

**Boston University
AA371/HI298
African American History
MWF 10-11
Room CAS 227
Fall Semester 2014**

Prof. Linda M. Heywood
Office: African American Studies

138 Mountfort Street, Room 202
email: heywood@bu.edu

Office Hours:
Mon. and Fri. 11:00-12:00 and
by appointment
Telephone: 617 358 3389

Course Description: The course is a survey of African-American History from the African background to today. Topics include the African background and Middle passage experience; enslaved Africans and African Americans in British North America; African Americans and the American Revolution; Slavery and Antebellum America; Civil War and Reconstruction; African Americans in a Globalizing America to the Second World War; Cold War and Civil Rights; Black Power to post-racial America. The readings and lectures will highlight the following issues and themes: African origins and the making of African American identity in British North America and the United States; the African contribution to African-American culture; Race and the struggle of enslaved Africans and African-Americans for human rights in ante-bellum America; leadership and ideology from Reconstruction to World War II; African-American experience from a global perspective, post-World War II to today. Focusing on these themes will allow students to develop deeper insights into how Africans and African Americans shaped their own history in America, while at the same time illustrating how the African-American experience is an essential part of the larger American experience.

Required Books:

Clayborne Carson et al., *The Struggle for Freedom: A History of African Americans* 2nd ed., (Prentice Hall, 2011).
Peniel Joseph, *Stokely Carmichael, A Life* (Basic Books, 2014)
Barbara Ransby, Eslanda, *The Large and Unconventional Life of Mrs. Paul Robeson*, (Yale, 2013).

Readings The BU Bookstore has all the books required for the course. The required books have also been placed on reserve at Mugar library.

Additional Readings are on Blackboard Learn (BL)

Course Outline and Requirements:

The course is a combination of lectures and class discussions. Evaluation will be based on in-class midterm and final exams, a term paper, one critical take home critical essay (based on Readings for Week 1 or Week 2), regular class attendance, and active participation in weekly class discussions sessions. Students who miss a class lecture should make sure that they have read the required readings for that week's lecture and actively participate in class discussions during the weekly Friday class discussions. Students who do not attend discussion sessions or actively participate in the discussions will not receive full credit for class discussions. Students are required to attend class to write the in-class examinations.

Grading: Mid-Term Exam	20% (Fri Oct.17)
Final Exam	30% (TBA)
Paper	25% (Due-Fri Dec. 5)
Class attendance and Discussions	15%
Critical Essay	10% (Due Sept. 26)

Critical Essay: The essay should be based on a critical analysis of the readings for either Week 1 or Week 2. The focus of the essay should be on how scholars have evaluated the relations between Africans and Europeans during the early decades of contact and why Africans became the main source of slaves for the Atlantic world. As you read the required readings for the essay you should consider the economic, political and moral issues that European merchants and African rulers faced during the period of the slave trade and critically evaluate how they resolved these issues. **Due Date: September 26.**

Black Heritage Trail Tour: Tour begins at 2:00 pm on Saturday October 19 at Robert Gould Shaw Memorial on Beacon Street, across from the Massachusetts State House. Students who attend the tour and write a 2-3 pages (typed) critical reaction paper will receive 5% extra credit. (Due date: First week of November).

The Term Paper: The term paper, due on Friday December 5, should be based on available primary and secondary sources. The paper should focus on an aspect of the African-American experience in North America that you believe fundamentally affected the status of the group. Each student must hand in a thesis statement and a short bibliography by Friday October 31. Term papers will not be accepted from students who have not submitted the thesis statement and short bibliography. Final papers should be at least 3,000 words excluding endnotes and footnotes. Due: December 5.

Student/Professor Consultations Regarding Paper Topic: September 26-October 31.

