Introduction:

This course will serve as an introduction to the history of African Americans from the Civil War until the present day. We will investigate fundamental questions related to political, social, cultural, and economic issues that have affected African Americans. Although the textbook will form the core of the reading, you will also be required to read, watch, or listen to a variety of primary sources. Developing the skills to evaluate and analyze primary materials serves as only one of our chief objectives. Additionally, by the end of the semester, we should all share a familiarity with the central themes in African American History and, more importantly, have the skills to think critically about history and the world in which we live.

Textbook:


Assignments:

Over the course of the semester you will complete a midterm exam, a final exam, and one paper. Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

- Participation (20%)
- Paper (25%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (30%)

Schedule:

**January 24: Introduction**

**January 26: Constructing Reconstruction**
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 12

**January 31: Reconstruction**
Black Codes of South Carolina, December 1865
[http://www.teachingushistory.org/pdfs/Manuscript_000.pdf](http://www.teachingushistory.org/pdfs/Manuscript_000.pdf)
The 14th Amendment
February 2: The Limits of Reconstruction
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 13

February 7: The Failure of Reconstruction
The Civil Rights Act of 1875
[http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/122/recon/civilrightsact.html](http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/122/recon/civilrightsact.html)
Political Cartoon, “Colored Rule in a Reconstructed State”
[http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/7Illustrations/Reconstruction/ColoredRuleBI.htm](http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/7Illustrations/Reconstruction/ColoredRuleBI.htm)

February 9: Post-Reconstruction
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 14

February 14: Segregation
*Plessy v. Ferguson*, Judge Harlan’s Dissent

February 16: White Supremacy
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 15

February 21: African-American Workers: Soldiers, Farmers, and Cowboys
The Lives of Four Black Cowboys

February 23: The Turn-of-the-Century
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 16

[http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DUBOIS/ch03.html](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DUBOIS/ch03.html)

March 1: African-Americans and World War I
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 16

March 6: Pan-Africanism
Pan-Africanism Exhibit

March 8: Midterm Exam

March 13: No Class. Spring Break

March 15: No Class. Spring Break and Andrew Jackson’s Birthday (no relation)

March 20: Communism and Color
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 17
March 22: The Harlem Renaissance
Archibald Motley, Blues (1929)
http://www.iniva.org/harlem/motley.html
Palmer Hayden, Midsummer Night in Harlem (1938)
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/arts/hayden.html
Duke Ellington Orchestra, Cotton Club, Harlem, 1931: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYNwiAXuh_U

March 27: The Great Depression
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 18

March 29: The New Deal for African-Americans
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 18
African Americans in the CCC
http://newdeal.feri.org/aaccc/index.htm

April 3: Black Culture in the Interwar Era
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 19

April 5: The African-American Experience in World War II: At Home and Abroad
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 20
FDR’s Four Freedoms Speech
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lrwv4cW53dk

April 10: The Road to and from Brown
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 21

April 12: Civil Rights Continued
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 21

April 17: The Politics of Race and the 1960s
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 22
March on Washington
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFWg_JIN0Mw&feature=related

April 19: 1968
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 22
Black Power at the Olympics
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fML9GOiuBs&feature=related

April 24: Racial Politics in Conservative America
The African-American Odyssey, Chapter 23
April 26: The 1990s
*The African-American Odyssey*, Chapter 24
Ice-T, “Original Gangsta”
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scILa5iPBcg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scILa5iPBcg)

May 1: Post-Racial America?
Willie Horton Political Ad (1998)
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC9j6Wfdq3o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC9j6Wfdq3o)
Barack Obama, “A More Perfect Union”
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWe7wTVbLUU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWe7wTVbLUU)

May 3: Final Exam Review

Final Exam: TBA