

HIST 3102—The Modern African-America Experience: A Documentary History
TR 11:00-12:15
Professor Pratt—Fall 07

Office Hrs: By appointment only.
LeConte Hall, 202. Phone: 542-2507; email: rapratt@uga.edu

This course examines the African-American experience from a multidisciplinary perspective from 1865 to the present, relying on lectures, selected readings, and documentaries. We will examine the ways in which African Americans made the transition from slavery to freedom, and how the American social, economic, and political landscape was dramatically altered as the antebellum plantation system came to an end. We will study the evolution of black political thought as blacks began to abandon the politics of accommodation, as advanced by Booker T. Washington, in favor of a more militant approach, espoused by W.E.B. Du Bois and the new “Negro elite.” After exploring the historical significance of the outpouring of black literary achievement that came to be known as the “Harlem Renaissance,” we will focus on the black experience in the post-World War II era, including a discussion of presidential politics and an extensive analysis of the black civil rights movement, in which thousands of black and white Americans fought to secure basic civil liberties and equal justice for all American citizens. The course will conclude with an examination of contemporary African-American culture.

Students are expected to attend class regularly, and are hereby advised that you miss class at your own risk. Further, discussions are an integral component of the class, for they provide students with an opportunity to exchange ideas with each other and to raise issues relevant to classroom lectures, films, and the assigned readings.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Two papers (reviews)	30%
Mid-term	30%
Final Exam	40%

The following books are required for the course:

Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
Watson, *The Harlem Renaissance*
Boyle, *Arc of Justice*
Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
Lewis, *Walking with the Wind*

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Due Dates

Book Review (Johnson)	Sept. 6
Mid-term	Oct. 2 & 4 (will include all class material up to that point, and the books by Watson and Boyle)
Book Review (Moody)	Nov. 15
Final Exam:	Tuesday, Dec. 11, 12:00-3:00pm (will include all remaining material and the Lewis book, in addition to any other readings that may be assigned, but is not listed here)

Cell phones, pagers, etc., are to be turned off before being brought into the classroom.

Tape recorders or other listening devices are expressly forbidden in the classroom. Students caught using any listening devices without the expressed permission of the instructor will be summarily dismissed from the course without warning.

Make-up exams will be given only at the instructor's discretion. Hence, it is not in your best interest to miss any regularly scheduled exam.

All students at the University of Georgia are expected to adhere to the university's Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty," and students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; however, the instructor reserves the right to deviate from it, provided that announcements are made to the class in a timely manner.

Note: Some of the materials used in this course contain adult themes, including language and sexual content that some students may find offensive. If you are easily offended or have delicate sensibilities, this course may not be for you.