

# Virginia Western Community College

## HIS 141

### African-American History I

#### **Prerequisites**

None

#### **Course Description**

Surveys the history of African Americans from their African origins to 1876.

#### **General Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major concepts and debates related to the experiences of African-Americans between the 16th century and the late 19th century in North America.

**Semester Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 3**

#### **Required Materials**

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

#### **Textbook:**

Hine, Darlene C., Hine, William and Stanley Harrold. The African American Odyssey, The Combined Volume. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson, Prentice Hall, 7th ed., 2018. ISBN: 9780134485355

#### **Other Required Materials:**

Revel resources with Textbook Purchase, including primary resource documents.

**Course Objectives:**

<b>General Learning Outcome Topics</b>	<b>Specific Student Learning Outcomes The student will be able to...</b>
Critical Thinking	Analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources to describe the creation of distinct African-American cultures and how that culture shaped and influenced American history Differentiate between fact, inference, and opinion as pertaining to African-American history through 1876
Written / Oral Communication	Explain how concepts of race and gender changed as Africans and African Americans influenced and shaped social, cultural, and political structures of society across the 16th through 19th century through written activities and/or oral presentations/discussion Describe the key events, developments, and people, from the 16th century through the late 19th century, that shaped race and gender in the United States through written activities and/or oral presentations/discussion
Quantitative/Graphic Analysis	Analyze numerical data, graphs, and maps as they pertain to understanding the development of events and trends throughout African American history from the 16th century through the late 19th century
Cultural and Social Understanding	Identify and compare individuals and groups who worked to improve the human and civil rights of African Americans through distinct individual and collective strategies. [ <i>i.e</i> rebellion, resistance, organized abolitionism and civil rights advocacy through formal organizations] Demonstrate understanding of cultural encounters, interactions, and negotiations between African Americans and other racial groups and social classes Examine the racialized nature of American constructions of gender and sexuality that shaped a distinctive experience for African American Women in American History

Course Major Topics	Specific Student Content Learning Outcomes The student will be able to...
<p><b>Points of Origin, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· African origins</li> </ul> <p>African identities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe the African people who migrated to the Americas, voluntarily and involuntarily</li> <li>● Compare and contrast the use of slavery in English Colonies to Spanish, French, and Dutch Colonies</li> <li>● Identify the distinguishing features of West African civilizations</li> <li>● Examine how enslaved people retained their African culture and identities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Middle Passage, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Slave Factories and Forts</li> <li>· Long Middle Passage</li> <li>· Surviving the Slave Ships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the origins, evolution, racial aspects, and spread of Transatlantic Slave trade</li> <li>● Analyze the economic factors of slavery including indigenous slavery, indentured Servanthood, and chattel slavery</li> <li>● Discuss the elements and brutalities of the Middle Passage</li> <li>● Compare and Contrast slavery in Africa before Europeans with chattel slavery that developed in European colonies of the Americas</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Plantation World takes Shape, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Virginia 1619</li> <li>· Slave economies</li> <li>· Production, Control, and Resistance</li> <li>· Gender differences</li> </ul> <p>Development and evolution of varying legal systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the important differences between various slave societies in the Caribbean and North American plantations societies</li> <li>● Describe the creation of a distinct African-American culture in the North American colonies</li> <li>● Compare and contrast the differences between tobacco, rice, and sugar labor systems</li> <li>● Analyze the development and evolution of colonial laws that defined and distinguished indentured servitude from chattel slavery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Slavery in the North, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Slavery among the Puritans and Quakers</li> <li>· Slavery in mercantile societies</li> <li>· Free black communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Compare and contrast the differences between a slave society and a society with slaves</li> <li>● Discuss life in free black communities</li> <li>● Identify the beginnings of the abolition movement in Quaker communities</li> </ul>

<p><b>The African American Revolution, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· African American Experience during the Revolution</li> <li>· American Slavery, American Freedom</li> <li>· African American Patriots and Loyalists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe how African Americans used the American Revolution to achieve freedom</li> <li>● Analyze how black people used the language of revolution and natural rights in petition for freedom and the abolition of slavery</li> <li>● Compare and contrast how the war brought freedom for some African Americans who fought for the British and continued slavery for those owned by American Loyalists</li> <li>● Describe how African Americans, during times of war, have forced America to live up to its promise of freedom and equality</li> <li>● Compare and contrast the views and experiences of both African-American patriots and loyalists</li> </ul>
<p><b>Slavery in the New Nation, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Limits to Emancipation</li> <li>· Free Blacks</li> <li>· Women’s role in the Abolition movement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the role of language and religion as they relate to the creation of a unique African-American culture.</li> <li>● Analyze the roles of language and religion in shaping cultural identities in America today</li> <li>● Summarize the various forms of emancipation in the new nations</li> <li>● Describe how the reform movements of the Antebellum period influenced and affected free Blacks</li> <li>● Explain how the Haitian Revolution influenced slavery in the United States</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expansion of Slavery in the South, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Black Life in the Slave South</li> <li>· Domestic Slave Trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss how the cotton kingdom transformed the lives of African Americans</li> <li>● Analyze the political, social, and economic factors that created and shaped the Domestic Slave Trade</li> <li>● Compare and contrast enslaved peoples' experience on cotton, sugar, and rice plantations</li> </ul>

