Term: Harvsterm 2 (Spring 2020)
Course: Hist-1302-40314/Hist-2381-40314
The African American Experience
Course Dates: MW 1:20pm; 3/24/20-5/13/20
Class Location: G204

Instructor: B. Wilkinson
Phone: 972-860-7166
Email: BrettWilkinson@dcccd.edu; eCampus Course Email is the primary means of contact. (EFC Faculty email address should only be used in case of an emergency or lack of access to the eCampus course); Blackboard IM can be used during office hours.
Office & Office Hours: G215 | M-R, 11am-12:30pm or by appointment.

A&C Division: G-Building: Room 237 | 972-860-8313

Course Drop Date: May 1, 2020
Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.


Course Title & Course Description
HIST 1302 History of the United States (3) This is a Texas Common Course Number. A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction era to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, Cold War and post-Cold War eras. (3 Lec.) Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 54.0102.51 25.

Course Prerequisites
One of the following must be met: (1) DREA 0093 AND DWRI 0093; (2) English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 AND 0054; or (3) have met Texas Success Initiative (TSI) in Reading and Writing standards AND the college Writing score prerequisite requirement.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Core Objectives:
Critical Thinking
Communication
Social and Personal Responsibility

Required Textbook
ISBN-10: 0205947492
(This textbook cannot be purchased from the EFC Bookstore)

Or
ISBN-10: 0205940455
(This textbook cannot be purchased from the EFC Bookstore)

Course Outline
Week 1: Welcome to African-American History!
Week 2: The Promise and Failure of Reconstruction
White Supremacy Triumphant
Week 3: Conciliation, Agitation, and Migration
African Americans and the 1920's
Week 4: African Americans and the 1920's
Black Protest, the Great Depression, and the New Deal
Week 5: Black Protest, the Great Depression, and the New Deal
The World War II Era and the Seeds of a Revolution
Week 6: The Long Freedom Movement
Week 7: Black Nationalism, Black Power, Black Arts
Black Nationalism, Black Power, Black Arts
Week 8: African Americans in the 21st Century
Black Politics from 1980 to the Present

Evaluation Procedures
The grade that you earn in this course will be the result of the grades you receive in the following categories:

- Seminars: 25%  
  Grading scale: 90 - 100 = A
  80 - 89 = B
  70 - 79 = C
  60 - 69 = D
  0 - 59 = F

While effort and regular attendance are necessary requirements for a passing grade, they are only the starting point. The quality of one’s work and its’ prompt submission will ultimately determine one’s grade. I only grade results not effort. Therefore, all of your work (written, discussions, cooperative assignments) will be evaluated on an A, B, C, etc. basis. Assignments that demonstrate a limited understanding of what was read but doesn’t reflect much thought will get a C (75%). Those which represent a good effort and general understanding of the material will get a B (85%). Outstanding papers/work that show depth of understanding and analyses receive an A (95%; eliminating “grade inflation”). Needless to say assignments that fall below the minimum requirements for a “C” will receive a D (65%) or F (55%) depending on the deficiencies. Incomplete and late assignments will receive an NC (0).

Seminars: Only those who assume their responsibility to guide their own learning, to share their ideas, and to contribute to the learning of others by their questions and comments will earn the full amount of points for seminars. What is important in this course is NOT that you are consistently chiming in with the “right” answer, but that you are thinking, sharing, asking questions, honestly engaging the material, and responding maturely in class. Based on each week’s readings, students will be required to discuss the various aspects of what they have gleaned from the texts. Students will be assessed on the frequency as well as the depth of their comments. Specific requirements for these seminars can be found on the Handouts tab of the eCampus.
course. I consider it a given that you are here to learn. Seminars will be 25% of your final grade so I encourage you to get over any lingering shyness that remains from your earlier educational experiences. “Spirited discussion is the lifeblood of academia”, and I hope that we will have many. The lowest grade in this category will be dropped.

