Readings in African American History
26:510:526

Instructor: Dr. M. Cooper
Email: melissa.cooper@rutgers.edu
Class Meeting Time: Mondays, 5:30 PM- 8:10 PM
Class Location: 215 Hill Hall
Office Hours: Mondays, 11:40 AM-12:40 PM, 330 Conklin Hall; or by appointment

Course Description:
This course explores foundational and groundbreaking historical monographs in African American history. Paying close attention to methodological approaches and strategies, this course examines both African American history and the making of historical monographs about the black past.

Requirements:

Attendance & Participation
Students are expected to complete weekly readings. Moreover, each reading should be carefully analyzed: you should interrogate each book by grappling with the scholar’s arguments and evidence, as well as the analytical and narrative strategies employed in the monograph. You are also expected to participate in class conversations and attend each class meeting. Students who accumulate more than three absences during the course of the semester will not pass the class. Participation is an important part of the rigorous discourse that enhances graduate studies—be prepared to engage. Each student is required to compose a short response paper/question derived from each reading; you should hand in your typed reaction paper at the start of the class meeting. You will not receive credit for your response paper/question if you are absent. During class, one or more students will be asked to raise their paper topics/questions for discussion.

Academic Integrity
Please review Rutgers University-Newark’s Academic Integrity Policy and Policy on Plagiarism (https://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/phd-university-policy-plagiarism). Students who violate this policy will be subject to academic penalties and disciplinary sanctions.

Classroom Expectations
Please set your cell phones to the "silent" notification mode during class sessions. Do not use your cell phone during class meetings. While I understand that many students use laptops and tablets to take notes, I expect that these devices will be used for those purposes only. Please do not audio or video record class meetings.

Students With Disabilities
If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at the semester’s start. Please review the University’s statement below:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form. For more information
please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu <mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu>.

**Final Historiographical Essay**

Students will complete a 15-20 page essay that focuses on one of themes that emerges from our readings during the semester. The historiographical essay requires that students read and analyze more than two monographs that examine a specific theme or explore a particular history—putting these works in conversation with the assigned reading that inspired your investigation. Please meet with me to discuss the theme that you intend to examine before you submit your one paragraph paper proposal. This paper, and all writings submitted for review, are to be double-spaced, in 12-pt font, with sources cited in the Chicago format. Extensions will not be granted except for health and family emergencies.

**GRADING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation/ Discussion/Papers Questions</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
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**Books to Purchase:**


**January 23, Course Introduction: Toward a Historiography of Black History**


**January 30**


**February 6**

**February 13**

**February 20**

**February 27**

**March 6**

**March 13 * SPRING BREAK, Class will not meet**

**March 20**

**March 27**


*Historiographical Essay Topic Discussion, etc*

**April 3**

**April 10**

**April 17 *Independent Research and Writing**

**April 24 *Independent Research and Writing**

**May 1 * Last Class Meeting, Paper Submission/Discussion**