

Department of History, University of Pittsburgh
Required Seminar for Majors: HIST 1001, The African Diaspora
Patrick Manning, Spring Semester 2007
Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:25 p.m., 3701 WWPH

Topic:

This course involves reading and writing on topics on the African Diaspora—that is, the communities of black people throughout Africa, the Americas, Eurasia, and the islands, as they developed through voluntary and especially involuntary migrations, and as they have transformed themselves over the centuries. Papers will focus on topics within Africa and the Atlantic diaspora; some of the reading will extend to the Old World diaspora.

Required Books (these books to be read in Weeks 1 to 5):

Michael Gomez, *Reversing Sail*

George Reid Andrews, *Afro-Latin America*

Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*

Isidore Okpewho and Carol Boyce Davies, eds., *The African Diaspora*

Richard Marius and Melvin Page, *A Short Guide to Writing About History*

Additional Reading:

From Weeks 6 to 12, students will read an article a week, selected from the course bibliography. Each week's article will be selected a week in advance to fit with the direction of class discussion.

Bibliography

Students will receive an extensive bibliography of roughly 200 works, organized topically. The bibliography will assist students in identifying research topics, and will provide context on the full range of issues contained within the history of the African diaspora.

Course Organization:

For the first four weeks, students will read and discuss four major works on the history of the African diaspora, and will explore a selection of works from the course Bibliography. At the end of these four weeks, students should submit a topic for a major paper, of about 25 pages (or 6000-7000 words).

For the next four weeks, students will organize the structure and research for papers, submitting a bibliography and a set of theses defining the topic and the argument of the paper. During these weeks, students will read a guide on writing research papers and will read articles on aspects of the African Diaspora selected as a result of class discussion.

During the remaining six weeks, students will develop aspects of their paper. Class discussion will focus on (1) shared discussion of the problems and achievements of writing these papers, (2) articles selected for common discussion on aspects of the African Diaspora and its history, and (3) broad patterns of continuity and change in the African Diaspora.

Papers will be submitted a week before the end of the semester, and in the last week students will write and present commentaries on two of the other papers.

Course Activities and Grades

Small Written Assignments (30%):

Commentary on Gomez and Andrews (Week 2)
Reports on findings in course Bibliography (Week 3)
Topic (Week 4)
Bibliography (Week 6)
Theses (Week 8)
Diaspora-wide context of paper (Week 10)
Commentary on two papers (Week 14)

Class Discussion (30%)

Discussion of assigned reading and optional reading; discussion of major paper in preparation; responses to commentary from other students.

Major Written Assignment (40%)

Revised paper (Week 13) – 25 pages or 6000-7000 words

Weekly Activities and Reading:

Week 1. (Jan 10)

Read Gomez, *Reversing Sail*

Week 2. (Jan. 17)

Read Andrews, *Afro-Latin America*
Short paper due: commentary on Gomez and Andrews

Week 3. (Jan 24)

Read Gilroy, *TheBlack Atlantic*
Reports due on findings in course Bibliography

Week 4. (Jan 31)

Read Okpewho and Davies, *The African Diaspora*
Topic due

Week 5. (Feb. 7)

Read Marius and Page, *Short Guide to Writing About History*

Week 6. (Feb. 14)

Reading to be selected
Bibliography due

Week 7. (Feb. 21)

Reading to be selected

Week 8. (Feb. 28)

Reading to be selected
Theses due

Spring Recess (Mar. 6)

Week 9. (Mar. 14)
Reading to be selected

Week 10. (Mar. 21)
Reading to be selected
Context due

Week 11. (Mar. 28)
Reading to be selected
Draft paper due

Week 12. (Apr. 4)
Reading to be selected

Week 13. (Apr. 11)
Revised paper due

Week 14. (Apr. 18)
Reading: Read papers of two other students in class.
Commentaries due