

The African Diaspora

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, FALL 2004

UAFR212, UHST212 (cross-listed)

TF 9:50 - 11:30, 411 Robinson

Patrick Manning

Professor of History and African-American Studies

263 Holmes Hall (within complex at 270 H0)

Office Hours: Tues. 3:30 - 4:30; Fri. 12:00-1:00

617-373-4453

planeterra@comcast.net

<http://www.worldhistorynetwork.org/manning> -- syllabus and other course materials are available under "African Diaspora, Fall 2004" in the "Teaching" section of this website.

- Five centuries of life in the African homeland and the African diaspora, 1500-2000.
- Black peoples in the making of the modern world - connections and contributions under slavery and freedom.

Major themes:

Culture - language and literature, religion, music and dance

Politics - enslavement, emancipation, nationhood, globalization

Society - class, family, education

The African homeland - 800 million people on the second-largest continent, with immense differences in language and lifestyle, but a long history of interconnection.

The African diaspora - over 150 million black people in South America, the Caribbean, North America, and Europe. A diaspora initiated by enslavement, but sustained by migration all around the Atlantic and maintaining cultural and political connections

Course activities:

Readings from major authors of Africa and the African diaspora in the eighteenth,

nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Creative work in visual art, music, film

Readings:

- W. E. B. DuBois, *The Negro*
- Patrick Manning, *Slavery and African Life*
- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*
- Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*
- Buchi Emecheta, *Joys of Motherhood*
- Richard Powell, *Black Art and Culture in the Twentieth Century*

Films:

- “Song of Freedom” (with Paul Robeson)
- “Mandabi” (Ousmane Sembene, Senegal)
- “Sugar Cane Alley” (Euzhan Palcy, Martinique)

Assignments:

- 10% Attendance and participation
- 20% Quizzes on readings (top 5 scores of 6 quizzes on readings)
- 9% Map activities
- 10% Midterm exam
- 6% Group discussion
- 10% Group popular-culture presentation
- 10% Term project and presentation (5% on written, 5% on oral versions)
- 25% Final exam — comprehensive essay exam

Class format:

Each class session will have a principal emphasis, listed in the large box for each date, and a secondary emphasis, shown in the smaller box below.

- Among the main emphases will be lectures (usually one per week), presentations on popular culture media by student groups, discussions of the texts led by student groups, and two or three films.
- The secondary emphases include discussions, preparation for class presentation, short lectures, and quizzes on the texts.

Group work:

The class will divide, for certain purposes, into groups of four to five persons. Each group will lead a discussion on one of the assigned books, and it will make one or more presentations on an aspect of popular culture. In addition, it is possible for a group to collaborate in completion of a term project.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1.

Sept. 10	Introduction: Scope and meaning of the African diaspora.
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Reading: W. E. B. DuBois, *The Negro*

Week 2.

Sept. 14	Lecture: Early Africa and colonialism.
	Popular culture presentation: visual arts. Selection of groups.
Sept. 17	Film: "Song of Freedom" (starring Paul Robeson).
	<i>Quiz on DuBois.</i>

Reading: W. E. B. DuBois, *The Negro*

Week 3.

Sept. 21.	Lecture: Popular culture in Africa and the diaspora.
	Groups select activities. <i>Discussion on DuBois and "Song of Freedom."</i>
Sept. 24.	Lecture: Slavery
	Popular culture presentation: Print works. <i>Map 1 (Africa) due in class.</i>

Reading: Patrick Manning, *Slavery and African Life*
 [Sept. 25, 8:00 p.m.. 27th John Coltrane Memorial Concert, Blackman Auditorium]

Week 4.

Sept. 28	Lecture: Social and cultural issues in the era of slavery.
	Discussion: slavery and culture in Africa and diaspora
Oct. 1	<i>Discussion on Manning (Group D).</i>
	<i>Quiz on Manning.</i> <i>Map 2 (Caribbean) due in class.</i>

Reading: Patrick Manning, *Slavery and African Life*

Week 5.

Oct. 5	Lecture: Atlantic world.
	Mini-lecture: African Diaspora on the internet
Oct. 8	Computer lab: African Diaspora on the internet.
	<i>Map 3 (Atlantic) due in class.</i>

Reading: Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative*

Week 6.

Oct. 12	<i>Discussion on Equiano (Group C).</i>
	<i>Quiz on Equiano.</i>
Oct. 15	Midterm exam (covers weeks 1-6).

Reading: Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative*

Week 7.

Oct. 19	Popular culture presentation #1: Group B on religion.
	Discussion: interpreting "connections"
Oct. 22	Lecture: Post-emancipation society.
	Review of midterm exams.

Reading: Richard Powell, *Black Art and Culture*

Week 8.

Oct. 26	Popular culture presentation #2: Group A on literature.
	Mini-lecture: post-emancipation cultural innovations
Oct. 29	<i>Discussion on Powell (Group E)</i>
	<i>Quiz on Powell.</i>

Reading: Richard Powell, *Black Art and Culture*

[Oct. 2. P. Manning - *Stormy Monday* presentation on drums in the African Diaspora]

Week 9.

Nov. 2	Popular culture presentation #3: Group C on cuisine.
	Lecture: New communities.
Nov. 5	Popular culture presentation #4: Group E on dress.
	Lecture: New communities.

Reading: Buchi Emecheta, *Joys of Motherhood*

Week 10.

Nov. 9	<i>Discussion on Emecheta (Group A).</i>
	<i>Quiz on Emecheta.</i>
Nov. 12	Film: "Sugar Cane Alley" (Euzhan Palcy, Martinique).

Reading: Buchi Emecheta, *Joys of Motherhood*

Week 11.

Nov. 16	Popular culture presentation #5: Group D on visual art
	Discussion of "Sugar Cane Alley."
Nov. 19	Lecture: Black popular culture.
	Discussion: interpreting "connections"

Reading: Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*

Week 12.

Nov. 23	<i>Discussion on Gilroy (Group B).</i>
	<i>Quiz on Gilroy.</i>
	Mini-lecture: The Black Atlantic and the African Diaspora.
Nov. 26	No class - Thanksgiving.

Reading: Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*

Week 13. Term papers: views of major issues in the African diaspora

Nov. 30	Term paper presentations.
	Discussion of major issues.
Dec. 3	Term paper presentations.
	Discussion of major issues.

Week 14. Interpreting the African Diaspora

Dec. 7	Review.
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FINAL EXAM.