

Fall 2020
Thursday 12-2:00 Flexible

HIST 2463: GRADUATE READINGS IN 20th-CENTURY AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

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Office Hours: Thursday 10-12, by appointment

In this graduate seminar we will read books and articles on topics that reflect the diverse experiences and thought of African Americans in the twentieth century. With a focus on historiography we will discuss and analyze differing historical interpretations and methodologies. We will be attentive to specific types of historical writing, e.g., race and gender studies, the carceral focus, environmental history, biography, intellectual history, urban history, transnational history, etc., as we examine their effectiveness in portraying specific periods and topics. We will be attentive to changes in scholarship—the turns in historiography and the cultural and social conditions that gave rise to them. Students will write a short report on a recommended reading each week, in addition to being prepared to discuss the required reading. Course requirements also include a written proposal (4-5 pages) midway through the term and a historiographic paper (18-20 pages) at the end.

Required Books

Ewing, Adam. *The Age of Garvey: How a Jamaican Activist Created a Mass Movement and Changed Global Black Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014

Kelly, Blair. *Right to Ride: Streetcar Boycotts and African American Citizenship in the Era of Plessy v. Ferguson*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2010

McCammack, Brian. *Landscapes of Hope: Nature and the Great Migration to Chicago*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017

Spencer, Robyn C. *The Revolution Has Come: Black Power, Gender, and the Black Panther Party in Oakland*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016.

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahatta. *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership*. Justice, Power, and Politics. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019

Tyson, Timothy. *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power* (2009) – available online in Hollis

Wood, Amy Louise. *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890-1940*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2009

Weekly Topics:

Part One: Understanding Historiography

September 3. Introduction—What is a Historiographical Paper?

September 10. Historical Subjects—People, Topics, and Methodologies

Guffey, Elizabeth. “Knowing their Space: Signs of Jim Crow in the Segregated South.” *Design/Issues* 28 (Spring 2012): 41-60

Blain, Keisha and Tiffany Gill, *To Turn the Whole World Over: Black Women and Internationalism* (2019), Introduction

Kelley, Robin D.G. “‘But a Local Phase of a World Problem’: Black History’s Global Vision,” *Journal of American History* 86 (December 1999):1045-1077

Holton, Adalaine. “Decolonizing History: Arthur Schomburg’s Afrodiasporic Archive,” *Journal of African American History* 92 (Spring 2007):218-238

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Thompson, Heather. "Why Mass Incarceration Matters: Rethinking Crisis, Decline, and Transformation in Postwar American History," *Journal of American History* (December 2010): 703-734

Wood, Amy Louise, Natalie J. Ring. *Crime and Punishment in the Jim Crow South* (2019), Introduction.

September 17. Historical Interpretation—Conceptualizing and Debating the Movement’s Many Identities

Hall, Jacquelyn Dowd. "The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past," *Journal of American History* (March 2005): 1233-1263

Cha-Jua, Sundiata Keita and Clarence Lang, "The 'Long Movement' as Vampire: Temporal and Spatial Fallacies in Recent Black Freedom Studies," *Journal of African American History* 92 (Spring 2007): 265-288

Farmer, Ashley D. *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era* (2017), Introduction (online in Hollis)

Lang, Clarence. "Between Civil Rights and Black Power in the Gateway City: The Action Committee to Improve Opportunities for Negroes (Action), 1964-75," *Journal of Social History* 37 (Spring 2004): 725-754

Sandage, Scott A., "A Marble House Divided: The Lincoln Memorial, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Politics of Memory, 1939-1963," *Journal of American History* 80 (1993):135-167

Tuck, Stephen. "Malcolm X's Visit to Oxford University: U.S. Civil Rights, Black Britain, and the Special Relationship on Race," *American Historical Review* 118 (February 2013): 76-103

*****Paper Topics Due*****

Part Two: Rethinking Periods, Activism, and Themes

September 24. Jim Crow Realities—Emphasizing Inequality and Injustice in the Jim Crow Era