<p><b>Navigating Slavery, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Gender, Sexuality and Family Life</li> <li>· Rebellion, Resistance, and Flight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the unique sexual and gender perspectives and experiences of women under slavery</li> <li>● Compare and contrast the experiences and perspectives of enslavement for women and men</li> <li>● Analyze the economic effects of slavery on African-American family life</li> <li>● Describe how enslaved people negotiated and resisted enslavement</li> <li>● Summarize major slave uprisings in the United States and their influence on the Abolition movement and state legislation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Black Freedom Struggle, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Abolitionism and Slave Resistance</li> <li>· Politics of Slavery in the 1850s</li> <li>· Proslavery vs Antislavery Arguments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe the origins of the abolition movement in the United States</li> <li>● Compare and contrast the different abolition movements and organizations</li> <li>● Discuss the Southern response to the abolition movement</li> <li>● Explain how western migration and manifest destiny influenced the politics of slavery in the United States</li> <li>● Summarize the Free Soil Movement</li> <li>● Examine African Americans' participation in western migration</li> <li>● Identify issues related to slavery that divided the north and south in the 19th century</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Civil War, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Secession</li> <li>· Contrabands and Soldiers</li> <li>· Jubilee: First Freedoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the proslavery position for secession and analyze the process of disunion</li> <li>● Explain why and how African Americans fought to make the Civil War about freedom and emancipation</li> <li>● Describe the emancipation of enslaved people during the war</li> <li>● Identify and describe African-American participation and contributions to the war effort</li> </ul>

<p><b>Reconstruction, such as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The impact of Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction on African Americans</li> <li>· First Years of Freedom</li> <li>· New Rights</li> <li>· “Best Men” and “Best Women” reform movement in African American communities</li> <li>· Redeeming the South</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Analyze both the short and long term political, economic, and social implications of Reconstruction for African Americans</li> <li>● Describe the three major Reconstruction Amendments to the Constitution and their significance to African-American Civil Rights</li> <li>● Explain how Southern politicians “redeemed” the South, using violence to deny African Americans their political and economic rights</li> <li>● Discuss African Americans’ political, social, and economic participation in Reconstruction as politicians, teachers, business leaders, and reformers</li> <li>● Evaluate the legacy and limitations of Reconstruction</li> </ul>
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- Examine the role of religion in developing pro- and anti-slavery rhetoric, the Abolition movement, and the role of African Americans and the church in the struggle for freedom.
- Describe how the expansion of slavery in the western territories led to more conflict in Congressional legislation, elections, and court cases.
- Examine the impact of John Brown’s Raid, Abraham Lincoln’s election, and the Emancipation Proclamation on African Americans, their views about freedom and equality during the Civil War, and freedom with the Thirteenth Amendment.
- 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 colonial period through the Civil War with an emphasis on interpretations of the language used and changing definitions over time.
- Evaluate African-American identity from the colonial period through the Civil War and how the themes of continuity and change permeate this identity.

**Topical Description**

1	<b>Africa and African Culture:</b> A study in diversity for both geography and the people, including a quick synopsis of the birth of humanity and previous kingdoms and empires.
2	<b>The Slave Trade:</b> A study in the practice of slavery in Africa from times of antiquity and its alteration with European contact, the Atlantic slave trade with particular emphasis on coastal factories, the Middle Passage, the seasoning process, and the sale of Africans in the West Indies and eventually directly to the North American continent.
3	<b>Colonial North America:</b> A study of where Africans arrived as slaves and why, a comparison of slavery in the Chesapeake and the Lowcountry as slave societies to the societies with slaves in the northern colonies; an examination of laws, and a brief survey of slavery in the French and Spanish colonies to the south and east of English colonies.
4	<b>African-American Culture:</b> A study in the process of creolization in places that practiced slavery, the idea of the slave community, resistance to slavery, miscegenation, and the influence of a small group of free people of color.
5	<b>Independence, Liberty, and a Clash of Ideals:</b> A study of the influence of the Revolutionary Era and its documents, the Black Enlightenment, war service, the press for emancipation and abolition as a result of new ideals and the Great Awakening, and the decision to end participation in the slave trade.
6	<b>A New Republic:</b> A study in the shift from slavery to freedom in what had been the northern colonies in contrast to limited manumission in the former

	southern colonies, the impact of the Revolution on the growing population of free people of color in both the North and the South; and the influence of African Americans during the War of 1812.
7	<b>The Cotton Kingdom:</b> A study in how the rise of a new cash crop increased a reliance on slavery, the increase of the domestic slave trade and its impact on the black family, examinations of paternalism, runaways, the increase in proslavery arguments, the impact of the Missouri Compromise, and the increasing versatility of slavery.
8	<b>Free People of Color:</b> A study in the growth of the black community, a comparison of northern and southern institutions within the free community, urban and rural issues, limits placed on African Americans despite their freedom, the black church and clergy, and the growing role of the west.
9	<b>The Abolition Movement:</b> A study in the connection to the Revolutionary Era, the role of the church and the Second Great Awakening in converting both people and minds to the cause, the role of men and women within the movement, the influence of Nat Turner's Rebellion on it, racism, a growing anti-slavery movement, Moral Suasion, Frederick Douglass, and abolition groups.
10	<b>The Role of the West:</b> A study in how the expansion of slavery into the western territories increased anti-slavery sentiment, a discussion of free versus slave labor, racism, the place of African Americans regarding western land, these issues in Congress, including the Compromise of 1850, its Fugitive Slave Law (including the impact on runaways), and the Kansas-Nebraska Act; the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and the <i>Dred Scott</i> Decision.
11	<b>The Civil War:</b> A study in the rupture of the country and its impact on African Americans from John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry and Lincoln's election in 1860, their attempt to serve in the military, the Emancipation Proclamation and Lincoln's changing values, black enlistment, Confederate reactions to black soldiers, refugees, contraband, black Confederates, "Forty Acres and a Mule," and the Thirteenth Amendment.

## Notes to Instructors

None

[ADA Statement \(PDF\)](#)

[Title IX Statement \(PDF\)](#)