

*** HILD 7A: RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

The African-American Experience from 1619 to the Present

Fall 2008 - MWF 1:00-1:50, Peterson Hall, Room 108

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an overview of African American history in the United States by examining the historical and contemporary, formal and informal, political participation of people of African descent from the 1619 to the present. Given the unique historical moment afforded by Barack Obama's candidacy for President of the United States, we will, to a large extent, take a "reverse" chronological approach to African American history by looking at some contemporary socio-political issues and events (including the Obama phenomenon, the rise of Black conservatism, the diverse effects/aftermaths of Hurricane Katrina, etc.) before exploring earlier experiences of African Americans in the U.S. Through this approach, we will gain greater insight into contemporary issues, events, and circumstances of American life, particularly the lived experiences of African Americans, and better understand some of the historical antecedents to current events. At all times, we will attend to the ways in which race intersects with other variables, including gender, class, and sexuality to support and/or constrain African American formal and informal political participation.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

(All course texts are available for purchase at Groundwork Books)

Bracey, Christopher. 2008. *Saviors or Sellouts: the Promise and Peril of Black Conservatism from Booker T. Washington to Condoleezza Rice.* Boston: Beacon Press.

Kelley, Robin and Earl Lewis, eds. 2000. *To Make Our World Anew: a History of African Americans.* Oxford University Press.

Mann, Eric. 2006. *Katrina's Legacy: White Racism and Black Reconstruction in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.* Los Angeles: Frontline Press.

Obama, Barack. 2004. *Dreams from My Father.* New York: Three Rivers Press.

Other Readings as Assigned

RECOMMENDED READING:

Lee, Chana Kai . 1999. *For Freedom's Sake: the Life of Fannie Lou Hamer.* Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to attend class regularly, view documentaries outside of class as required, complete mid-term and final exams, regularly attend and participate in section, and complete 3 pop quizzes during the quarter. Please note that all assigned readings should be completed by the day/time your section meets.

Lectures are designed to supplement assigned readings, rather than summarize or replicate them. You are responsible for assigned readings, even if they are not discussed in class. If you have questions regarding readings, please raise them during section or during office hours.

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will be handled according to UCSD policies. Students are encouraged to work collectively whenever feasible and to make the best possible use of section.

Please note: In addition to some in-class viewing of films and/or film clips, there are three films students will be required to view outside of class. Films and due dates are noted on the syllabus.

Email Communications: Students are required to be accessible by, and responsive to, email communications throughout the quarter. Students should check email frequently during the week for course information or updates. Students should acknowledge receipt of emails from the instructor and TAs. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the instructor and TAs have a viable email contact for her or him.

GRADING

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| 1. | Attendance at section | (20% of grade) |
| 2. | In-Class midterm | (35% of grade) |
| 3. | In-Class Final | (35% of grade) |
| 4. | Pop Quizzes (3) | (10% of grade) |

EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS – (10 points maximum total). Earned credit for completing extra credit option(s) will be added to final score for the course. **NOTE:** Under no circumstances will a student earn more than 10 extra credit points [5 points for **Option A** (CBSL) and 5 points for **Option B** (ECO)], no matter how many activities within these two categories the student completes. Please note, as the name implies, extra credit options or activities are optional—not required—for the course.

OPTION A: Community-Based Service Learning (CBSL) (Maximum 5 points). Choose only **ONE** of the following three CBSL options. **NOTE:** To receive credit for the CBSL option, you are required to complete an evaluation of the CBSL activities, including your reflections on how those activities relate to material covered in course texts, lectures, discussions and documentaries. The CBSL extra credit score will also be based on the CBSL supervisor's verification that you have completed all agreed upon tasks and activities.

- (1)** Volunteer for an African American candidate of any party for any local, state, or national elected office for the upcoming November 2008 election. If you select this option, you are required **(a)** to identify and provide contact information for a San Diego-based campaign staff member who will serve as CBSL supervisor and **(b)** to spend a minimum of eight (8) hours engaged in campaign activities involving contact with San Diego voters.
- (2)** Work (paid position) for the SD County Registrar of Voters in Election Day activities (including training & poll working). If you select this option, you will need to contact the SD County Registrar of Voters immediately in order to meet poll worker training deadlines.

- (3) Design and deliver a campus-wide multimedia presentation on “African American Women Advancing the Political Participation of Blacks in America.” If you select this option, you must plan, develop and deliver a campus-wide multimedia presentation on key African American women who have contributed to the political participation of African Americans from slavery to present. This presentation must include substantial information on the contributions of Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm and others. **This presentation must occur no later than week 8 of the quarter and must attract a minimum of 40 attendees.** Additional information available upon consultation with instructor.

OPTION B: Extra Credit Opportunity (ECO) (Maximum 5 points). Pre-approved, course-relevant ECO activities will be offered throughout the quarter.