Required Reading:

Wood, Amy Louise. *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890-1940* (2009)

Recommended:

Blackmon, Douglas. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black People in America from the Civil War to World War II*. New York: Doubleday (2008)

Cecelski, David S. and Timothy Tyson, ed. *Democracy Betrayed: The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Its Legacy* (1998)

Feimster, Crystal. *Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching* (2011)

Hale, Grace Elizabeth. *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940* (1999)

Haley, Sarah, *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity* (2016)

Gross, Kali. *Colored Amazons: Crime, Violence, and Black women in the City of Brotherly Love, 1880-1910* (2006)

LeFlouria, Talitha. *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South* (2015)

Logan, Rayford W. *The Betrayal of the Negro from Rutherford Hayes to Woodrow Wilson* (1965, 1997)

McMillen, Neil R. *Dark Journey: Black Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow* (1990)

Oshinsky, David. *Worse than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice* (1996)

October 1. Behind the Veil—Emphasizing Black Self-Help and Resistance in the Jim Crow Era

Required Reading:

Kelly, Blair. *Right to Ride: Streetcar Boycotts and African American Citizenship in the Era of Plessy v. Ferguson* (2010)

Recommended:

Alexander, Shawn Leigh. *An Army of Lions: The Civil Rights Struggle before the NAACP* (2012)

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- Dagbovie, Pero. *The Early Black History Movement: Carter G. Woodson and Lorenzo Johnston Greene* (2007)
- Fairclough, Adam. *Teaching Equality: Black Schools in the Age of Jim Crow* (2001)
- Gaines, Kevin Kelly. *Uplifting the Race: Black Leadership, Politics, and Culture in the Twentieth Century* (1996)
- Gilmore, Glenda Elizabeth. *Gender & Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920* (1996)
- Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks. *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1920* (1993)
- Hunter, Tera W. *To 'Joy my Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors after the Civil War* (1998)
- Ortiz, Paul. *Emancipation Betrayed: The Hidden History of Black Organizing and White Violence in Florida from Reconstruction to the Bloody Election of 1920* (2005)
- Woodruff, Nan Elizabeth. *American Congo: The African American Freedom Struggle in the Delta* (2003)

October 8. Black Migrations—Taking New Directions in Historical Interpretation

Required Reading:

McCammack, Brian. *Landscapes of Hope: Nature and the Great Migration in Chicago* (2017)

Recommended:

- Baldwin, Davarian. *Chicago's New Negroes: Modernity, the Great Migration, and Black Urban Life* (2007)
- James, Winston. *Holding Aloft the Banner of Ethiopia: Caribbean Radicalism in Early Twentieth-Century America* (1999)
- Hobbs, Allyson. *A Chosen Exile. A History of Racial Passing in American Life* (2014)
- Gregory, James N. *The Southern Diaspora: How the Great Migrations of Black and White Southerners Transformed America* (2005)
- Grossman, James R. *Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration* (1991)
- Hine, Darlene and John McCluskey, Jr., ed. *The Black Chicago Renaissance* (2012)
- Sernett, Milton C. *Bound for the Promised Land: African American Religion and the Great Migration* (1997)
- Trotter, Joe William, Jr., ed. *The Great Migration in Historical Perspective: New Dimensions of Race, Class, and Gender* (1991)
- Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns* (2010)
- Wolcott, Victoria. *Remaking Respectability: African American Women in Interwar Detroit* (2001)

October 15. Global Perspectives—Doing International and Transnational History

Required Reading:

Ewing, Adam. *The Age of Garvey: How a Jamaican Activist Created a Mass Movement and Changed Global Black Politics* (2014)

Recommended:

- Anderson, Carol. *Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941-1960* (2015)
- Blain, Keisha and Tiffany Gill, *To Turn the Whole World Over: Black Women and Internationalism* (2019), Introduction
- Hahamovitch, Cindy. *No Man's Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the Global History of Deportable Labor* (2012)
- Borstelmann, Thomas. *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena* (2001)
- Dudziak, Mary L. *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (2002)
- Frazier, Robeson Taj. *The East is Black: Cold War China in the Black Radical Imagination* (2015)
- Gaines, Kevin K. *American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era* (2008)

