

## **HILD 7A: Race and Ethnicity in the United States**

**Fall 2007**

**MWF 3-3:50, Peterson 108**

Professor Daniel Widener  
Office: HSS 4063

email: professorwidener@yahoo.com  
Office Hrs: WF 11-12, apt.

Office Hours Note: you must sign up for an appointment slot. Open times will be listed on my door. Drop-in appointments will be difficult to discouraged owing to high enrollment.

### Teaching Assistants:

Jed Mularski  
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Jesus Perez  
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James Shrader  
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### **Course Overview**

This course concerns the history of the United States, with a focus on the historical experiences of peoples of African descent. Our aim should be threefold. First, it is our hope that you will gain a broader understanding of the general sweep of American history through your participation in the course. Additionally, we will seek to understand the particular history of African Americans, most notably by seeking to place the black experience in a hemispheric context. Finally, we will try to gain an understanding of how issues of race and ethnicity became central to life in the United States.

### **Course Assignments**

1. Attendance at section is required (20% of grade)
2. In-class midterms (2) (40% of grade)
3. Review essay (20% of grade)
4. Final (20% of grade)

**Please note: There will be three special film screenings that will involve out of class time commitments. Dates are marked on the syllabus.**

### Course Readings

1. Nell Painter, *Creating Black Americans: African American History and its Meanings, 1619 to the Present*
2. Eric Mann, *Katrina's Legacy: White Racism and Black Reconstruction in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast*
3. Electronic Reserves: Additional materials will be placed on electronic reserve. These are marked with an \* on the syllabus.

All course texts are available for purchase at Groundwork Books.

### Course Policies

Your attendance is expected at lecture. Students should expect to spend at least as much time completing assigned readings as they spend in class. Weekly readings are to be completed as of the first day of lecture that week. Please note that readings will average between 100 and 150 pages a week. Plagiarism is prohibited, embarrassing for everyone, and generally a bad idea. Students are encouraged, however, to work collectively, particularly in section. If you have any questions about how to accomplish both these expectations, please ask.

### Course Lectures and Themes

Week 0	9/27	Fri. <i>course intro and themes</i>
Week 1	10/1	<u>Routes and Roots</u> Mon. The World in 1400 Wed. Precolonial West Africa Fri. The Middle Passage and the Atlantic Slave Trade  Reading: Painter, Chapter 1 and 2 * Smallwod, from <i>Saltwater Slavery</i> .
Week 2	10/8	<u>England's Shadow</u> Mon. Virginia and the Birth of Race Wed. <i>Africans in the Americas</i> Fri. Retention and Syncretism in the African Diaspora  Reading: * Gomez, From <i>Black Crescent</i> * Thompson, from <i>Flash of the Spirit</i> * Richard Price, from <i>Maroon Societies</i>

- Week 3      10/15      Black Freedom in the Age of Revolution  
 Mon. Black Culture and Black Consciousness  
 Wed. The American Revolution  
 Fri. The Haitian Revolution
- Reading: Painter, Chapter 3, 4  
 \*Genovese, from *From Rebellion to Revolution*  
 \*Gary Nash, from *Race and Revolution*  
 \*James, from *Black Jacobins*
- Film:** *Sankofa*
- Week 4      10/22      A White Republic?  
 Mon. The Peculiar Institution  
 Wed. Andrew Jackson's America  
 Fri. The Civil War
- Reading: Painter, Chapter 5 and 6
- Week 5      10/29      Things Fall Apart  
 Mon. Black Reconstruction in America  
 Wed. *Reconstruction*  
 Fri. **Exam #1**
- Reading: Painter, Chapter 7 and 8  
 \*Rebecca Scott, "Defining the Boundaries of Freedom"  
 \*Eric Foner, from *Nothing But Freedom*
- Film:** *Rosewood*
- Week 6      11/5      Iron Cages and Color Lines  
 Mon. Empire abroad  
 Wed. The Science of Racism and the Racism of Science  
 Fri. Blues People
- Reading: Painter, Chapter 8  
 \*Washington, from *Medical Apartheid*
- Week 7           The Dirty South  
 Mon. **-no class-**  
 Wed. *Fatal Flood*  
 Fri. Gone to Chicago

Week 8

New Negroes

Mon. Renaissance at Home and Abroad

Wed. Up Ye Mighty Race

Fri. Toward Double Victory

Reading:

Painter, Chapter 9, 10,11

\*Eric Lott, "Double V, Double Time"

\*George Lipsitz, "Frantic to Join..."

\*Patterson (ed.), from *We Charge Genocide*

Week 9

Race for Democracy

Mon. A Worldwide Problem

Wed. The Second Civil War.

**Fri. no class**-in celebration of the power of myth, or, how I learned to stop worrying about the destruction of my great Grandparents in order to concentrate on eating.

Reading:

Painter, Chapter 12, 13, 14

Mann, *Katrina* (all)

**Film:** *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*

Week 10

Into the Fire

Mon. Black Politics in the Age of the Right

Wed. Cultures of Dissolution

Fri. **Exam #2**

Reading:

Painter, Chapter 15

\*Ronald Wilson Reagan, campaign speech, 1980

\*Robin Kelley, from *Race Rebels*

\*Mike Davis, from *City of Quartz*

**Film:** *Killer of Sheep*

**Essays due on Monday, December 10, @ 1 PM in Department of History, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, HSS building**

**Course Final: Friday, December 14, 3-6 PM, location TBA**