

HTS 3024 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1865
COURSE SYLLABUS – SPRING 2015
TUESDAY, THURSDAY 8:05 – 9:25
OLD CIVIL ENGINEERING 304

PROFESSOR NAOMI R WILLIAMS
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OFFICE: 135 OCE
OFFICE HOURS: MON 1-3;
THURS 12 – 1; BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW

This course is focused on African American history from the beginnings of the slave trade to emancipation. In addition to studying the experience of African Americans who lived during that period, students will examine the ways in which slaves and the institution of slavery shaped the creation and development of the United States in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. The class will also consider the legacy of slavery and its relationship to contemporary social and political questions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Area E Approved Learning Outcome: Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.

This course is about the history of African American slavery and the efforts to end the institution of slavery leading to the American Civil War. Students will learn how social, political, and economic forces influence social behavior through an examination of primary documents, lectures, secondary readings, and films. Students will demonstrate that they have met the Area E learning outcome through the writing of essay exams, reading journals, and class discussion. At the end of this course, students will be able to describe the ways in which slavery and black struggles for freedom shaped the social, political, and economic landscape of the United States from the 17th century to the Civil War. Students will also gain critical reading skills and effective oral and written communication skills.

CLASS FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

I am happy to accommodate you if you need any special considerations due to a disability, but please let me know as soon as possible. You should contact the ADAPTS Office (see www.adapts.gatech.edu). Class time will include lectures, group discussion and debates, and engagement with digital media sources. Please arrive on time and remain for the duration of the class.

Attendance is mandatory. All students are expected to attend all lectures, having done the assigned reading, prepared to ask questions and participate in class discussion. Students' success on written assignments will depend on their active engagement, including energetic involvement in class. Group discussion is a key feature of this course, so we will get to know one another,

refer to individuals by name, give courteous attention to all speakers, and actively participate in intellectual conversations. Students should keep a reading journal over the course of the semester. Journals should be 1-2 pages a week, consisting of the arguments/ideas in the readings and your opinions of the readings. You can also use your journal to comment on class discussions and if your opinions/ideas changed or you gained any new insights. Journals should be in essay format, with complete sentences, and well-defined paragraphs. Class participation grading assessment is based on weekly engagement with course materials, starting and participating in group discussions, journal entries, and active attention to others. Attendance is not the same as participation and is not included in discussion grades. Students will write two essays related to course themes. See class schedule for related due dates.

Essay assignments – all essays should use Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins all around. The first page header should contain your name, the course number and title, and the date submitted, aligned to the left. Start numbering essays on page 2. Page numbers should be centered in the footer, with plain formatting. All essays need an original title that reflects the theme or argument of the essay. Essays must be uploaded to T-Square by the due date and time. Page requirement: 7 – 10 pages.

<u>GRADES</u>	<u>PERCENTAGES</u>
Attendance	10%
Participation	30%
➤ Class discussion	15%
➤ Reading Journal	15%
Essays	40%
➤ Essay 1	20%
➤ Essay 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

GEORGIA TECH HONOR CODE

Students are expected to adhere to the Georgia Tech Honor Code (see www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/Honor/). Honor code violations, including plagiarism, will be addressed appropriately and could result in an “F” on the assignment or in the course.

REQUIRED BOOKS (Available at Engineer’s Bookstore, 748 Marietta Street)

- *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*
Author: Ira Berlin ISBN: 0674002113

- *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
Author: Harriet Jacobs ISBN: 0486419312

- *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World*
Author: David Walker ISBN: 0933121385

- *Slavery and Emancipation*
Ed: Rick Halpern & Enrico Dal Lago ISBN: 0631217355

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- Other readings available on T-Square

HOW TO READ FOR CLASS

Reading is an active process. You must read critically. This does not mean you must find something to criticize about the material. Instead, you have to read closely, analyze the argument and the use of sources and then decide what you think about what the author is trying to say. Are you convinced? Did something challenge your assumptions? Were your ideas confirmed or contradicted?

As you read ask yourself the following questions and take notes:

- What is the subject?
- What is the author's argument about this subject?
- Why does it matter (what's the big picture)?
- What sort of evidence is used and is it used effectively?
- How is the reading organized?
- What assumptions did the author start with? How did that impact the argument?

You will find that reading critically and actively engaging with the material will allow you to more easily construct discussion questions, help you feel more prepared for class, and prepare well for writing assignments. Taking strategic notes both while you are reading and during class discussion will help you craft strong essays.

