

The African Diaspora

Spring 2003, Sequence 4 (MTh 1:35-2:40)

Prof. Patrick Manning

Ms.

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

The African diaspora - 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 to maintain 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
- 25% Quizzes on readings (top 5 scores of 7 quizzes on readings)
- 5% Map exercise
- 10% Midterm exam — take-home
- 15% Group work
- 10% Term project — on a medium in popular culture throughout the diaspora
- 10% Book review — from a list of suggestions to be handed out
- 15% Final exam — comprehensive essay exam

Class format:

Mondays will usually center on a lecture by the instructor on the topic for the week. Tuesdays will focus on group presentations on forms of popular culture across the African diaspora. In addition, we will also view three films. Thursdays will usually begin with a quiz on the reading for the week, and will continue with a discussion and presentation of that reading led by a student group.

Group work:

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Africa and the African diaspora (PM=1, TT=2)

- 1) scope of diaspora: demography, language, culture
- 2) meaning of “diaspora”, experience of diaspora’s creation and continuation

March 27 (Thurs.)

Week 2. Popular culture in Africa and the diaspora (PM)

March 31 (Mon). Lecture

April 1 (Tues). Popular culture medium of the week: Visual art (PM)

April 3 (Thurs). Discussion (TT)

Week 3. Early times and Colonialism. (TT)

April 7 (Mon). Lecture

April 8 (Tues). Popular culture medium of the week: Print (TT)

Map Exercise Due

April 10 (Thurs). Quiz and discussion on DuBois (PM)

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

- Week 4. Enslavement: its impact in Africa and the diaspora (PM)
April 14 (Mon). Lecture
April 15 (Tues). Popular culture medium of the week: Music (Group 5)
April 17 (Thurs). Quiz and discussion on Manning (Group 1)
Reading: Patrick Manning, *Slavery and African Life*
Film: “Mandabi” (Ousmane Sembene, Senegal)
- Week 5. The Atlantic World (TT)
April 21 (Mon). Lecture
April 22 (Tues). Popular culture medium of the week: Cuisine (Group 4)
April 24 (Thurs). Quiz and discussion on Equiano (Group 2)
Reading: Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*
- Week 6. Creating post-slavery communities in the diaspora (PM)
April 28 (Mon). Lecture
April 29 (Tues). Popular culture medium of the week: Religious Practices (Group 1)
May 1 (Thurs). Quiz and discussion on Powell (Group 3)
Reading: Richard Powell, *Black Art and Culture in the Twentieth Century*
Film: “Sugar Cane Alley” (Euzhan Palcy, Martinique)
- Week 7. Creating new African communities in the global age (PM)
May 5 (Mon). Lecture
May 6 (Tues). Popular culture medium of the week: Dress/Hairstyles/Body Art (Group 2)
May 8 (Thurs). Quiz and discussion on Emecheta (Group 5)
Reading: Buchi Emecheta, *Joys of Motherhood*
- Week 8. Black popular culture: from survival to leadership (TT)
May 12 (Mon). Lecture
May 13 (Tues). Popular culture medium of the wk: Sport (Group 3)
May 15 (Thurs). Quiz and discussion on Gilroy (Group 4)
Reading: Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*
- Week 9. Connection: Africa, the African diaspora, and beyond (PM and TT)
May 19 (Mon). Lecture
May 20 (Tues). On-line “Heads and Tales” assignment;
May 22 (Thurs). Presentation of Term Projects, pt. 1
Reading: review earlier reading
Film: “Song of Freedom” (starring Paul Robeson)
- Week 10. Presentation of term projects
May 26 (Mon). No class - Memorial Day

May 27 (Tues). Presentation of Term Projects, pt. 2
May 29 (Thurs). Presentation of Term Projects, pt. 3

FINAL EXAM.

GROUPS FOR PRESENTATIONS

Group 1 (discussion of Manning April 17; Religion presentation April 29)

Kaperonis, Demetra
Epiphan, Michael
Kessman, Michael
Alam, Mohammad
Graham, Patrick
Otero, Heather
Hernandez, Katiana
Aliya, Shehu

Group 2 (discussion of Equiano April 24; Body art presentation May 6)

Andrisani, Jim
Cameron, Charles
Schmidt, Lea
Williams, Malinda
Comnas, George
Hargreaves, Lindsay
Richards, Letitia

Group 3 (discussion of Powell May 1; Sport presentation May 13)

Perry, Laura
McCabe, Kevin
Endale, Maraki
McMurray, Hilary
Caine, Jenna
Rohla, Bobby

Group 4 (discussion on Gilroy May 15; Cuisine presentation April 22)

French, Amanda
Coins, Millicent
Vitale, Michael
Jenkins, Tierra
Ames, Bryant
Czerwinski, Lara
Danforth, John

Group 5 (discussion of Emecheta May 8; Music presentation April 15)

Duane, Kelly

Fitzpatrick, Krishna

Morotta, Michael

Gilles, Jean

Luma, Mauricia

Russolino, Laura

Freeddenfeld, Allison