Each extra-credit activity is worth up to 1 point added to your final score in the course. You may turn in a maximum of 5 extra credit assignments for the quarter (for up to 5 total points added to the final score). ECO activities must be relevant to the course, pre-approved by instructor, and announced to all enrolled students in a timely fashion.

Pre-Approval is **NOT** necessary for non-recurring events, presentations, or performances **PERTAINING TO PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT** that are **SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING**: this class, the History Department, the Ethnic Studies Department, the LGBT Center, the Women’s Center, the Cross-Cultural Center, the Malcolm X Library, ArtPower! at UC San Diego, Diversionary Theater, Common Ground Theater or Mo’lelo Theater. Please note that some ECO options may have a cost, so choose accordingly. ECO offerings for the course will be announced throughout the quarter.

To receive extra credit, each student attending or participating in an ECO event must submit a short paper (no more than 2 typewritten pages, double-spaced) summarizing key issues and concerns covered during the event and showing how those issues and concerns are pertinent to our course objectives, specific course materials and/or discussions. Course materials must be appropriately documented in the paper and cited in a bibliography (bibliography does not count toward the 2 page maximum). No ECO credit will be allocated to ECO submissions that do not include appropriate references to course materials. The ECO paper must be submitted no later than one week following the ECO event, or by the date specified by the instructor. **Late submissions will not receive credit.**

Each extra-credit activity is worth up to 1 point added to your final score in the course. You may turn in a maximum of 5 extra credit assignments for the quarter (for up to 5 total points added to the final score). To reiterate, ECO events must be relevant to the course, pre-approved by instructor, and announced to all enrolled students in a timely fashion.

COURSE SCHEDULE

***Instructor reserves the right to make changes in course schedule as warranted

Week 0 (Sept. 26) Course Overview
26 Sept. Course Overview

Students should view “Black Is, Black Ain’t” before Oct. 3rd

Week 1 (Sept. 29-Oct. 3) Defining People of African Descent
29 Sept. Defining Black America: National Perspectives
1 Oct. Defining Black America: Black Perspectives
3 Oct. Defining Black America: Black Perspectives, Con’t

WEEK II (Oct. 6-Oct. 10) CONTEMPORARY REALITIES AND THE POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES OF AMERICA’S RACIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

6 Oct. *Saviors or Sellouts*, Intro, chap. 1 & 2
8 Oct. *Saviors or Sellouts*, chap. 3 & 4
10 Oct. *Saviors or Sellouts* chap. 5 & 6

WEEK III (Oct. 13-Oct. 17) CONTEMPORARY REALITIES AND THE POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES OF AMERICA’S RACIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

13 Oct. *Saviors or Sellouts*, chap. 7 & 8
15 Oct. *Saviors or Sellouts*, chap. 9 & 10
17 Oct. Film:

Students should view “Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections” before Oct. 31st

WEEK IV (Oct. 20-Oct. 24) CONTEMPORARY REALITIES AND THE POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES OF AMERICA’S RACIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

20 Oct. *Dreams from My Father*, Intro & Part I
22 Oct. *Dreams from My Father*, Part II (pp. 133-295)
24 Oct. Film

WEEK V (Oct. 27-Oct. 31) CONTEMPORARY REALITIES AND THE POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES OF AMERICA’S RACIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

27 Oct. *Dreams from My Father*, Part III (pp. 296-442)
29 Oct. *Katrina’s Legacy*, Intro & Section I (pp.15-59)
31 Oct. *Katrina’s Legacy*, Section II (pp. 61-152)

WEEK VI (Nov. 3-Nov. 7) HISTORIC PATHWAYS TO CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN
AMERICAN REALITIES

- 3 Nov. Katrina's Legacy, Section III & Conclusion (pp. 153-195)
- 5 Nov. Film
- 7 Nov. *Mid-term Exam*

WEEK VII (Nov. 10-Nov. 14) HISTORIC PATHWAYS TO CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN REALITIES

- 10 Nov. *A History of African Americans*, Intro, chap. 1
- 12 Nov. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 2
- 14 Nov. In-class Film:

WEEK VIII (Nov. 17- Nov. 21)

- 17 Nov. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 3
- 19 Nov. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 4
- 21 Nov. Film

Students should view "Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice" before November 28th

WEEK IX (Nov. 24-Nov. 28)

- 24 Nov. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 5
- 26 Nov. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 6
- 28 Nov. No class, Thanksgiving Holiday

WEEK X (Dec. 1- Dec. 5)

- 01 Dec. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 7
- 03 Dec. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 8
- 05 Dec. *A History of African Americans*, chap. 9 & 10

FINAL EXAM: December 10, 3:00pm-6:00pm