

AAS/HIST 636: Afro-American History Since 1900

Spring 2002. Professor Plummer

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S Y L L A B U S

This upper division course surveys twentieth century African-American history, beginning with its roots in rural society at the turn of the century. The Afro-American experience encompasses the survival strategies of black people as they moved from country to town and city. The critical events studied include world wars, the development of an urban culture, the evolution of music and art, politics and protest, and the impact of African-American life and thought on modernity in the United States. Students will further develop their analytical skills as they familiarize themselves with the continuing drama of Afro-American history, a powerful tool for understanding the cultural vitality of Afro-Americans and their ongoing struggle to overcome injustice.

Organization. The class format will mix lectures, discussions, and audiovisuals when possible.

Evaluation. Attendance will be kept for each class session. Grades will be based on the following: 1) Four assignments, each worth 10% of the total grade. (A hand-out on these assignments will be distributed separately.) Three exams, each worth 20% of the grade. The first will be given in late February, the second in early April, and the third will be a final.

Attendance requirement: Attendance is required. Attendance will be kept for each class session. The reason is to protect the interests of those students who diligently come to class and help create a community by their presence. It is based on the idea of a classroom as a social entity and education as a commitment. Anyone have up to 8 unexcused absences (i.e., one month of classes) without penalty. Those otherwise missing more than 8 class sessions cannot earn more than a C in the course.

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 University Bookstore.

James Baldwin, *Collected Essays*

Paula Giddings, *When and Where I Enter*

Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*

Cleveland Sellers, *The River of No Return*

Joe Trotter, *The African American Experience, vol. 2 only*