

Boston University
Department of History/African American Studies
AA380/HI360^[1]
TR3:3:30-4:45
Room AAS Room 101
European Dimensions of the Black Diaspora

Prof. Linda Heywood

African American Studies

202

Fall Semester 2018

Office Hours:

Mondays: 4:00-5:00

Fridays: 9:00-10:00

138 Mountfort St.

Room

Email: heywood@bu.edu

Course Description. The course follows the travels that African Americans made to Europe from the 1700s to the 1980s to interrogate the impact such travel had on the individual African American traveler as well as on the group as a whole. African American travelers to Europe during the period included, among others, abolitionists, run-away slaves, servants, writers, students, political activists, artists and musical and theatrical performers, soldiers, short-term visitors as well as African Americans who remained permanently in Europe. The course examines how these European journeys helped to transform the ideas that African Americans held about race, culture, politics, history, and about their own identity as Americans. The course also interrogates the ways in which the African American and black presence helped to transform European views on these same issues.

Course Objectives. The purpose of the course is to give students opportunities to study the relationship that enslaved and free Africans and their African Americans descendants forged with Europe during the period from the years preceding the American Revolution to the 1980s. One of the most important objectives is to cover all aspects of the African American experiences in different parts of Europe over time. Using this comparative approach to examine African American experiences in Europe will allow students to assess the relationships that African-American developed with different groups of Europeans. Students will also study the kinds of relationship African Americans who traveled to Europe developed with Europeans, Africans and peoples of African descent from other parts of the world.

Goals:-

1. Students will read published works by and articles about Africans or individuals of African descent who gained prominent figures in selected countries in Europe before the arrival of enslaved and free Africans and their descendants in Europe. This will allow students to assess the place of Africans in Europe before the arrival in Europe of enslaved and free Africans from British North America and the United States after the 1760s.
2. Students will learn about the place of slavery and race in Europe and the depiction of people of African descent in Europe writings, art and popular culture before 1760s.

3. Students will read biographies and articles about African American visitors to Europe between the period from the 1760s to 1808
4. Students will read biographies and critical articles about famous and ordinary African American visitors to Europe from 1808 to the 1880s.
5. Students will read scholarly books, critical articles and chapters of required books and evaluate how African American visitors to Europe from the 1880s to the 1960s deliberately chose Europe as a place both to escape the race problems at home but also to use the European theater to fight racism at home on a variety of fronts—scholarly, artistic, military, as well as political.
6. Students will engage in critical discussions on all of the readings, and assess how the personal, racial, and ideological ideas of African Americans who visited or lived in Europe before the Civil Rights period changed from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Course Format:-The course consists of power point lectures by the professor, class discussions, and student in-class presentations. Students will also participate in Facebook discussions, and do written assignments at home and in class.

Course Requirements:

Critical Essay	10% (Take-Home Essay)
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	25% (as per university schedule)
Term Paper	25 % (11 December)
Participation and Presentation	10%
Facebook Discussions	10%

Instructional Format, Course Pedagogy, and Approach to Learning

Books and Other Course Materials

Grant Parker, *The Agony of Asar: A Thesis on Slavery by the Former Slave, Jacobus Elisa Johannes Capitein, 1717-1747* (Marcus Weiner, 1999), ISBN-13: 978-1558761261

Lawrence Fenton, *'I Was Transformed': Frederick Douglass*, (Amberley/IPG), ISBN 9781445670195

Tyler Stovall, *Paris Noir: African Americans in the City of Light*, (Createspace), ISBN 978146909066

Recommended

Allison Blakely - *Blacks in the Dutch World*, (IN U Pr), ISBN 9780253214331

Courseware

Course readings will be available on Blackboard Learn (**BL**). Other sites are also available.

Assignments and Grading Criteria

All students should attend class lectures and discussion. Grading will be based on a critical essay, a mid-term examination, a research project, and a final exam. The mid-term examination

will comprise a few identification terms and an essay. The final exam will be all essay questions. Students will also be graded on their class participation and their reactions to items posted on the course's Facebook or Piazza pages.

