European Dimensions of the Black Diaspora

Prof. Linda Heywood
Office Hours:
Mondays: 4:00-5:00
Fridays: 9:00-10:00
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African American Studies

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Course Description. The course focuses on historical works, artistic illustrations, and folkloric descriptions of African Americans (and Africans) who visited, resided in or fought in wars in Europe from the 1700s to the 2000s. The course examines how the European experience helped to transform the ideas that African Americans held about race, culture, politics and history. The course also assesses whether travel to or residence in Europe changed European views of Africans and African Americans during the period.

Course Objectives. The purpose of the course is to give students opportunities to study the relationship that African Americans developed with Europe from the years preceding the American Revolution to the 2000s. The course will begin with an examination of European attitudes toward Africans who resided in Europe prior to the arrival of African Americans. The course will adopt a comparative approach to examine the African American experiences in Europe in order to assess how the relationships between African Americans and Europeans changed over time. Students will also study how travel to Europe helped African-Americans forge ties with Africans and peoples of African descent from other parts of the world.

Goals:
1. Students will read articles about Africans or individuals of African descent who became prominent in selected countries in Europe before the 1760s.
2. Students will examine the place of slavery and race in selected European societies and the depiction of people of African descent in writings and illustrations before 1760s.
3. Students will study the experiences of African American visitors to Europe in the period up to the 1808.
4. Students will critically assess readings dealing with African American visitors to Europe from 1808 to the 1880s.
5. Students will read excerpts from required books and articles that focus on African Americans in Europe from the 1880s to 1960. Students will evaluate why African Americans regarded Europe as a place to escape the race problems at home as well as a site to fight racism on a variety of fronts—military, scholarly, artistic, and political.
6. Students will engage in critical discussions of readings that examine the personal, racial, and ideological ideas of African Americans who visited or lived in Europe from the Civil Rights period and evaluate how the relationship changed by the 2000s.

Course Requirements:
- Critical Essay 10% (Take-Home essay, due 9/24)
- Mid-Term Exam 20% (In class 10/17)
- Final Exam 30% (as per university schedule)
- Term Paper 30% (11 December)
- Participation 10%

Books and Other Course Materials

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

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

Courseware
Course readings will be available on Blackboard Learn (BL).

The critical essay will be based on questions that emerge from the readings from the first three weeks of class. The question will be distributed to the class on 19 September and is due on 24 September. It should be between 3-5 pages long. Submit essay to heywood@bu.edu. 10% of final grade.

Attendance: Each student will be expected to attend classes and actively participate in class discussions. 10% of final grade.

The research paper: 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 in length excluding a one page bibliography). Paper due Dec. 11 Type font should be Times New Roman 12 point. Submit paper with marked-up proposal to heywood@bu.edu. 25% of final grade.

In class discussion and Facebook comments: Every week an image, a news item, or another item relevant to the topic for the week will be uploaded to the site. Students are required to write critical comments (at least 100 words) 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. **10% of the final grade.**

**Weekly Readings**

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

**Week One 9/3-9/5**  
**Introduction: The European Background to Race and the Place of Africans in Iberia and the Netherlands**

**Required Readings**

- Parker, *The Agony of Asar* (excerpt) BL
- Blakely, *Blacks in the Dutch World*, pp. 204-211. BL
- Fra-Molinero, “Juan Latino and his racial difference” in Earl and Lowe, *Black Africans* BL

**Lecture and Class Debate**

**Week Two 9/10-9-12**  
**Blacks in Europe: Identities Constructed and Imposed**

**Required Readings**

- David Olusoga, *Black and British*, ‘For Blacks Or Dogs.’ BL

**Lecture and Class Discussion**

**Week Three 9/17-9/19**  
**Phyllis Wheatley, Black Loyalists and other Blacks in Great Britain to the 1840s**

**Required Readings:**

- Zuch, “Poetic Economics: Phillis Wheatley…Early Atlantic.” BL
- Olusoga, *Black and British*, Chpt. 5 “Province of Freedom.” BL

**Lecture and Student Presentation**

**Week Four 9/24-9/26**  
**Paris of the Revolution and the Enlightenment: Jefferson, the Hemingses, and Others**

**Required Readings:**

- Annette Gordon Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, Excerpt. BL

**Lecture**

9/26  Critical Essay Due
Part Two: African Americans in Europe in the Age of Abolition, American Civil War and Reconstruction, 1820s-1880s

**Week Five 10/1-10/5**  
*Frederick Douglass, Martin Delany and Nancy Prince in Victorian Britain and Czarist Russia*

**Required Readings**  
Fenton, *I was Transformed: Frederick Douglass* (Begin to chpt.3)  
Blackett, “In Search of International Support…Delany…England.”  
Gunning, “Nancy Prince and the Politics of Mobility.”

**Lecture and Student Presentation**

**Week 6 10/8-10/15**  
*Extending the Links: Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells and DuBois in Europe, 1890s to 1910 Part One*

**Required Readings**  
Fenton, *I was Transformed: Frederick Douglass* (Continue to chpt.6)  
Zackdonik, “Ida B. Wells and ‘American Atrocities’ in Britain.”  
Beck, “DuBois as a Study Abroad Student in Germany, 1892- 1894.”

**Lecture and Student Presentation**

**Week 7 10/17-10/22**  
*Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois and Mary Church Terrell in Europe, 1890s to 1910*

**Required Readings**  
Huysseunce, “This Country …Booker T. Washington in Sicily.”  
Bruce, “The New Negro in Paris” in Keaton et. al., *Black France/France Noire*  
Callahan, “Mary Church Terrell in Germany…1904.”  

**Mid-Term Exam 10/17**

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

**Week 8 10/24-10/29**  
*Creating New Spaces: African American Students, Artists and Activists in Europe*

**Required Readings**  
Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Begin Chpt 1  
Green, “Roland Hayes in London, 1921.”

**Lecture and Student Presentation**
**Week 9 10/31-11/5**  
**The Great War and Its Impact on African Americans**

**Required Readings**  
Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Chpt. 2  
Whalan, “The Only Real White Democracy: The Great War…France…African American Culture.” 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 11/7-11/12**  
**New Ideologies and Alliances: Cultural, Military and Political Interactions Dynamics in France, Russia and Germany to 1940’s**

**Required Readings**  
Stovall, *African Americans in the City of Light*, Chpt 3 Begin  
Dawson, “The Rise of the Black Internationale…Britain During the 1930s.”BL  

**Lecture and Student Presentation**

**Week 11 11/15-11/19**  
**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*, Chpt. 3 complete and pp. 130-141 of Chpt. 4.  
Ostendorf, “Subversive re-education…Jazz.” BL Rec.  

**Lecture and Student Presentation**

**Part Five: African Americans From Post-War Europe to the 1980s**

**Week 12 11/21-11/26**  
**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 12/3-12/5**

*African Americans in Europe to the 1980s*

**Required Readings and Videos**

Stovall, African Americans in the City of Light, Chpt. 6

Angelo, “Diasporic Struggle…Black Atlantic.” BL

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Berlin, 1964

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/martin-luther-king-and-the-berlin-wall/2014/10/30/b72e90aa-48ad-11e4-b72e-d60a9229cc10_story.html?hpid=z3

Klimke, “African American Civil Rights Struggle…Germany.” BL

**Lecture and Debate**

**Week 14 12/10**

*Africans Americans in Europe From the 1980s*

**Required Readings**

Stovall, Chpt. 7

Wood, “Original London Style”…British Hip Hop,” BL

**Lecture and Debate**