CLASS SCHEDULE (May be subject to change. Any changes will be announced on T-Square)

WEEK 1: 6 JAN – 8 JAN RACE & SLAVERY – CRITICAL ANALYSIS IN HISTORY

- Tuesday Introductions/Class format/Syllabus review
 - Readings: Review Syllabus on T-Square; Come with any questions
- Thursday Africa, Africans, the Middle Passage
 - Readings: T-Square: Barbara Fields, "Slavery, Race and Ideology in the United States of America," *New Left Review* 181 (May/June 1990): 95-118; Northrup, "Vasco de Gama and Africa: An Era of Mutual Discovery, 1497-1800," *Journal of World History*, 9, #2 (Fall 1998): 189-211

WEEK 2: 13 JAN – 15 JAN MAKING SLAVERY IN COLONIAL AMERICA

- Tuesday
 - Readings: Berlin, 1-46
- Thursday
 - Readings: Berlin, 47-92; *Slavery & Emancipation*, 10-18 (Introduction – Doc C)

WEEK 3: 20 JAN – 22 JAN DEVELOPING SLAVE SOCIETIES

- Tuesday
 - Readings: Berlin, 93-141
- Thursday
 - Readings: Berlin, 142-216; *Slavery & Emancipation*, 35-42 (Intro – Doc C)

WEEK 4: 27 JAN – 29 JAN SLAVERY & REVOLUTION

- Tuesday **Journals Due**
 - Readings: Berlin, 217-255; *Slavery & Emancipation*, 55-63 (Intro – Doc C)
- Thursday
 - Readings: Berlin, 256-289; *Slavery & Emancipation*, 87-95 (Intro – Doc C)

WEEK 5: 3 FEB – 5 FEB SLAVERY & REVOLUTION

- Tuesday
 - Readings: Berlin, 290-357
- Thursday
 - Readings: Berlin, 358-365; *Slavery & Emancipation*, Chps 5 & 6 (including articles)

WEEK 6: 10 FEB – 12 FEB SLAVE LIFE AND CULTURE

- Tuesday **Journals Due**
 - Readings: Jacobs, 1-54
- Thursday
 - **NO CLASS**

WEEK 7: 17 FEB – 19 FEB SLAVE LIFE AND CULTURE

- Tuesday **Essay 1 Due**
 - Readings: Jacobs, 55-97
- Thursday
 - Readings: Jacobs, 98-159

WEEK 8: 24 FEB – 26 FEB SLAVE LIFE AND CULTURE

- Tuesday
 - Readings: *Slavery & Emancipation*, Chps 7 & 8 (including articles)
- Thursday
 - Readings: *Slavery & Emancipation*, 233-242 (Intro – Doc C)

WEEK 9: 3 MAR – 5 MAR LIFE AND LABORS OF FREE BLACK AMERICANS

- Tuesday
 - Readings: T-square – James Oliver Horton, *Free People of Color*
- Thursday
 - Readings: T-square – James Oliver Horton, *Free People of Color*

WEEK 10: 10 MAR – 12 MAR LIFE AND LABORS OF FREE BLACK AMERICANS

- Tuesday **Journals Due**
 - Readings: T-square – James Oliver Horton, *Free People of Color*
- Thursday
 - Readings: T-square – James Oliver Horton, *Free People of Color*

WEEK 11: 17 MAR – 19 MAR **SPRING BREAK**

WEEK 12: 24 MAR – 26 MAR REBELLION & SLAVE POLITICS

- Tuesday
 - Readings: Walker, 1-54; *Slavery & Emancipation*, 265-274 (Intro – Doc C)
- Thursday
 - Readings: Walker, 55-99; *Slavery & Emancipation*, 294-304 (Intro – Doc C)

WEEK 13: 31 MAR – 2 APR SLAVE POLITICS, SECESSION & WAR

- Tuesday **Essay 2 Due**
 - Readings: *Slavery & Emancipation*, Chapter 12 & 13 (including articles)
- Thursday
 - Readings: *Slavery & Emancipation*, Chapter 14 (including article)

WEEK 14: 7 APR – 9 APR SLAVE POLITICS, SECESSION & WAR

- Tuesday
 - Readings: T-square – Steven Hahn, “Of Chains and Threads,” excerpt from *A Nation Under Our Feet*
- Thursday
 - Readings: T-square – Steven Hahn, “The Choked Voice of a Race at Last Unloosed,” excerpt from *A Nation Under Our Feet*

WEEK 15: 14 APR – 16 APR SLAVE POLITICS, SECESSION & WAR

- Tuesday
 - Readings: T-square – Steven Hahn, “Of Rumors and Revelations,” excerpt from *A Nation Under Our Feet*
- Thursday Handout for final exam essay question
 - Readings: T-square – Civil Rights Act of 1866 (online resource)

WEEK 16: 21 APR – 23 APR **DEAD WEEK**

- Tuesday **Journals Due**
 - No readings
- Thursday Final Exam Review
 - No Readings

FINAL EXAM – **30 APRIL 8:00 – 10:05**