

# Introduction to Africana Studies

ENGL/HIST 3350

MW 11-12:20

Boyd 302

Dr. McCullers

TLC 3225

Office Hours MW 2-4

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## Course Description & Objectives:

This course is a broad survey of major themes in the fields of African, African American, and African Diasporic Studies. We will survey major developments in historical studies, literary studies, social sciences, and the arts. This course takes a decidedly transnational approach to the histories, cultures, politics, and movements of peoples of African descent using both a chronological and thematic organization. This course introduces students to diasporic perspectives on the making of the modern world.

During this course, students will demonstrate the ability to

- utilize the comparative and evaluative techniques explicitly associated with the academic field, discipline, and meta-discipline of Africana Studies in order to analyze the texts, practices, and narratives within this course
- think historically through understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of African, African American, and African Diasporic Studies
- comprehend the causal relationships and patterns of change and continuity over time
- develop an awareness of the social significance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class
- and understand the social, cultural, or political development of the people of African descent within the wider Atlantic World.

## Required Texts:

- Lawrence Hill, *Someone Knows my Name*, 2007.
- Jonny Steinberg, *Little Liberia: An African Odyssey in New York City*, 2011.

## Assignments, Quizzes, & Exams:

Unit Quizzes: There will be six in-class quizzes covering each unit throughout the semester. Quizzes will be open note & you may have paper copies of the readings. You may not use a computer during the quizzes.

**In-Class Writing Assignments:** There will be 2 in-class writing assignments on the first two sections of *Someone Knows my Name* on the day each of those sections is due in class. You will be given a prompt or choice of prompts and asked to write a short response for class discussion.

**Reaction Papers:** There will be 2 reaction papers due in response to each of the books we read. These will be 4 page papers in response to a choice of prompts. You should formulate an argument and use quotes and examples to support your point. These will be due on the day we discuss part 3 of *Someone Knows my Name* and the day we discuss *Little Liberia*.

**Voyages Slave Trade Database Assignment:** Students will use the Voyages Slave Trade Database to compare historical arguments about the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade with historical data. Students will read a short excerpt by historian David Brion Davis, complete a series of activities, and write up a short analysis of their findings.

**Biographical Project & Paper:** Students will select a historical figure from African history to research. Students will write a 6-8 page biographical paper about their selected historical actor, which should draw on at least three secondary sources. In addition to detailing the person's life, the paper should also explore this person's contributions to history and any controversies surrounding their lives, if applicable. Additionally, students should create an Instagram page for their subject, imagining how that person would have used social media had it been available. What kinds of things might they have posted, liked, etc? At the end of the semester, we will have a competition for the best historical Instagram page. The top three will receive prizes!!

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be cumulative. It will consist of multiple choice questions, matching, IDs, short answer, and essay questions. The final exam will be Wednesday April 27.

## **Policies:**

**Attendance:** You are permitted 2 unexcused absences. Each additional absence will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade. You are responsible for all missed work. I do not give out lecture notes.

**Make-Up Quizzes & Exams:** I only give make-up quizzes and exams for documented excused absences. If you know you are going to be absent for a quiz or exam, let me know in advance.

**Late Work:** Late work is penalized 1/3 letter grade for every 12 hour period it is late. All work must be completed to pass the class.

**Technology:** Do not use your phone in class and only use your computer to take notes in the first & last 2 rows of the classroom.

**Email Policy:** University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to

UWG students in a timely manner. It is your responsibility to check your email. Only email me in Course Den.

**Academic Honesty:** All work must abide by the UWG honor code. All work must be completed independently unless otherwise specified and must be original. The UWG Honor Code is in force at all times. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Accommodations:** If you require accommodations, it is your responsibility to provide me with documentation from the office of accessibility services. It is also your responsibility to make arrangements for extra time, alternative testing locations, etc., and to remind me in advance. I cannot provide accommodations without University documentation.

**University Policies:** Please see the following link for a complete listing of University policies - [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

### **Grading:**

- I do not discuss grades within **48 hours** of returning assignments
- I **do not change grades** except in cases of a mathematical error – NO EXCEPTIONS
- It is against university policy to discuss grades via email. If you would like to discuss your grades, please come by my office hours

### **Grade Distribution**

- Participation & Attendance – 20%
- Unit Quizzes – 30% (5% each)
- In-Class Writing Assignments – 5% (2.5% each)
- Voyages Slave Trade Activity – 5%
- Reaction Papers – 15% (7.5% each)
- Biographical Project – 15% (5% Instagram / 10% Paper)
- Final Exam – 10%

## **Schedule**

### **Unit 1 - Thinking about Race, Identity & History**

Mon 1/11 – Intro to Course

Homework: Fairchild, “Why Black History is not Just for Blacks”

