Syllabus: History 713
African Americans After Slavery
Professor Schweninger

This course will consist of lectures, readings, discussions, oral presentations, and a twenty-page paper (including footnotes and bibliography). The lectures will be on the general topics in the schedule cited below. During the first two class sessions of each three-week unit students will be responsible for reading and reporting on two books or their equivalent (five or six articles, essays, book chapters) concerning the week’s specified topic. Each student will also be responsible for finding, reading, and reporting on at least one historiographical article or essay during each three week period. The last class session in each unit will be devoted to a discussion of the required book and historiographical articles. The two goals of the course are: first, to demonstrate an broad comprehension African American history after slavery (political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual, religious); and second, to analyze the debates among historians on major themes in black history.

If you feel the need to refresh your survey knowledge of the subject you might wish to consult a textbook such as John Hope Franklin and Alfred Moss's *From Slavery To Freedom: A History of African Americans*, eighth edition [New York: McGraw Hill, 2000].

During each class session there will be a discussion of individual selected readings; several students will be called on to summarize their readings for the week.

The semester's paper should analyze some aspect of both the history and historiography of the African American experience after slavery. You could look at a particular theme of the black experience (politics, civil rights, the law, segregation, social life, economic condition) or a combination of themes. The only requirement is that your paper cover the entire period of the course. A clean, typed copy of your paper should be handed in on Monday, December 5. Your paper should have footnotes and a bibliography. Use of websites should be restricted to online books and articles from reputable presses and scholarly journals.

Along with your paper, you should hand in on December 5 a bibliography of what you have read during the semester, listed by author, title, date of publication, unit, and week. Please use a 12-point font for your paper and bibliographies. For questions about style you should consult Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, 4nd edition (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004). Late papers and bibliographies will be accepted only under extreme circumstances and your grade could be lowered in such an event. One half of your final grade will be an evaluation of your class participation and presentations and the other half your paper. Class attendance is required. My office is 240 McIver, and my office hours are one hour before this class meets or by appointment.
Schedule

First Week: August 15
Housekeeping matters
Lecture: Historians and the Afro-American Past

Unit One: The Civil War and Reconstruction

Second Week: August 22
Lecture: Slavery

Third Week: August 29
Lecture: Freedom

Fourth Week: September 12
Lecture: Reconstruction
Discussion of Proposed Papers


Unit Two: The Era of Jim Crow

Fifth Week: September 19
Lecture: The Triumph of White Supremacy

Sixth Week: September 26
Lecture: The Age of Booker T. Washington

Seventh Week: October 3
Lecture: The New Imperialism; Progressivism
Discussion of Papers


Or


Unit Three: World War and the Great Migration

Eighth Week: October 17
Lecture: To Make the World Safe for Democracy; Red Summer

Ninth Week: October 24
Lecture: The Harlem Renaissance

Tenth Week: October 31
Lecture: Marcus Garvey and the History of Black Nationalism

Unit Four: The Civil Rights Era and its Aftermath

**Eleventh Week**: November 7  
African-Americans during the Great Depression and WWII

**Twelfth Week**: November 14  
The Civil Rights Movement: From Montgomery to Memphis

**Thirteenth Week**: November 21  
Blacks in the post-Civil Rights Era: A New American Dilemma


**Fourteenth Week**: November 28 to be announced

**Fifteenth Week**: December 5 Papers Due

**Selected Bibliography**

**African Americans After Slavery**


