, 2, and 5.

The more specific Student Learning Outcomes for this particular class are as follows:

1. The student will be able to explain the social, cultural, political, and economic issues that define African American history.
2. The student will be able to discuss the historiographical contours of African American history.
3. The student will be able to evaluate the importance of cultural history in examining the importance of race as a historical lens.
4. The student will be able to present written work that demonstrates a mastery of the historical concepts involved in producing historical scholarship. Writing history demands a careful use of language and a subtlety of argument, skills that will be emphasized in this seminar.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.
**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Course Schedule:**

1/21  1619 Discussion
3/10  Spring Break
3/17  *White Lies* Discussion
5/5   Final Essay Due