

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

**African-American Studies 5 (0223)/History 42 (1236), "The African American in the History of the United States II," 3 units
Fall 2013, MW, 9:35–11:00 AM, GC 470**

Instructor: Dr. Richard Olivas
Office: GC 380A (in the new General Classroom building, 3d floor)
Office hours: M, 11 AM–1 PM; T, 12:35–2:05 PM; W, 5:00–6:30 PM; Th., 12:35–1:35 PM; and by arrangement
Office phone: 310-287-4509 (please leave a message if there is no answer)
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Website: www.wlacihistory.com (for lecture outlines, syllabus, exam study guides, study helps, announcements)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: History 42/African American Studies 5, organized in three parts, surveys the history of African-Americans from post-Civil War Reconstruction to the 1960s. It looks at political, social, and cultural history.

The course's first part shows the various attempts to reconstruct the post-Civil War southern states. In the end, Reconstruction was a failure but, as W.E.B. Du Bois noted, it was "a glorious failure." We will also study the triumph of white supremacy and the courageous response by African-Americans to it.

The second part examines how African-Americans developed plans and built institutions to help them to succeed in hostile surroundings. Blacks differed among themselves as some followed Booker T. Washington's cautious approach to white racism, while others like W.E.B. Du Bois favored a more aggressive strategy.

The final part shows how struggle and mature political protest gave rise to the modern civil rights movement. Lastly, you will learn to think more critically and write more analytically.

REQUIRED READING: Please purchase two (2) books: 1) Clayborne Carson et al. *The Struggle for Freedom: A History of African Americans*, 2d ed. Vol. 2: *Since 1865*. Concise edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2010 (ISBN-10: 0321355741; ISBN-13: 9780321355744); and 2) Gary B. Nash, *The Hidden History of Mixed-Race America*, rev. ed., Los Angeles: NHCS-UCLA, 2010. A written assignment on this second book will be due Dec. 4, the last day of class. While most exam questions are drawn from the class lectures, you should nevertheless read the book to familiarize yourself with the historical narrative. If you would like to improve your reading skills, please consider taking a course like Learning Skills 030, "Reading/Computer Aided Instruction" or Learning Skills 050, "Intro to Computer Assisted Instruction–Language Arts" (choose "reading speed and comprehension" option), at the Library's Learning Skills Center (see Fall 2013 *Schedule of Classes*, pp. 60-61). ☺

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: In accordance with Board Rule 9803.28, academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Cheating will result in automatic failure in the course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action (*Schedule*, pp. 114-15).

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT: According to Board Rule 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. To maintain a positive learning environment, the instructor reserves the right to separate disruptive students who sit next to, or nearby, one another (See "Rules & Regulations," §6, in *Schedules of Classes*, p. 114).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: This course helps students meet the following college SLOs: A. "*Critical thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences;*" and B. "*Cultural diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.*" Exams, essay questions, and class discussion will assess student progress.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is mandatory. Students who are excessively absent [i.e., more than three (3) classes] may be dropped at the instructor's discretion. Absences begin to accumulate from the first day of class (i.e., August 26), not from the date students add the class. Three (3) lates equal one (1) absence. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time, and stay throughout the class period: "every time, on time, for the whole time."

DROPPING THE CLASS: Students are responsible to drop themselves from classes they no longer attend (*Schedule*, p. 10).

TAPE RECORDING POLICY: State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (see *Schedule of Classes*, p. 117). Recorders and Google Glass are strictly prohibited. If you need help learning how to take notes, consider taking Learning Skills 051B, "Efficient Note Taking," at the Learning Skills Center (see *Schedule of Classes*, p. 61). ☺

POLICY ON VISITORS: Class sessions are reserved for students officially enrolled in WLAC (See *Schedule of Classes*, p. 114). Visitors may be brought to class by prior consent of the instructor only.

POLICY ON PAGERS & CELLULAR TELEPHONES: The policy is simple: pagers and cell phones should never sound in class. Please silence them before class begins. If your phone accidentally rings in class, turn it off without answering it. If you answer a cell phone in class—or get up and leave class to do so—you will be asked to leave for the remainder of that day. Cell phones, PDAs, Sidekicks, and similar devices are not allowed in laps or on desktops during class. Please put them away. Bluetooth headsets, audio head gear, and Google Glass may not be worn during class, nor should you use text messaging during class. These rules help ensure that students are free to learn in a distraction-free environment. ☺

OFFICE OF DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES: The DSP&S office is located in Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119. The College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The DSP&S has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education.

EXAMS AND STUDY GUIDES: There will be three in-class, closed book exams. Their format combines multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Study guides are provided before the exam to students as a courtesy, not as a right.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: Make-up exams are given only under exceptional circumstances, and they must be arranged *in advance* with the instructor.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

Exam 1 (Wednesday, Oct 2):	30%	
Exam 2 (Wednesday, Nov 6):	30%	
Assignment on <i>Mixed-Race America</i> (due Dec 4):	10%	
Exam 3 (Wednesday, Dec 11):	30%	(See <i>Schedule</i> , p. 16.)

COURSE GRADING SCALE:

A=88% and above	C=68%-77%	
B=78%-87%	D=56%-67%	F=55% and below

LECTURE/READING SCHEDULE: N.B. Instructor reserves the right to modify the plan below.)

PART I: BLACK RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS

I. Intro; Slavery's End & the First Attempts at Reconstruction (8/26; 8/28. No class Monday, 9/2. Class resumes Wed., 9/4).

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 10

II. Reconstruction Fails and Black Reconstruction Begins (9/9; 9/11)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 11

III. White Supremacy Triumphs (9/16; 9/18)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 12

IV. African-Americans Confront White Supremacy (9/23; 9/25; 9/30)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 13 (to pg. 333)

Exam 1: Wednesday, October 2. Review Carson, chapters 10-13 (to pg. 333), and the lecture notes.

PART II: BLACK RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

V. "The Fight of the Century" (10/7; 10/9; 10/14)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 13 (pp. 333-45)

VI. Industrialization, WWI & African-American Culture Flowers (10/14; 10/16; 10/21)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 14

VII. Great Depression and Blacks (10/23; 10/28)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 15 (begin)

VIII. Blacks and Popular Culture (10/30)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 15 (finish)

Exam 2: Monday, November 6. Review Carson, chapters 13 (pp. 333-45), 14-15, and the lecture notes.

PART III: BLACK RECONSTRUCTION CULMINATES

IX. Blacks, World War II, and Protest (No class on Monday, 11/11. Class resumes Wednesday, 11/13; 11/18.)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 16

X. Early Civil Rights Movement (11/20; 11/25; 11/27)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 17

XI. The Movement at High Tide (12/2)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 18 (begin)

XII. The Struggle Continues (12/4)

Required Reading: Carson, *African American Lives*, Chapter 18 (finish). *Mixed-Race America* assignment due 12/4.

Exam 3: Wednesday, December 11, 10:15 AM to 12:15 PM. Review Carson, chapters 16-18 and lecture notes.