

Spring 2011 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

## **HIS 713: African Americans After 1865 Course Syllabus**

This course will explore the African American experience from 1865 to the present. Drawing upon a mixture of classic and recent historical literature, students will examine the key transformations that affected black life in the decades since the end of slavery as well as the major historiographical debates within the field of black history.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to read each book for each week in preparation for in-class discussion. Students are also required to lead discussion during the semester. Finally, students are required to write three ten- to twelve-page papers (due in class on February 10, March 17, and April 21). Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment.

### **Final Grade Composition**

Participation and discussion	25%
10- to 12-page papers (3 x 25%)	75%

### **Unit 1**

#### **Week 1: January 13**

Introduction

#### **Week 2: January 20**

Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*

#### **Week 3: January 27**

Tera W. Hunter, *To ' Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War*

#### **Week 4: February 3**

Leon F. Litwack, *Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow*

#### **Week 5: February 10**

David L. Lewis, *W. E. B. Du Bois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919*

**First paper due at the beginning of class.**

## Unit 2

### **Week 6: February 17**

Adrian Lentz-Smith, *Freedom Struggles: African Americans and World War I*

### **Week 7: February 24**

Leslie Brown, *Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development in the Jim Crow South*

### **Week 8: March 3**

Robin D. G. Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists and the Great Depression*

### **Week 9: March 10**

Class Canceled – Spring Break

### **Week 10: March 17**

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*

**Second paper due at the beginning of class.**

## Unit 3

### **Week 11: March 24**

Lisa Levenstein, *Movement Without Marches: African American Women and the Politics of Poverty in Postwar Philadelphia*

### **Week 12: March 31**

Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*

### **Week 13: April 7**

Thomas J. Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*

### **Week 14: April 14**

Hasan Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*

### **Week 15: April 21**

Robert O. Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*

**Third paper due at the beginning of class.**