

**Course Syllabus**  
**Chaminade University of Honolulu**

**History 405: The African American Experience**  
**Dr. Yamasaki**

**Course Description**

The presence of African Americans profoundly affected the nature and development of our society. Their labor as slaves and sharecroppers helped to transform the young nation into an economic giant. Their suffering under segregation and racial prejudice awoke our national conscience. Their stories, music and spirit have helped to shape our nation's unique culture. This course examines the struggles and triumphs of African Americans and the role they played in shaping the history of the United States of America.

**Course Objectives:** After successfully completing this course, students will have...

- a working knowledge of the African Americans experience & its impact on America.
- refined their reading, writing, speaking & cognitive skills.
- engaged in learning that embodies cooperation, self-discipline & mutual respect.
- developed their concern for social justice, ethics & civic responsibility.

**Course Requirements**

- Actively participate in class meetings and turn in short writing assignments.
- Take a mid-term examination & a final examination.
- Write one book review.
- Turn in all assignments to instructor in class on the day that they are due. Papers turned into the instructor's mailbox, under his office door or left any where else will not be accepted. No late papers are accepted for short writing assignments. For the book review, 5 points will be deducted for each class meeting beyond the due date.

**Grades**

- Class activities, discussions, short writing assignments 100 points.
  - Two mid-term examinations 100 points.
  - Final examination 100 points.
  - Book review 100 points.
- (370-400 points = A; 330-369 = B; 280-329 = C; 240-279 = D; Below 240 = F.)

**Required Texts**

James Horton & Lois Horton, *A History of the African American People*.  
Mitch Yamasaki, *Movin' On: The Great Migration North*.  
Mitch Yamasaki, *Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968: We Shall Overcome, Some Day*.

Mitch Yamasaki, *Readings on the African American Experience*.

## Course Outline

### Weeks 1-4 Experience of Slavery

- How slavery became an institution in North America.
- Journey to slavery in America.
- The nature of slavery & its evolution.
- Experience of free blacks in pre-Civil War America.
- Slave resistance & uprisings.
- Abolitionists.
- Civil War & emancipation.

### Weeks 5-7 Civil War, Emancipation & Reconstruction

- Slavery & the Civil War
- Black troops in the Civil War
- Emancipation
- Civil War Constitutional Amendments (13th, 14th & 15th)
- Black Codes
- Reconstruction

### Week 8 *Mid-Term Examination*

### Weeks 8-11 Life Under "Jim Crow"

- Origins of Southern segregation
- Civil Rights Cases of 1883 & Plessy v. Ferguson
- Strategies on race relations: Washington, Du Bois, Garvey.
- "The Great Migration."
- Life in the North: "Harlem Renaissance" & life in the ghetto.
- The color of black: role of color in African American community.
- "To be black, female and ..."

### Week 10 *Book review due.*

### Weeks 12-15 African Americans during the Civil Rights Era and Beyond

- *Brown v. Board of Ed.*: school desegregation & white resistance.
- Sit-ins, boycotts & voter registration.
- Organizations: NAACP, Urban League, CORE, SCLC, SNCC.
- "I have a dream": King's leadership in the efforts to integrate.
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 & Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- "Black power": Nation of Islam, Malcolm X, Black Panthers.
- Civil Rights legacy: status of blacks; critics of affirmative action.
- Contemporary issues in the African American community

### Week 16 *Final examination.*

## Office Hours

Eiben Annex B: Wed 1:00 - 2:00; Tues & Thurs 11:00 - 12:30

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