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 14
Introduction

Week 2: January 21
Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration

Week 3: January 28
Hannah Rosen, Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation South

Week 4: February 4
Tera W. Hunter, To ’Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women’s Lives and Labors After the Civil War

Week 5: February 11
Leon F. Litwack, Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow

First paper due at the beginning of class.
Unit 2

Week 6: February 18

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

Week 7: February 25

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

Week 8: March 4


Week 9: March 11

Class Canceled – Spring Break

Week 10: March 18


Second paper due at the beginning of class.

Unit 3

Week 11: March 25

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

Week 12: April 1

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

Week 13: April 8

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

Week 14: April 15

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

Week 15: April 22

Heather Ann Thompson, *Whose Detroit?: Politics, Labor, and Race in a Modern American City*

Third paper due at the beginning of class.