

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 142

African-American History II

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Surveys the history of black Americans from their African origins to the present. Part II of II.

This course introduces African-American history from the period of Reconstruction following the American Civil War to the modern Civil Rights Movement and its legacy in the modern, contemporary era. Topics include the study freedom after the war, the growth of rights and protections during Reconstruction, the retrenchment of these rights as a result of white supremacists, efforts by African Americans to counter Jim Crow laws through various organizations, the emergence of distinct black institutions, the participation of black men and women in service to their country, the impact of economic panics, recessions and depressions on African Americans and their communities, the modern Civil Rights Movement, and the rise of black militants and the conservative backlash. Students will analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in African-American History.

Students will be introduced to useful skills for historical analysis and interpretation through the use of primary sources and historical arguments both orally and in writing. Students will strengthen civic skills and an awareness of the role of race, class, and gender both in African-American culture and society at large.

Students are not required to complete this course prior to taking HIS 141 (African-American History I).

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Hine, Darlene C., Hine, William and Stanley Harrold. African Americans: A Concise History, Combined Volume. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson, Prentice Hall, 5th ed., 2013. ISBN: 978-020-596906-7

Other Required Materials:

Compact Disc with Textbook Purchase, including primary resource documents.

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Analyze the impact of the Thirteen, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments on African Americans, as well as the white backlash against these new rights in the late nineteenth century, including the use of lynching as a terror tactic.
- Describe the rise of white supremacy through Jim Crow laws and their impact on the black community along social, economic, and political lines and the response of African Americans to segregation and disfranchisement.
- Examine the participation of African Americans in the military from the Buffalo soldiers out West to their participation in the Spanish-American and Philippine Wars, and then other generations in World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam.
- Trace and analyze the social, political, and economic forces at work to prompt the Great Migration and its impact on African Americans, their families, and their culture.
- Analyze the development of new institutions used by African Americans to counter their marginalization in the broader American society and the various arguments used by leaders such as W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, and A. Philip Randolph.
- Describe the rise of black nationalism and culture in the twentieth century with an emphasis on the Harlem Renaissance, popular music, and the Chicago Renaissance.
- Examine the economic plight of African Americans during the Great Depression, the discrimination apparent in New Deal programs, and the more militant labor movement beginning after World War I and culminating under Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 1960s and Johnson's response with the War on Poverty.

- Trace and analyze the modern Civil Rights Movement from its “origins” during World War I, its increase in militancy during World War II, its culmination in the activism of the 1950s and 1960s, and its growing militancy in the late 1960s and 1970s.
- Analyze the reasons for the conservative backlash of the 1980s and its impact on affirmative action and the lingering issues they entail.
- Evaluate the concepts of race, class, and gender as social constructions over time and their impact on African Americans and their communities.
- Describe the struggle for freedom and equality by African Americans from the Reconstruction period through the present.

Evaluate African-American identity from the Reconstruction period through the present and how the themes of continuity and change permeate this identity.

Topical Description

1	The Meaning of Freedom: A study of the Thirteen, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments and their impact on African Americans; issues concerning land, labor, education, and the church within the black community, the impact of the Black Codes and other avenues to restrict black rights, and the use of terror to suppress African Americans during Reconstruction.
2	The Impact of White Supremacy: A study of the backlash against African Americans through violence, changes to voting laws, the implementation of Jim Crow laws and segregation, and the attempt by the black community to challenge these laws in the courts and through the formation of organizations, such as the NAACP and the Urban League.
3	Black Soldiers: A study of African Americans in various capacities throughout the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, including an examination of the role of black men in the Army and Navy out West against Plains Indians and during the Spanish-American and Philippine Wars.
4	Progressive Black Communities: A study in the rise of a sizable black middle-class and their efforts to advocate for economic and social rights even as they lost political ones at the turn of the twentieth century, including such figures as WEB DuBois and Booker T. Washington, their ideas regarding how to fight against these losses, and the efforts of black women through their clubs. This section will also examine the social, political, and economic forces at work to prompt the Great Migration and its impact on African Americans, their families, and their culture, including the Harlem and Chicago Renaissances.
5	The Interwar Period: A study of the impact of World War I, the roots of black nationalism with an emphasis on the impact of ideas begun during the Harlem Renaissance and encouraged by Marcus Garvey as the genesis for the modern Civil Rights Movement, and how the economic plight of African Americans during the Great Depression and the discrimination they faced

	with New Deal programs led to more militant labor movements beginning during World War II.
6	The Civil Rights Movement: A study of how the participation of African Americans in the military during World War II led to increased efforts for rights through grass-roots activism and court cases dealing with segregation in all aspects of life, most notably education, transportation, and other public facilities. This section also discusses how the Cold War influenced American efforts to counter communist propaganda, benefiting the Civil Rights Movement.
7	The Turbulent 1960s and 1970s: A study of how leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, struggled during the 1960s to make economic and political headway for African Americans and the response of the Johnson administration with the War on Poverty. This section also examines how the military involvement in Vietnam and increased militancy with a resurgence in black nationalism heightened racial tensions.
8	The Conservative Backlash: A study of the impact of the Civil Rights movement measured by economic data, educational data, and electoral data. This section then details how conservatives reacted to these many black gains under affirmative action and the lingering racial tensions.
9	Toward the Future: A study of the late twentieth century's economic, political, and social data in conjunction with cultural issues. Last of all, this section briefly explores the question of racism in American society based on the election of Barack Obama.

Notes to Instructors

None