

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE

HIST 117

African American History

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Three hours of lecture a week; one semester. This course begins with the origin of African American people in continental Africa and traces the Black experience in America to the Reconstruction period. In the process of examining African American history and culture, particular emphasis will be placed on: African development and tribal roots, transition to slavery, the realities of slavery, opposition to slavery, the Civil War and black participation, and essential changes that came in the Reconstruction period and its aftermath. The course will also focus on racism in the United States and the early contributions of African Americans in politics, economics, religion, culture and the arts. Prerequisites: Reading Skill 1; English Skill 2.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to analyze and think critically about contemporary American society as it relates to the African American past, and be able to identify the relevant antecedent events and ideologies that have shaped current public issues. (III, V, VI, 2, 10)
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the contributions African Americans have made to American society. (I, V, 1, 5, 9)
3. Analyze orally and/or in writing historical information related to African American life, history, or culture. Primary and secondary sources such as diaries, speeches, newspapers, biographies, electronic sources, and interpretive essays from historians will be used. (I, II, III, IV, VI, 6)
4. Synthesize information from both print and electronic sources to construct a historical argument that is based on the logical presentation of specific, historical facts and that analyzes the causal factors of a historical event or process. (I, II, III, IV, 3,6, 10)
5. Compare and contrast the experiences of African Americans of different national origins, genders, classes, and ideologies. (I, III, V, 1, 9)
6. Recognize connections between African Americans and the African Diaspora. (III, V, 5, 8)
7. Demonstrate students' effectiveness in written and oral communication skills within a context of a diverse environment. (II, V, 4)

8. Determine the role that race, class, gender, religion, and ethnicity play in influencing historical issues and events. (I, II, III, V, 1,2,6, 9,10)
9. Develop skills in listening and conflict resolution and apply these skills to cross cultural dialogue. (II, III, V, 7, 9)
10. Analyze and interpret data in chart or graph formats. (I, II, III, IV, VI, 1)
11. Identify the value and role of electronic media in historical research and analysis. The electronic sources used would have an emphasis on African American life, history, and culture. (I, IV, 6).

Major Topics

- Introduction to the African continent
- The Richness of African culture
- Transatlantic slave trade and the African Diaspora explored
- Black People and Slavery in colonial America
- Free African Americans and Abolitionism
- Life in the South
- Opposition to Slavery
- Catalysts to the Civil War
- Blacks and Civil War Period
- Reconstruction Era: The Promise
- Reconstruction Era: The Failure

Course Requirements (VII)

Individual exams and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor and will be described in the syllabus for each section. However, all students will:

1. Participate actively in class activities;
2. Respond to required reading assignments, a minimum of 200-300 pages, some of which will include primary documents (or excerpts thereof) and interpretive essays;
3. Successfully complete a minimum of two exams and/or quizzes that demonstrate mastery of the major concepts in the course and which consist of a combination of objective and critical thinking/analysis components;
4. Produce a minimum of two writing assignments that demonstrates the ability to conduct research, analyze primary and secondary sources, employ and evaluate electronic sources.
5. Present a minimum of one individual or group oral presentation(s) of relevant materials (II).

Other Course information:

This course currently is a general education elective course. It satisfies the diversity requirement.