

Fall 2013 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
Prof. Watson Jennison | Email: [wwjennis@uncg.edu](mailto:wwjennis@uncg.edu) | Office: HHRA 2143 | Phone: 336 334-4092  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:15 - 1:15, Thursdays, 12:15 - 1:15, and by appointment

**HIS 502: Select Topics in African American History**  
**“The Black ‘70s”**  
**Course Syllabus**

This class will investigate the decade following the peak of the civil rights movement, a period that has largely been overshadowed by the tumult and fame of the preceding years. The 1970s were a time of dramatic change for black Americans as they sought to capitalize on the hard-fought victories of the previous two decades. Popular depictions of black culture in the 1970s revolve around black power, dashikis, and afros. We will move beyond the clichés and stereotypes connected with this period to investigate the ways in which blacks translated the legislative victories of the civil rights era into reality.

**Course Requirements:** Course requirements include participation and in-class assignments, four take-home assignments, and two six- to seven-page papers.

**Assigned Readings:** There are no assigned books for this course. All readings and documents are on Blackboard, E-reserves, and the internet. These readings will be listed under Course Documents as they become available. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes; students should be sure to consult the most current version of the Syllabus on Blackboard.

**Electronic Devices:** The use of laptops, tablets, cellular phones, or any other type of electronic device is prohibited during class.

**Attendance and Late Policy:** Attendance in class is mandatory. The door will close ten minutes after class starts. Once the door closes, students will no longer be admitted to the class and will be considered absent. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence. Three unexcused absences will result in an automatic failure for the course. Papers and assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit papers or assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the paper or assignment. No papers or assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. Students may not submit any late papers or assignments if they have attended a discussion related to that paper or assignment. All papers and assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

**Plagiarism:** The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise."<sup>1</sup> (See the University's [Academic Integrity Policies](#) for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/violation/plagiarism/>

### **Final Grade Composition**

- Participation and In-Class Assignments (20%)
- Take-Home Assignments (4x10%=40%)
- Papers (2x20%=40%)

Participation and In-Class Assignments: Participation in discussion is mandatory. Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit. **Students should be prepared to discuss the readings on the day that they are assigned.** After one unexcused absence, students will receive a zero for participation for that day. Students will be also given brief in-class assignments based on the assigned readings and lectures. There will be no make-up assignments in the case of a missed in-class assignment.

Short and Research Assignments: Students are required to complete three short assignments and one research assignment that involve analysis of primary sources. All sources in the assignments should be properly cited according to the guidelines laid out in [\*The Chicago Manual of Style\*](#), which is available on-line.

Papers: Students are required to write two six- to seven-page papers based on assigned readings and lectures, the first due on September 20 and the second due on October 11. All sources in the papers should be properly cited according to the guidelines laid out in [\*The Chicago Manual of Style\*](#), which is available on-line.

### **Class Schedule**

Assignments may change slightly. Students should be sure to check the most recent version of the syllabus on Blackboard.

**Week 1 (August 20): Introduction**

**Week 2 (August 27): Black Americans and Africa**

**Week 3 (September 3): Black Power**

**Week 4 (September 10): From the Bullet to the Ballot**

**Week 5 (September 17): Black Feminism**

Paper due at noon on Friday, September 20.

**Week 6 (September 24): Black Capitalism**

**Week 7 (October 1): The Rise of the Black Middle Class**

**Week 8 (October 8): The Decline of the Black Working Class**

Paper due at noon on Friday, October 11.

**Week 9 (October 15): Fall Break – Class Canceled**

**Week 10 (October 22): The (Re)Birth of Black Studies**

**Week 11 (October 29): Cultural Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement**

**Week 12 (November 5): On the Big Screen**

Research assignment due at the beginning of class.

**Week 13 (November 12): On the Small Screen**

Short assignment due at the beginning of class.

**Week 14 (November 19): Music**

Short assignment due at the beginning of class.

**Week 15 (November 26): Epilogue – The Rise of the Black Right**

Short assignment due at the beginning of class.