Course Description:
The course is a survey of African-American history from the slave trade to the recent past. It is an introductory examination of the black experience and is designed to bring to life the voices and history of African Americans. The course is organized chronologically, with an emphasis on the ideas, actors, and organizations that contributed to the African American experience. By the end of the semester, students should have a basic understanding of how African Americans have contributed to the making of America, the problems that they face, and how African Americans have defined themselves, their history and culture, and their struggle for equality.

Required Texts:
B. Jennifer Morgan, Laboring Women: Reproduction, Gender, and Slavery in New World Slavery
C. Barbara Ransby, Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision
D. All other readings will be made available via Blackboard Learn (BL)

Grading:
Class Attendance and Discussions: 20%  
Document Essay #1: 10%  
Document Essay #2: 20%  
Black History Trail-Instagram: 10%  
Midterm Exam: 20%  
Final Paper: 20%

Class Attendance:
Regular attendance in class is necessary. Furthermore, you are expected to come to class having read the material and prepared to engage with the assigned texts. Multiple absences will count against you. Please notify me in advance (if possible) if you know that you will need to be absent from class. After one unexcused absence, I will begin deducting points from your final participation grade for every missed class.

Document Essay Papers: Due October 4th and November 15th
You will write two 5-7-page papers based on a primary source that we have read and discussed in class. Examples include speeches, position papers, biographies, and news articles. If you are thinking ahead, you might choose documents that will help facilitate the completion of your research paper. We will discuss the parameters for these papers in class.

Midterm Exam: October 18th
The midterm exam will be administered in class and will consist of short and long answer questions about the material covered in the first half of the semester.
Black History Trail Instagram Assignment: Due by the beginning of the last day of class
The city of Boston is full of historical sites that tell the history of Africans and African Americans in
the United States. As part of this course, you will visit each site on your own or by taking the Black
Heritage Trail Tour. The tour is free is offered daily during the months in which the class is in session.
The instructions for this assignment are as follows:

a. Take a photo of each site or an interesting aspect of it and record one fact
b. Log onto the class Instagram account (log on info on Blackboard Learn)
c. Post the photo with: Your Name, Site Name, #AASurvey16, and one fact you learned in
   the comment section of your photo.

**In order to get full credit for this assignment you should have a total of 14 photos, complete
with all of the information listed above.

Final Paper: Due December 17th by 8pm
The final paper will be on a topic of your choosing and confirmed in consultation with the professor. It
will be 12-15 pages double spaced and use primary and secondary sources. Each student must turn in a
thesis statement and short bibliography by Friday November 11th. I will not accept papers from
students who have not submitted a thesis statement and short bibliography.

Late Assignments:
Please contact me well in advance of an assignment’s due date if you think that you will have difficulty
meeting a particular deadline. All papers submitted late without my permission will automatically be
marked down one half grade per day.

Plagiarism Policy:
Each student is expected to complete all stages of work. Taking the words of others, or presenting the
ideas of others as your own is a violation of the University’s Academic Conduct Code. It is your
responsibility to understand all of the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code. The minimum
penalty for such offenses is to fail the assignment; the more common penalty is to fail the course.

Accessibility:
If you are a student requiring accommodations, please let me know privately as soon as possible. Both
I and the Office of Disability Services is available to assist you and may be contacted at 353-3658.

Email and Electronics Policy:
Email communication with the instructor should be considered formal, similar to other business-style
correspondence. You should remember to include a proper salutation and sign your name at the end of
the email. I will usually be able to answer emails within 24 hours except for weekends and holidays. I
typically will not respond to email between 8pm and 8am.

You are permitted to use electronic devices and laptops to take notes during the lecture portion of our
class. I reserve the right to ask you to discontinue the use of devices during class discussion or ban
them if students are caught engaging in non-academic activity.
Week 1: What is African American History?

Tuesday September 6th: Introductions and Class requirements

Thursday September 8th:
- Robert Harris, “Coming of Age: The Transformation of the Afro-American Historiography” (BL)
- Chapter 1, Laboring Women

Week 2: From Africa to America & African Slavery in America

Tuesday, September 13th:
- “From Africa to America,” Freedom On My Mind
- Chapter 2, Laboring Women

Thursday September 15th:
- “African Slavery in North America,” Freedom On My Mind
- Chapters 3, Laboring Women

Extra Credit: “The Summer I Disappeared” Performance
  - **When:** Thursday September 15, 6pm
  - **Where:** College of General Studies, Gilbane Lounge
  - **What:** A live theatre performance about the Freedom Riders, a group of interracial activists who rode buses to test desegregation laws in 1961
  - **Credit:** Attend the production and write a 2-3 page response and receive 5% extra credit