The critical essay will be based on question that emerges from the readings for the first three weeks of class. The question will be distributed to the class on 20 September and is due on 25 September. It should be between 3-5 pages long. Submit essay to heywood@bu.edu. **10% of final grade.**

The research paper or project: Each student must research and write a paper that provides new insights on an aspect of the experiences of African Americans in Europe that interests you. The research can be based on electronic sites that students have uncovered that deal with African Americans in Europe. Each student should send to me by email a one-page thesis statement and short bibliography of the proposed paper or project by Friday October 20. The proposal will be returned to students with comments on Thursday October 27. I will be available during office hours to meet with students who wish to discuss their topics with me. Research papers or projects are due 11 December. The proposal with my comments must be attached to the completed paper. Research papers must be 3,000-4,000 words (about 10-12 pages, double spaced with Times New Roman in length excluding a one page bibliography). Type font should be Times New Roman 12 point. Submit paper with marked-up proposal to heywood@bu.edu. **25% of final grade.**

Closed Facebook Site –Blacks in Europe: Every week an image, a news item, or another other item relevant to the topic for the week will be uploaded to the site. Students are required to write critical comments on ten of the items posted. Students are encouraged to send to Dr. Heywood items or images they would like to have uploaded to the site for comments and discussion. Dr. Heywood will monitor the site. Participation in the Facebook discussion is worth **10% of the final grade.**

Weekly Readings

Part One: Africans in Europe From the 1500s to the Early 1800s

Week One 9/4-9/6 *Introduction: The European Background to Race and the Place of Africans in Iberia and the Netherlands*

Required Readings Capitein, *The Agony of Asar* (Introduction and selected sections)

Blakely, *Blacks in the Dutch World*, pp. 204-211. **BL**

Earl and Lowe eds., "Juan Latino and his racial difference." **BL**

Lecture and Class Debate

Week Two 9/11-9-13 *African Intellectuals in 18th Century Europe*

Required Readings Gnamankou and Gage, "Pushkin Between Russia and Africa." **BL**

David Olusoga, *Black and British*, 'For Blacks Or Dogs.' **BL**

Capitein, *The Agony of Asar*, pp. 136-152.

Lecture and Class Discussion

Week Three 9/18-9/20 *Phyllis Wheatley, Black Loyalists and other Blacks in Great Britain to the 1840s*

Required Readings: Mukhtar Ali Isani “Phyllis Wheatley in London...” *American Literature*, vol. 51, no. 2 (May, 1979) **BL**. 5 pp.
Zuch, “Poetic Economics: Phillis Wheatley...Early Atlantic” **BL**
Olusoga, *Black and British*, Chpt. 5 “Province of Freedom.” **BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

Week Four 9/25-9/27 *Paris of the Enlightenment and Revolution: Jefferson, the Hemingses, and Others*

Required Readings: Annette Gordon Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, Excerpt. **BL**
William B. Cohen, “The Issue of Slavery,” in William B. Cohen, *The French Encounter with Africans*. **BL**

Lecture

**9/25 Critical Essay
Due**

Part Two: African Americans in Europe in the Age of Abolition, American Civil War and Reconstruction, 1820s-1880s

Week Five 10/2-10/4 *Frederick Douglass and Peoples of African Descent in Victorian Britain and Russia*

Required Readings Fenton, *I was Transformed: Frederick Douglass* (Begin)
Dickerson, “Hail Britannia: African Americans Abroad in Victorian England,” in Vanessa D. Dickerson, *Dark Victorians*. **BL**
Gunning, “Nancy Prince and the Politics of Mobility.” **BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

Week 6 10/11-10/16 *Awakening Europe: Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells and DuBois in Europe, 1890s to 1910*

Required Readings Fenton, *I was Transformed: Frederick Douglass* (Continue)
Zackdonik, “Ida B. Wells and ‘American Atrocities’ in Britain.” **BL**
Beck, “DuBois as a Study Abroad Student in Germany, 1892- 1894.” **BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

Week 7 10/18-10/23 *Awakening Europe: Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois and Peoples of African Descent in Europe, 1890s to 1910*