Booker T. Washington, “On Making our Race Life Count in the Life of the Nation”

Weds 1/13 – Thinking about Black History

Homework: W.E.B. DuBois, “Races”  
Ian F. Haney Lopez, “The Social Construction of Race”  
F. James Davis, “Who is Black?: One Nation’s Definition”

Mon 1/18 – No Class MLK Holiday

Weds 1/20 - The Complexity of Race

Unit 1 Quiz

Homework: Pier Larson, “Myths about Africa, Africans, and African History: The Student’s Ten Commandments”

## Unit 2 - The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Mon 1/25 – Thinking about African History & Intro to Precolonial Africa

Homework: “Slavery in Africa: Competing Perspectives from Rodney, Fage, Miers & Kopytoff, and Lovejoy”

Weds 1/27 - Slavery in Africa

Homework: Olaudah Equiano, excerpts from *An Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*

Venture Smith – Excerpts

Ottubah Cugoano - Excerpts

Mon 2/1 – Transatlantic Trade

Homework: Complete Part 1 of *Someone Knows my Name* (thru p. 122 or ch. titled “They Called me an African”)

Wed 2/3 – Part 1 of *Someone Knows my Name*

In-Class Writing Assignment

Homework: *Someone Knows my Name* Part II (thru p. 139 or ch. titled “A Nation not so Blessed as These”)

David Brion Davis Reading

Mon 2/8 – Slave Trade Database Activity

Homework: Slave Trade Database Activity  
Excerpts from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*  
Selected Readings on Slavery in the Americas  
Phyllis Wheatley – Poems

Wed 2/10 - Atlantic World Slavery

Homework: Part II of *Someone Knows my Name*

Mon 2/15 – Part II of *Someone knows my name*

In-Class Writing Assignment II

Video – *The Language you Cry in*

Homework: Begin *Someone Knows my Name* Part III (To End of the Book)

Wed 2/17 – Guest Speaker – Jason Moran

Homework: Continue *Someone Knows my Name* Part III

Mon 2/22 – Early abolitionism and imperialism

Homework: TBD

Continue *Someone Knows my Name* Part III

Wed 2/24 – Establishment of Liberia & Sierra Leone

Homework: Complete *Someone Knows my Name*

Reaction Paper 1

Mon 2/29 – Part III of *Someone knows my name*

Reaction Paper 1 Due

Unit 2 Quiz

Homework: Clement Okafor, “Joseph Conrad and Chinua Achebe”

Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden”

Michael Crowder, “Indirect Rule: French and British Style”

### Unit 3 - Imperialism

Wed 3/2- The Scramble for Africa & Colonialism

Homework: Iliffe & Gwassa – Records of Maji Maji

Douglass – The Meaning of July 4

Mon 3/7 – Resistance to Slavery & Colonial Rule

Unit 3 Quiz

Homework: Selections from DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, George Padmore, Edward Blyden, Walter Rodney

Nkosi Sikilel i’Afrika

### Unit 4: African Nationalism, Decolonization, & Civil Rights

Wed 3/9 - Early African Nationalism & Pan-Africanism

Homework: Selections from Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta, Leopold Senghor

Selections on the Manchester Conference & the Bandung Conference

Mon 3/21 – African Independence Movements (On-Line)

Homework: Selections from Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, & The Great Migration

Wed 3/23 – Jim Crow & Civil Rights

Homework: Hendrik Verwoerd  
Mandela – Statement from the Dock  
Steve Biko – Black Consciousness

Mon 3/28 – Anti-Apartheid movement

Unit 4 Quiz

### Unit 5 – The Post-Independence/Post-Civil Rights World

Wed 3/30 – Post – Civil Rights America

Homework: Begin reading *Little Liberia*

Mon 4/4 - Post- Independence Africa

Homework: Continue reading *Little Liberia*

Weds 4/6 – Liberia & Sierra Leone

Homework: Complete *Little Liberia*  
Complete Reaction Paper II

Mon 4/11 – Little Liberia

Unit 5 Quiz  
Reaction Paper II Due

### Unit 6 – Music, Gender, & Sports in the Diaspora

Weds 4/13 – Music

Jazz ambassadors, High-Life, Hip-Hop, Rock n Roll, R&B, & Gospel  
Homework: Work on Biographical Paper  
Crais & Scully – Sara Baartman

Mon 4/18 – Gender & Sexuality

Instagram Pages Due  
Homework: Work on Biographical Paper  
TBD

Weds 4/20 – Sports

Unit 6 Quiz  
Biographical Paper Due

Final Exam - Monday 4/25 @ 11:00 am