In this course, we will examine the changing ways in which violence and discrimination toward blacks have structured American society in the one hundred and forty years since the end of slavery. At the same time, we will move beyond the stereotype of blacks simply as victims and we will explore the ways in which black women and men took control of their lives. Throughout the course, we will examine why certain black voices have been excluded from the story of American history and why others have been included. We will attempt to integrate diverse black experiences and perspectives into the main narrative of American history, destroying the segregated history that is itself a product of a history of oppression.

Attendance in class is mandatory. You should be prepared to discuss the week’s readings in class on each Friday (or the last day of classes that week). It is beneficial to complete your readings early in the week as they will provide context for the lectures. Assignments will periodically be given in class. If you do not attend, you will be given a zero for this assignment. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make up any assignments that you have missed. You will be dropped from the class after three missed assignments. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if participation falls below acceptable levels. Pop quizzes and in-class assignments are included in your 20% participation grade. Course requirements also include two tests: a midterm and a final exam. In addition, you will be responsible for a five- to seven-page paper.

Final Grade Composition:
- Participation 20%
- Midterm 25%
- Final Exam 30%
- Paper 25%

Books are available in the university bookstore. Articles and other short reading assignments are available under “Course Documents” on Blackboard. Consult the syllabus under “Course Information” on Blackboard for possible changes in reading assignments.

Assigned Books:

**Unit 1**

**Week 1 (August 18, 20, 22): Introduction and Experiments in Freedom**

Readings:

**Week 2 (August 25, 27, 29): The Rise of Black Political Power**

Readings:

**Week 3 (September 1, 3, 5): Jubilee: The First Days of Freedom**

Readings:

**Week 4 (September 8, 10, 12): Labor in the Post-Slavery South**

Readings:

**Week 5 (September 15, 17, 19): Extinguishing Black Political Voices**

Readings:
- Martha Hodes, “The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics: White Women and Black Men in the South after the Civil War,” in *American Sexual Politics: Sex, Gender, and Race since the Civil War*, pp. 59-74.
- George Henry White, “Agricultural Speech” (1901).

**Unit 2**

**Week 6 (September 22, 24, 26): Imposing Jim Crow**

Midterm:
September 22

Readings:

**Week 7 (September 29, October 1, 3): Transformations: The Great Migration, Urbanization, and the New Negro**

Readings:

**Week 8 (October 6, 8, 10): Harlem Renaissance and the Celebration of Black Culture**

Readings:
- Literary selections will be made available on-line.

**Week 9 (October 15, 17): The Politics of Dissent**

Readings:
- Nathan Irvin Huggins, ed., *Voices From the Harlem Renaissance*, pp. 25-41.
- Additional readings, TBA.

**Week 10 (October 20, 22, 24): Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, and Jazz: Cultural Integration in the Era Jim Crow**

Readings:
- Additional readings, TBA.

**Movie:**
- “A Soldier’s Story”

**Week 11 (October 27, 29, 31): White Terror: The Ku Klux Klan and Spectacle Lynchings**

Readings:
- Walter White on lynching.
Unit 3

Week 12 (November 3, 5, 7): The “Movement” and its Origins

Readings:
- Robin D. Kelley, “‘We Are Not What We Seem’: Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South,” Journal of American History 80, no. 1 (June 1993), pp. 75-112.

Week 13 (November 10, 12, 14): Riots, Radicals, and the Rise of Black Militancy

Readings:
- Elaine Brown, A Black Woman’s Story, pp. 3-208.

Week 14 (November 17, 19, 21): “Chocolate Cities and Vanilla Suburbs”

Readings:
- Elaine Brown, A Black Woman’s Story, pp. 209-450.

Movie:
- “Superfly” (1972).

Week 15 (November 24): “Predators,” the War on Drugs, and the Prison-Industrial-Complex

Readings:
- no readings

Week 16 (December 1, 3, 5): Previous Week Continued

Readings:
- Mike Davis, City of Quartz, pp. 267-322.

Review:
- December 5