Booker T. Washington, *The Man Farthest Down* (Excerpts) Chpts. 1, XV, XIX **BL**

“Part III Black Paris-Black France” Bruce, the New Negro in Paris,” chpt. from Keaten et. al, *.Black France/France Noire*. **BL**

Terrell, “DuBois in Paris: Exposition Universelle, 1900,” http://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2015/02/du-bois-in-paris-exposition-universelle-1900/?loclr=twloc **BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

Part Three: Creating the New Image: African Americans in Europe, 1910 to the 1930s: Soldiers, Intellectuals, Performers and Activists

Week 8 10/25-10/30 *Creating New Spaces: African American Students, Artists and Activists in Europe*

Required Readings Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Begin Chpt 1

Fabre, *Black American Writers*, Claude McKay **BL**

Dunstan, “Conflicts of Interests: The 1919 Pan African Conference and the Wilsonian Moment,” *Callaloo*, vol. 31 **BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

Week 9 11/1-11/6 *The Great War and the Politics of Race in Europe*

Required Readings Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Chpt. 2

Nelson, “The Black Horror on the Rhine: Race as a Factor in World War I Diplomacy,” *Journal of Modern History*, vol 41, no. 4 (1970). **BL**

Wipplinger, “Germany, 1923 Alain Locke, Claude McKay...**BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

Part Four: Modernizing the Black Image in the Interwar Years: African American Soldiers, Athletes, Philosophers, Writers and Entertainers 1930s-1945

Week 10 11/8-11/13 *New Ideologies and Alliances: Cultural, Military and Political Interactions Dynamics in France, Russia and Germany to the 1950*

Required Readings Stovall, *African Americans in the city of Light*, Chpt 3

Dawson, “The Rise of the Black Internationale...Britain During the 1930s.”**BL**

Lusane, *Hitler’s Black Victims*, Chpt. 9 “Punched out and Overrun: Black Athleticism Meets Nazi Racism.” **BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

- Week 11 11/15-11/20** *African Americans in Europe: Securing Victory and Making Creating a New History: World War Two and its Aftermath*
- Required Readings** Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Chpts. 3 and pp. 130-141 of Chpt 4..
- Hervieux, *Forgotten*, “The Greatest Hour.” **BL**
- Reynolds, “The Churchill Government and Black American Troops.” **BL**
- “Sorting the mail, blazing a trail: African-American women in WWII,” <http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/2016/03/sorting-the-mail-blazing-a-trail-african-american-women-in-wwii/>
- Lecture and Student Presentation**

Part Five: African Americans From Post-War Europe to the 1950s

- Week 12 11/27-11/29** *African Americans: The View from Europe*
- Required Readings** Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Chpt 5
- Tackley, “Race, Identity and the Meaning of Jazz...1940s’s Britain.”
- Muniz de Fara, “Germany’s Brown Babies.” **BL**

Lecture and Student Presentation

- Week 13 12/4-12/6** *African Americans in Europe: From the Civil Rights Era to 1970*
- Required Readings and Videos** Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Chpt. 6
- Kaplan, “Dreaming in French: On Angela Davis.” (March 14, 2012) <https://www.thenation.com/article/dreaming-french-angela-davis/>
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Berlin, 1964 http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/martin-luther-king-and-the-berlin-wall/2014/10/30/b72c90aa-48ad-11e4-b72e-d60a9229cc10_story.html?hpid=z3
- “Malcolm X’s Speech in London, October 7, 1964. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUVzyvWUjQ>
- Dr. Martin Luther King in London, December 7, 1964. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHyKNJTVuh4>

Lecture and Debate

- Week 14 12/11** *African Americans in Europe in the Era of the European Union, 1970s to the Present*
- Required Readings** Stovall, Chpt. 7
- Alison Blakely, “No Greener Pastures and ‘No Hid’ in Place: The Perceptions of Blacks in Europe in the Middle and the End of the Twentieth Century” in A. S. Balezin, ed., *Afrocentrism and*

*Eurocentrism on the Eve of the 21st Century: African Studies in
World Context* **BL**

Lecture and Debate