

SYLLABUS FOR HIS-3061

African American History

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do we know what we say we know about African American histories and cultures? This course examines the histories, cultures, struggles, and accomplishments of African American people from their involuntary arrival from Africa to the present. The course acknowledges the diversity and complexity of the experiences of African Americans as they struggle to assert their rightful place in the accounts of United States history. The course will highlight major social events, processes, and key concepts in African American history from early beginnings in indigenous Africa through the transatlantic slave trade, the Civil War, Emancipation, Reconstruction, the Civil Rights era, Black Power, Black Feminism, Black Lives Matter, the Obama Presidency, and into the present. This course will help students minimize ethnocentric biases by deconstructing some of the misrepresentations of African Americans and exploring their positive and significant contributions throughout the history of the United States.

COURSE TOPICS

- From Africa to America, African slavery in America, abolition, and resistance
- The Civil War and Reconstruction
- Black life and Jim Crow
- The New Negro, Black artists, and the Harlem Renaissance
- Civil Rights Movement, Black Power, and empowerment
- Black feminism
- The Obama Presidency and Black Lives Matter

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- CO 1** Examine African American history from pre-colonial Africa to slavery.
- CO 2** Analyze the interplay among culture, race, politics, gender, economics, religion, and social forces in African American history.
- CO 3** Deconstruct the negative images of African Americans by identifying how African Americans

contributed to the development of the United States through inventions, free labor, and as frontline soldiers in the U.S. armed forces.

- CO 4** Analyze the development of Black and anti-Black social organizations, institutions, and movements in the late 19th through late 20th centuries (1895–1999) and discuss their outcomes.
- CO 5** Identify and evaluate new issues and challenges facing African Americans in the 21st century.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Required Textbook(s)

- White, D. G., Bay M., & Martin, W. E., Jr. (2020). *Freedom on my mind: A history of African Americans with documents* (3rd ed.). Bedford/St. Martin's.
ISBN-13: 978-1319210151

COURSE STRUCTURE

African American History is a three-credit, online course consisting of six modules. Modules include an overview, topics, learning objectives, study materials, and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: From Africa to America and African Slavery in America**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1
- **Module 2: The Civil War and Reconstruction**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 3
- **Module 3: Black Life and Culture, Jim Crow, and the New Negro**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 4
- **Module 4: Civil Rights Movement and Black Power**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 4

- **Module 5: Black Feminism**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 4
- **Module 6: African Americans in the 21st Century**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 5

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Promoting Originality—One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).



Discussion Forums

You are required to complete **six** discussion forums. The discussion forums allow you to share your learning with your classmates and apply concepts. There is also one ungraded but required Introductions Forum in Module 1.

Communication with your mentor and among fellow students is a critical component of online learning. Participation in online class discussions involves two distinct activities: an initial response to a discussion question and at least two subsequent comments on classmates' responses.

All of these responses must be substantial. Meaningful participation is relevant to the content, adds value, and advances the discussion. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-adding participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a classmate or your mentor, state and support your position.

You will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of your participation, including your use of relevant course information to support your point of view, and your awareness of and responses to the postings of your classmates. Remember, these are discussions: responses and comments should be properly proofread and edited, mature, and respectful.



Written Essays

You are required to complete **six** written essays. The written essays are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

Quizzes

You are required to complete **six** quizzes. The quizzes are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

Final Research Paper

You are required to complete a final research paper. In **Module 3** you will select two key events related to the African American experience and submit a draft proposal outline in preparation for the final research paper, which is due in Module 6. It is important to start thinking about your topic early in Module 2 and to work on the final paper throughout the entire term.

The final research paper will help you consolidate your knowledge of the course by selecting your own topic from the module topics and apply it to your area of research interest. The knowledge acquired in the modules' content and activities will be a starting point to provide the content and structure (scaffolding). You will tailor this research paper to your own goals and interests by connecting your research topic to issues in society that interest you but are connected to African American history and experiences. By doing this, you will develop critical thinking and analytical skills, informational literacy skills, research and writing skills, organizational skills, and historical knowledge. All these skills are necessary in today's diverse workplaces.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (6)**—20%
- **Written essays (6)**—30%
- **Final research paper proposal**—(10%)
- **Quizzes (6)**—10%
- **Final research paper**—30%

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	= 93–100	C+	= 78–79
A–	= 90–92	C	= 73–77
B+	= 88–89	C–	= 70–72
B	= 83–87	D	= 60–69
B–	= 80–82	F	= Below 60

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course)

or D or better (for a course not in your area of study), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with web-based learning, be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and submitting the final project.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students

TESU's [Academic Code of Conduct](#) permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process—not as a replacement for original writing. Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page. Please review [Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students](#) for more detailed information.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990; ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities; a student who is pregnant, postpartum, or a student parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A]; and students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term/temporary illness and/or injury. Information can be found on the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) web page and questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate academic policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Graduate course policies](#)
- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Nursing graduate student policies](#)
- [International student policies](#)
- [Academic code of conduct](#)