Discussion Board: The Discussion board (which is accessed via Blackboard) is the means by which we will extend our class discussions. Specific requirements for these discussion boards can be found on the Handouts tab of the eCampus course. Students will be required to: 1) respond to a question or questions I pose, 2) pose their own question regarding the assigned reading/topic to the class, and 3) respond to the comments or questions of no less than 2 of their fellow students. Students will have until 11:59 pm on the due date to submit their responses. It is not the length or quantity of your replies that is important, although that does provide something of a gauge of your involvement with the material. The lowest grade in this category will be dropped.

Analysis Journals: The journal will consist of individual or cooperative analysis of various sources of evidence. The analysis will be done in many ways: Chapter questions, Reading log (RL), Primary Source Analysis (PSA.), Critical Thinking Analysis (CTA) or Motion Picture Analysis (MPA). Each is a set of questions designed to help extract information from the readings and can be completed in less than 2 pages. Specific requirements for these assignments can be found on the Handouts tab of the eCampus course. The lowest grade in this category will be dropped.

Analysis Essays: Specific requirements for these papers can be found on the Handouts tab of the eCampus course. You will not have any assignments that can be done in less than 2.5 pages (800-1000 words), so keep that in mind as you write. Again, I stress that the goal here is not to get the “right” answers. You will be doing the work of historians, and the conclusions you reach will differ from one student to another. All papers must be submitted to SafeAssign by the set deadline in order to receive credit.

Tests/Quizzes: Throughout the semester scheduled tests/quizzes will be given over the content of the textbook only. Extra credit can be earned with every test/quiz. This is the only source of extra credit in the course. The test/quizzes will be administered on eCampus and in class and cannot be made up. The lowest grade in this category will be dropped.

Attendance Policy
Your attendance is important to your success in this course. You are adults and you have chosen to attend college, thus it is important to make a commitment to that choice. Some University and College policies suggest that instructors withdraw students from a course when absences equal 12% (2 absences) of the course and are thus not progressing. However, I believe that it is ultimately your responsibility to do so. With that in mind, your Seminar grade will be reduced 10% for every absence after 2 (equal to 2 weeks of class). In addition, three (3) tardies will result in one (1) absence for the course. Attendance will be taken daily and students are considered absent 15 minutes after class has begun. (Note that you may also be counted absent for leaving class 10 minutes early) If you have problems and find you must discontinue the course you must officially withdraw from the course; failure to withdraw officially will result in a grade of F.

Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

Classroom Etiquette
Class time is sacrosanct. It is unlikely that you have ever taken a history course in this fashion because you are the historians in this course. It is your task to prepare for every class by:
1. Reading the assignment
2. Answering any questions posed
3. Writing an analysis paper about the assignment, and
4. Actively participating in class by asking questions, providing your analysis of the subject or completing all other assignments. Your participation will be assessed based on both the frequency of your participation and its' depth.
Respecting your fellow classmates is crucial. Please do not interrupt your classmates and when addressing a classmate, please use their name. Please arrive to class on time and do not leave early unless an absolute emergency. Please do not carry on private conversations and always respect the group discussion. Use of a laptop in class is only allowed if the instructor has a view of the screen from the front of the classroom. All cell phones should be set to vibrate and should not be answered, used for sending text messages or accessing the internet during class. Again, you have made a commitment to your education and your focus in class is critical. In addition, the interruption of cell phones interferes with the learning of others. Your participation grade will be affected by a failure to comply and any extreme violators of this policy will be asked to leave the class.

Technology
Assignments are DUE as outlined in the “Assignment Sheet” & “Assessment Schedule”. Waiting until the last minute can be problematic as issues may arise with computers. Experiencing technological difficulties or not having access to a computer are not acceptable reasons for missing assignment deadlines. Students should plan in advance to complete assignments utilizing resources available to them; for example, a local library or the Eastfield College library and computer lab. If you have technical difficulties while submitting your essays, please attach your completed assignment to an email. This is the only way that assignments not submitted on time will be considered for credit.