Academic Integrity Policy: Each student is expected to author his/her own work. Students should familiarize themselves with CAS Academic Conduct Code. Students who submit plagiarized papers or other assignments that they have not authored will be

subject to the penalties imposed by the CAS Academic Conduct Code. For more on CAS Academic Conduct Code link to: [Boston University Academic Conduct Code](#)

Weekly Assignments:

Week 1 (9/3-9/5) From Central and West Africa to America

- A. Central African Societies and Europeans
- B. West African Societies and Europeans
- C. Warfare and Enslavement

Readings: Heywood, "Slavery and its Transformation...Kongo" (BL)
Hatfield, "A very wary people...English Traders..." (BL)
Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 25-35 and 40-54.
Thornton, "Warfare in Atlantic Africa..." (BL)

Week 2 (9/8-9/12) Africans into Slaves

- A. The Middle Passage Experience
- B. The Charter Generation
- C. The Plantation Generation

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 35-40
Stewart, *Venture Smith* pp. 1-15 (BL)
Lovejoy, "Freedom Narratives" (BL)
Heywood and Thornton, *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles* (BL)

Discussion Readings 9/12

Week 3 (9/15-9/19) Enslaved Africans, African Americans and 18th Century America

- A. Africans and the slave Experience
- B. Africans, African Americans and the Making of Culture

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 55-97.
William S. Pollitzer, *The Gullah People and their African Heritage*, pp. 51-62 (BL)
Walter C. Rucker, *The River Flows On*, pp. 91-113. BL
Friday 9/19: Discussion of Readings

Week 4 (9/24-9/26) Against All Odds: Resistance and Institution Building in a Developed Slave

- A. African Americans: Leadership, Ideology and Community
- B. African Americans and the American Revolution

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 99-123; 169-174.
"Belinda's Petition", (BL)
Rucker, *The River Flows On*, pp. 123-141. BL
Jerome Handler, "Survivors of the Middle Passage." (BL)

Friday 9/26: Discussion Readings

Week 5 (9/29-10/3) Religion, Culture and Identity

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 124-169.
Klassen, "Religion and African American Women" (BL)
Rucker, *The River Flows On*, pp. 180-198 (BL)

Friday, 10/3: Lecture and Discussion

Week 6 (10/6-10-10) Becoming Free: Civil War

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 175-260.
Stuckey, "Through the Prism of Folklore" BL

Friday, 10/10 : Debate on readings

**Week 7 (10/14-10/17) Leadership, Ideology and Community Building:
Reconstruction Period to 1919**

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 261-319.
Ransby, *Eslanda...Robeson*, Chpt. I

Friday: Midterm Exam

**Week 8 (10/20-10/24) Leadership, Ideology and Community Building: Post
Reconstruction to the Interwar Period**

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 320-377.
Ransby, *Eslanda...Robeson*, Chpts. 2-4.

Friday 10/24: Film, "Passion for Justice"-Ida Wells Barnett.

Week 9 (10/27-10/31) Race, Culture and Institution Building to World War II

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 377-405
Vera Grant, "White Shame/Black Agency." (AFAM)
Ransby, *Eslanda: Robeson*, Chpts 5-8.

Friday, 10/31: Discussion-Readings and Film

Week 10 (11/3-11/7) Towards Full Integration 1: World War II to 1966

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 406-460.
Ransby, *Eslanda: Robeson*, Chpts. 9-12
Joseph, *Stokely: A Life*, Preface to Chpt 3

Friday, 11/7: Debate-Readings-Race and Foreign Policy

Week 11 (11/10-11/14) Towards Full Integration 11: Second World War to 1966

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 461-503.
Ransby, *Eslanda...Robeson*, Chpts. 13 to Epilogue.
Joseph, *Stokely A Life*, Chpts 4-7.

Friday, 10/14: Debate-Early Civil Rights

Weeks 12 (11/17-11/21) Post From Civil Rights Movement to Black Power

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 503-534.
Joseph, *Stokely: A Life*, chpts. 8-13.

Friday Nov. 21: Guest Jim Marshall, author- *Student Activism and Civil Rights in Mississippi: 1960-65*.

Week 13 (11/24-12/3) Black Power And Beyond I

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 535-588.

Joseph, *Stokely: A Life*, Chpts. 14-15.

Friday 12/3: Discussion of Readings

Week 14 (12/5-12/10) Black Power and Beyond II

Readings: Carson et al., *Struggle for Freedom*, pp. 535-588.

Joseph, *Stokely: A Life*, chpts. 16 to Epilogue

Wednesday 12/10 Debate