This course focuses on the momentous changes in Afro-American life that became manifest after World War II. The subjects studied include urbanization, industrialization, civil rights, the Cold War, black nationalism, the welfare state, and others. Through careful, informed, and critical analysis, students will develop their own perspective on the continuing drama of Afro-American history. This history will be considered against the backdrop of continuing race, gender, and class oppression, as well as in the context of Afro-American cultural vitality and the struggle to overcome injustice.

Approach. The course adopts a world view which treats Afro-Americans as central actors in their history. Afro-American history is the product of interactions with U. S. society, which is itself thoroughly and indelibly penetrated by the Afro-American experience. An effort will thus be made to explore correlations between events in the black community and changes in overall U. S. institutions, ideology, public policies, culture, and social norms.

Organization. The class format will mix lectures, discussions, media presentations, and student-initiated activity.

Evaluation. Attendance will be kept for each class session, and as students are responsible for each meeting's work, they are expected to be on time. Grades will be based on the following:

1) Three short papers, worth 30% of the total grade. (A hand-out on how to write these papers will be distributed separately.)
2) A midterm exam in essay format, worth 30% of the total grade.
3) A final examination worth 30% of the total grade.
4) Attendance/participation credits, worth 10% of the grade.

Texts. Texts have been placed on reserve at College Library.

Thulani Davis, 1959 (Grove Weidenfeld, hardback)

Manning Marable, Race, Reform, and Rebellion (University Press of Mississippi, paper)

George Lipsitz, A Life in the Struggle (Temple University Press, paper)

JoAnn Robinson, The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It (University of Tennessee Press, paper)

Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet," Pacifica Radio Archive. (NOTE THAT THIS IS AN AUDIOCASSETTE.)
COURSE SCHEDULE

Reading assignments are due for the next class meeting.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION
Sept. 3 - Introduction

WEEK 2: THE LEGACY OF WORLD WAR II
Sept. 8 - Veterans on the move.
Reading. Robinson, ch. 1
Sept. 10 - The new race relations.
Reading. Robinson, ch. 2; Marable, ch. 1.

WEEK 3: CHANGES IN THE SOUTH
Sept. 15 - A growing electorate.
Reading. Robinson, chs. 3 and 4.
Sept. 17 - Watching King Cotton die.
Reading. Robinson, chs. 5 and 6.

WEEK 4: AFRO-AMERICANS AND LIBERALISM
Sept. 22 - Consensus and the Democratic coalition.
Reading. Robinson, chs. 7 through 9.
Sept. 24 - The civil rights stalemate.
Reading. Marable, ch. 2
Sept. 24 - FIRST PAPER DUE

WEEK 5: THE COLD WAR AND ITS IMPACT
Sept. 29 - Purging the ranks.
Reading. Marable, ch. 3.
Oct. 1 - The unconverted.
Reading. Davis, ch. 1

WEEK 6: "FROM PLANTATION TO Ghetto?" - URBAN LIFE IN THE NORTH
Oct. 6 - Voting with their feet.
Reading. Davis, ch. 2.
Oct. 8 - What the social scientists said.
Reading. Davis, ch. 3.

WEEK 7: GENDER, CLASS, AND CULTURE IN THE 1940S AND 1950S, 1
Reading. - no assignment
Oct. 15 - MIDTERM
Reading. Davis, ch. 4.

WEEK 8: GENDER, CLASS, AND CULTURE IN THE 1940S AND 1950S, 2
Oct. 20 - R & B and social change.
Reading. Davis, ch. 5.
Reading. Davis, ch. 6; Marable, ch. 4.

WEEK 9: CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Oct. 27 - Roots in black communities.
Reading. Lipsitz, Introduction and ch. 1.
Oct. 29 - Other influences.
Reading. Lipsitz, ch. 2 and 3.
Oct. 29 - SECOND PAPER DUE

WEEK 10: MASS MOBILIZATION, 1955-1960
Nov. 3 - From Montgomery to Greensboro.
Reading. Lipsitz, ch. 4
Nov. 5 - Women and civil rights.  
Reading. Lipsitz, ch. 5.

WEEK 11: BLACK NATIONALISM AT MID-CENTURY  
Nov. 10 - Black nationalism: the global context.  
Reading. - Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet."  
Nov. 12 - Integration or separation?  
Reading. Lipsitz, ch. 6.

Nov. 17 - Making civil rights a national mission.  
Reading. - Marable ch. 5.  
Nov. 19 - The Great Society.  
Reading. Lipsitz, ch. 7.

WEEK 13: BLACK POWER  
Nov. 24 - Black Power.  
Reading. Marable, ch. 6. (For Dec. 1]  
Nov. 26 - No classes. Thanksgiving Day.

WEEK 14: AFRO-AMERICANS AND THE CONTEMPORARY STATE: SOME ISSUES  
Dec. 1 - The history of distributive justice.  
Reading. Marable, ch. 7 and Epilogue.  
Dec. 3 - The history of minority drug use.  
Reading. no assignment  
Dec. 3- THIRD PAPER DUE

WEEK 15: RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE  
Dec. 8 - The Afro-American family since 1945.  
Reading. Lipsitz ch. 8.  
Dec. 10 - Contemporary feminism and the Afro-American community.  
Reading. Lipsitz, ch. 9 and Epilogue.

WEEK 16: CULTURAL HISTORY OR HISTORICAL CULTURE?  
Dec. 15 - Cultural History or Historical Culture?