Week 3: African Americans in the Age of Revolution

Tuesday September 20th:
- “African Americans in the Age of Revolution,” Freedom On My Mind
- Chapter 3, Laboring Women

Thursday September 22nd:
- Cassandra Pybus, “From Epic Journeys of Freedom Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty” (BL)
- **NOTE:** Bring in two possible documents for your first document analysis essay.
Week 4: Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic & Slave South

Tuesday September 27th:
- Chapters 4 and 5, Laboring Women

Thursday September 29th:
- Chapter 6, Laboring Women
- Solomon Northrop, “Solomon Northrop Describes New Orleans Slave Auction” (BL)

Week 5: The Civil War

Tuesday October 4th: **Document Essay 1 Due**

Thursday October 6th:

Week 6: Reconstruction

Tuesday, October 11th: No Class: Substitute for Monday classes

Thursday, October 13th:
- “Letters to the Freedman’s Bureau,” Freedom On My Mind, 408-413
- W.E.B Du Bois, “Reconstruction and Its Benefits” (BL)
- Williard Gatewood, “‘The Remarkable Misses Rollin’: Black Women in Reconstruction South Carolina,” (BL)
Week 7: Black Life and Jim Crow

Tuesday October 18th: IN-CLASS MIDTERM

Thursday October 20th:
- “Black Life and Culture,” *Freedom On My Mind*.
- Chapters 1 and 2, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement*

Week 8: The New Negro

Tuesday October 25th:
- Chapter 3, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement*
- Note: Bring in some artifact (image, poem, photo of an object) from the Harlem Renaissance

Thursday October 27th:
- Marcus Garvey, “An Appeal to the Consciousness of the Black Race to See Itself” (BL)
- Amy Jacques Garvey, “Women as Leaders” (BL)
- Mary McLeod Bethune, “Breaking the Bars to Brotherhood” (BL)
- Claudia Jones, “An End to the Neglect to the Problems of Negro Women” (BL)

Week 9: War at Home and Abroad

Tuesday November 1st:
- “Fighting for a Double Victory,” *Freedom On My Mind*.
- Chapter 4, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement*

Thursday November 3rd:
- Keisha N. Blain, “We Want to Set the World on Fire,” Black Nationalist Women and Diasporic Politics in the New Negro World 1940-1944” (BL)
- Erik S. McDuffie, “A ‘New Freedom Movement of Negro Women:’ Sojourning for Truth, Justice, and Human Rights During the Early Cold War” (BL)
Week 10: Civil Rights Movement(s)

Tuesday November 8th:
- Chapter 5 and 6, Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement
- Mamie Till Bradley, “Telegram to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Freedom on My Mind

Thursday November 10th:
- Chapter 8 and 9, Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement
- Fannie Lou Hamer, “The Special Plight and the Role of Black Women” (BL)
- Diane McWhorter, “The Enduring Courage of the Freedom Riders” (BL)

** Thesis Statement and Short Bibliography Due by Friday November 11th at 5pm**

Week 11: Black Power and Empowerment

Tuesday November 15th: **Document essay 2 due**
- “Multiple Meanings of Freedom,” Freedom On My Mind
- Chapters 10 and 11, Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement
- “SNCC Position Paper on Black Power” (BL)

Thursday November 17th:
- Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet” (BL)
- Martin Luther King Jr. “To Atone for Our Sins and Errors in Vietnam” (BL)
- “The Poor People’s Campaign: Non-Violent Insurrection for Economic Justice” (BL)

Week 12: Black Feminism

Tuesday November 22nd:
- Chapter 12, Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement
- Angela Davis, “I am a Revolutionary Black Woman” (BL)
- Combahee River Collective Statement (BL)

Thursday November 24th: THANKSGIVING BREAK
**Week 13: The Challenge of Conservatism**

- **Tuesday November 29th:**
  - Jessie Jackson, “Keep Hope Alive” *(BL)*

**Thursday December 1st:**
- Research Paper Work Day

**Week 14: African Americans and the New Century**

**Tuesday December 6th:**
- Barack Obama, “A More Perfect Union” *(BL)*

**Thursday December 8th:**
- The Movement for Black Lives Platform (online)
- Alicia Garza, “A Herstory of Black Lives Matter” (online)
- “The Color of Justice” in *The New Jim Crow* (available online through BU libraries)
- Darnell Moore, “Black Freedom Fighters in Ferguson: Some of us are Queer” (online)

**Final Paper Due: December 17th by 8pm**