

# African American History Since 1865 (HTS 3025)

Professor: S. Randolph

## Course Description

This course explores the history of African Americans from the abolition of chattel slavery to the present. In addition to examining Black people's centuries-long striving for "community," identity, and solidarity across local, national, and global contexts, we pay special attention to differences and diversity, particularly gender distinctions within African American communities. We will consider the contours of Black life, thought, and resistance in the late 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries, including the ways African American communities have confronted and resisted state-sanctioned policing and violence. Students will gain new insights into relationships between lynch victims and lynch mobs, working people and employers, and the rich and the poor. More importantly, students will come to understand how these relationships are interconnected with U.S. culture, the economy, politics, power, and tradition. Our intention, therefore, is not to add more color to the painting, but to revise the painting altogether.

\*Additional readings can be found on Canvas.

\*This course utilizes documentaries as key texts. Students should take notes and analyze documentaries alongside lectures and written texts.

## Assignments and Evaluation

- 25% — In-Class Test 1
- 25% — In-Class Test 2
- 25% — Take-Home Test 3
- 25% — Participation

## Participation

Participation includes active engagement in class discussion. Students should come prepared with readings and notes accessible during class. Participation means asking questions, contributing ideas, and engaging with films, readings, and lectures. Being physically present is not the same as participating.

## Course Expectations and Policies

This course asks you to engage seriously with complex histories and representations. Your role is not only to complete assignments, but to contribute to a thoughtful and respectful learning environment.

## Attendance and Participation

- Two absences are allowed without penalty
- Additional absences will affect your participation grade

## **Tardiness**

Repeated lateness disrupts the classroom environment. More than three instances of tardiness may affect your participation grade.

## **Late Work and Extensions**

- Short assignments: -■ letter grade per day
- Major assignments: -1 letter grade per day

If you anticipate difficulty, reach out before the deadline whenever possible. Extensions are available in cases of illness or emergency. Missed in-class tests cannot be made up without prior communication or documented emergency.

## **Collaboration and Use of Generative AI**

You are encouraged to discuss course materials with peers, but all submitted work must be your own.

- AI tools may be used for brainstorming
- AI tools may be used for clarifying ideas
- AI tools may not be used to generate or replace your written work
- If used, briefly acknowledge how

## **Internet and Phone Use**

Devices may be used for course purposes only. If you are using your phone or internet for non-class-related activity, you may be marked absent.

## **Classroom Environment**

- Engage respectfully
- Listen carefully
- Contribute thoughtfully
- Disagreement is welcome but must remain constructive

## **Campus Resources**

- Academic Support: <https://success.gatech.edu/tutoring>
- Student Well-Being: Georgia Tech Student Resource Guide

## **Final Note**

This course is designed to be rigorous, thoughtful, and supportive. If you have questions, concerns, or need support at any point, please reach out.