

**Montgomery College**  
**Department of Humanities**  
**Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus**

**History of African Americans Since 1865**

**TEMPLATE**

**Course Description:**

This course is an examination of the African American experience from Reconstruction through the Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Movement, and into the present. We will study African Americans' struggle to achieve political, social, and economic equality in a hostile environment and the vibrant social, intellectual, and cultural milieu they created. Throughout this course we will look at the various ways in which African Americans fought to gain their freedom and the black freedom struggle's impact on the U.S. and the world as a whole. By the end of this course you will arrive at a fuller understanding of the diversity that existed among African Americans through an investigation of how gender, class, and region shaped black lives.

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Analyze the causes and effects of twentieth century African American migration.
- Assess African American activism in the mid twentieth century.
- Assess and evaluate the different African American cultural identities in the early twenty-first century.
- Compare and contrast the various strategies of racial advancement in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century's.
- Demonstrate understanding of political, cultural, social, and economic changes in the late twentieth century.
- Describe the effects of the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War on African American life and culture.
- Identify the various methods of social control that replaced slavery in the Southern states.

**Reading List**

Required

- Richard Wright, *Black Boy*
- Assata Shakur, *Assata: An Autobiography*
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Why We Can't Wait*

Recommended

- Robert Frakes, *Writing for College History*

**Course Requirements:**

Participation	(15%)
Response Papers	(10%)
Midterm Exam	(25%)
Final Exam	(25%)
Paper	(25%)

**Participation:** Attendance and class participation is a vital part of your grade. This means coming to class having completed reading assignments and prepared to actively discuss. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If a student is not present when attendance is taken it will be recorded as an absence. Students are also responsible to find out

about any changes in scheduling or assignments announced in classes they missed. If a student misses more than three classes their grade will be reduced by a full letter. Further absences may prevent a passing grade in the course.

\*\* Texting is not permitted in class. If you text in class you will be asked to leave and will receive an absence for that class. Repeated texting in class will result in a deduction of class participation credit and will be reflected in your final grade.

**Response Papers:** You will be required to complete a 2-page essay on the readings (dates indicated below). \*\*No late papers will be accepted

**Exams:** Exams will be comprised of a selection of essay questions based on lectures, class discussions, readings, and films. \*\*There are no make-up exams

**Research Paper:** You will be required to complete one paper (5 pages). More specific guidelines and instructions will be provided as the term progresses. \*\*No late papers will be accepted

#### *Important Student Information Link*

*In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The **link below provides** information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.*

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

#### **Course Outline:**

##### **Week 1**

Course Introduction: Why Study History?

##### **Week 2**

Reconstruction

-*Black Boy* (1-80)

##### **Week 3**

The Growth of Jim Crow in the South

Research Paper Review

-*Black Boy* (81-160)

##### **Week 4**

Examining How to Move Forward

The Harlem Renaissance

-*Black Boy* (161-240)

##### **Week 5**

The Black Popular Front and WWII

-*Black Boy* (241-320)

**Week 6**

The Civil Rights Movement

-*Black Boy* (321-384)

**(PAPER TOPICS DUE)**

**Week 7**

The Civil Rights Movement

**(RESPONSE PAPER #1 ON *BLACK BOY* DUE)**

**Week 8**

**Week 9**

**MIDTERM EXAM**

The Civil Rights Movement

-*Why We Can't Wait* (1-70)

**Week 10:**

The Civil Rights Movement

-*Why We Can't Wait* (71-140)

**Week 11**

Malcolm X and the Black Power Movement

-*Why We Can't Wait* (141-206)

**Week 12**

All Power to the People: The Black Panther Party and the 1960s

**(RESPONSE PAPER #2 DUE)**

**Week 13**

Africans Americans and the Reagan Revolution

*Assata* (Chapters 1-5)

**Week 14**

A New Century, New Bush, and Hurricane Katrina

-*Assata* (Chapters 6-12) **(RESEARCH PAPERS DUE APRIL 24)**

**Week 15**

President Obama and Black Lives Matter

-*Assata* (Chapters 13-Postscript)

**Week 16**

**FINAL EXAM (10:15-12:15)**