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Plummer, Brenda Gayle. *Rising Wind: Black Americans and U.S. Foreign Affairs, 1935-1960* (1996)

Singh, Nikihl. *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy* (2004)

Slate, Nico. *Colored Cosmopolitanism: The Shared Struggle for Freedom in the United States and India* (2012)

Von Eschen, Penny. *Race against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957* (2001)

October 22. Presentation of Paper Proposals

October 29. Sites of Struggle—The Importance of Place

Required Reading:

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahatta. *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* (2019).

Recommended:

Kahrl, Andrew. *This Land was Ours: African American Beaches from Jim Crow to the Sunbelt South* (2012)

Kurashige, Scott. *The Shifting Grounds of Race: Black and Japanese Americanism in the Making of Multi-ethnic Los Angeles* (2008)

McGuire, Danielle L. *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance— a New History of the Civil Rights Movement*

Mumford, Kevin J. *Interzones: Black/White Sex Districts in Chicago and New York in the Early Twentieth Century* (1997)

Payne, Charles. *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle* (2007)

Self, Robert O. *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland* (2003)

Wolcott, Victoria W. *Race, Riots, and Roller Coasters: The Struggle over Segregated Recreation in America* (2012)

Gabriel N. Mendes. *Under the Strain of Color: Harlem's Lafargue Hospital and the Promise of an Antiracist Psychiatry* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015)

Nelson, Alondra. *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination* (2013)

Sugrue, Thomas J. *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North* (2008)

Williams, Rhonda Y. *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles against Urban Inequality* (2005)

November 5. Biography Matters—History through the Lens of a Life

Required:

Tyson, Timothy. *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power* (2009) – available online in Hollis

Recommended:

Cooper, Brittany. *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women*

Jonathan Holloway. *Confronting the Veil: Abram Harris, Jr., E. Franklin Frazier, and Ralph Bunche, 1919-1941* (2002)

Mack, Kenneth Walter. *Representing the Race: The Creation of the Civil Rights Lawyer* (2012)

Morris, Aldon. *The Scholar Denied. W.E.B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology* (2015)

Ransby, Barbara. *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision* (2003)

Rosenberg, Rosalind. *Jane Crow: The Life of Pauli Murray* (2017)

Stewart, Jeffrey C. *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke* (2018)

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November 12. Rewriting History—The Black Panther Party as a Case Study

Required:

Robyn Spencer. *The Revolution Has Come: Black Power, Gender, and the Black Panther Party in Oakland*

Recommended:

Murch, Donna Jean. *Living for the City: Migration, Education, and the Rise of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California* (2010)

Nelson, Alondra. *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination* (2011)

Martin, Waldo E. and Joshua Bloom. *Black against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party* (2013)

Self, Robert. *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland* (2003), ch. 6 “Black Power”

Williams, Jakobi. *From the Bullet to the Ballot: The Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and Racial Coalition Politics in Chicago* (2013), ch. 4 “The Original Rainbow Coalition”

Farmer, Ashley D., *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era*

November 19. The Carceral Turn

Required:

Hinton, Elizabeth. “‘A War within Our Own Boundaries:’ Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society and the Rise of the Carceral State,” *Journal of Urban History*

Recommended:

Forman, James. *Locking up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. First ed. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017.

Hinton, Elizabeth. *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* (2016)

Muhammad, Khalil Gibran. *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America* (2011)

Thompson, Heather. *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy* (2016)

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York, NY: New Press (2012)

De Vito, Christian and Alexander Lichtenstein. "Writing a Global History of Convict Labour." *International Review of Social History* 2 (2013): 285-325.

November 26. No Class

December 3. Paper Presentations

FINAL PAPERS TBA