

330: African and African American Linkages

SYLLABUS

The slave trade, which brought millions of Africans to the Americas, was one of the founding events of modern life in the West. It contributed to vast social, cultural, ecological, and political upheaval in Africa and in the aboriginal societies of this hemisphere. It created new cultures and new peoples. The scattering of Africa's millions was unique in that this **diaspora** [Greek, dispersion, from *diaspeirein* to scatter, from *dia-* + *speirein* to sow] was created by force and, in certain places, deliberate efforts were made to disrupt any sense of historical continuity between the Old World and the New.

This course will recover some of those historical linkages. Topics covered include the slave trade; reconstituting and reinventing African communities in the Americas; maroonage, rebellion and revolution; mercantilism, Islam in the Americas; contract laborers and returnees; the emigration and colonization movements; Garveyism; Ethiopianism; and anticolonialism.

Organization. The class format will mix lectures, audiovisual presentations and discussions.

Evaluation. Attendance will be kept for each class session. Grades will be based on three exams, the first worth 30% of the grade, the second exam and the final worth 35% of the grade each. The first will be given in late February, the second in early April, and the third will be a regularly scheduled final. Any student who is dissatisfied with a grade on any exam that is less than a B may write a short (5 page) supplementary paper in consultation with the professor.

NOTE: Students with more than 8 absences (that is, who miss more than a month of classes) cannot earn a grade higher than C.

Texts. Texts have been placed on reserve at College Library, or at the Historical Society, if the Society owns the book. They are available for sale at the Rainbow bookstore on Gilman Street.

Robert Farris Thompson, FLASH OF THE SPIRIT

Jeffrey W. Bolster, BLACK JACKS

Olaudah Equiano, THE INTERESTING NARRATIVE AND OTHER WRITINGS Penguin Classic (paper)
Please note: This edition only!

Ronald Segal, THE BLACK DIASPORA

Richard Brent Turner, ISLAM IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE