

African American History Since 1619

3 CREDIT HOURS

Section 801FS Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Bylczynski, Professor of History

Master of Science in History, Illinois State University, 2006.

Master of Science in Educational Technology, University of Central Missouri, 2012.

Doctor of Education in Community College Leadership, Ferris State University, 2019.

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Office Hours: Sunday 7:30-9:00pm Sunday online

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of African American history from 1619 to present. The African American experience, way of life, and role in shaping American history will be explored.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Collins, Christopher. *African American History*. Skyline College, 2020. [Online Blackboard]

Primary Sources Available on Blackboard

Documents

- Brinch, Boyrereau. "Poor African Slave, to Liberate Freeman, My Tyrants" in *Narrative of Boyrereau Brinch, 1810*
- DuBois, W.E.B. *Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others*, 1903.
- [Campaign for Citizenship Rights](#), 1816-1865
- Hope, John. *Reply to Booker T. Washington*, 1896.
- Boston King, "Memoirs of the Life of Boston King, A Black Preacher," *The Methodist Magazine* 21 (March 1798), 106-10, and 21 (April 1798), 15.
- *The Slave Trade: Accounts of the English, Spanish, and Portuguese*. National Humanities Center Toolbox.
- "Horrors of Racism," 1943 Detroit Race Riot newspaper articles, 1943.
- Washington, Booker T. *Atlanta Exposition Address*, 1895
- Scott, Emmett J. [Negro Migration during the War](#), 1920, Ch. 3-4

COMMUNICATION — HOW TO REACH ME

I'm here to help, and I welcome your questions or concerns at any point during the semester. You can typically expect a response from me within 24 hours, though please allow up to 48 hours.

Please note: all official college communication — between students, faculty, and staff — must go through your Edison email account. This applies in both directions: per school policy, students are also expected to respond to faculty emails within 48 hours.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

A little thoughtfulness goes a long way in written communication. Unlike an in-person

classroom, an online course doesn't give us the benefit of facial expressions, tone of voice, or body language to clarify what we mean. A comment that would come across as lighthearted in person can easily be misread in an email. Take a moment before you hit send to choose your words carefully — it will help ensure your message comes across the way you intend.

COURSE FORMAT

This is a fully online course. Based on the calculations outlined in the Student Catalog, you should plan to dedicate approximately **9 hours per week** to this class.

Source: Edison State Community College Catalog — Important Information to Know

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

Wk	Dates	Topic of Week	Readings	Assignments Due Sundays by 11:59pm unless otherwise stated
1	Aug 24-Aug 30	Getting Started	Module 1-2	Getting Started Assignments Learning Module Ch. 1-2
2	Aug 31-Sept 6	Colonial America	Module 3 Primary Source: Captured excerpts	Learning Module Ch. 3 Period Exam: Early Slavery Primary Source Quiz: Captured
3	Sept 7-Sept 13	The Coming of War	Module 4 Primary Source: Brinch and King	Learning Module Ch. 4 Period Exam: Revolution Era: Primary Source Quiz: Black Soldiers
4	Sept 14-Sept 20	The Rise of Cotton Kingdoms	Module 5 Primary Source: Campaigning	Learning Module Ch. 5 Period Exam: The New Republic Era Primary Source Quiz: Campaigning for Rights
5	Sep 21-Sept 27	Life of A Slave	Module 6-7 Primary Source: <i>Slave Narrative</i>	Learning Module Ch. 6-7 Period Exams: Life as a Slave
6	Sept 28-Oct 4	Antebellum America	Module 8 Primary Source: <i>Slave Narrative</i>	Learning Module Ch. 8 Period Exams: Antebellum Era
7	Oct 5-Oct 11	The Slave Voices	<i>Finish Slave Narrative</i>	Slave Narrative Analysis Paper
8	Oct 12-Oct 18			Discussion Board - Speech due Thursday - Comments due: Sunday
9	Oct 19-Oct 25	The Civil War and Reconstruction	Ch. 9-10	Learning Module Ch. 9-10 Period Exam: The Civil War and Reconstruction Eras
10	Oct 26-Nov 1	the Rise of Jim Crow	Ch. 11 Primary Source: <i>Washington, Hope, WEB DuBois</i>	Learning Module Ch. 11 Period Exams: The Gilded Age Primary Source Quiz: Segregation
11	Nov 2-Nov 8	The Early 20 th Century	Ch. 12 Primary Source: <i>Migration</i>	Learning Module Ch. 12 Period Exam: Progressive Era Primary Source Quiz: Migration
12	Nov 9-Nov 15	1930-1945	Ch. 13 Primary Source:	Learning Module Ch. 13 Period Exam: The 1930s / WWII Era

			<i>"Horrors of Racism"</i>	Primary Source Quiz: Detroit Race Riot
13	Nov 16- Nov 22	Exploring Black Filmmaking		Black Films Analysis
14	Nov 23- Nov 29			Discussion Board - Speech due Wednesday - Comments due: Sunday
15	Nov 30- Dec 6	The Civil Rights Movement	Ch. 14	Learning Module Ch. 14 Period Exams: Civil Rights
16	Dec 7- SAT Dec 12	Ending the 20 th Century	Ch. 15	Learning Module Ch. 15 Period Exam: Modern Era

COURSE GRADE STANDARDS

Learning Modules – 15%
Modules 1-15 Learning Modules
Using AI Ethically in a History Class

Primary Source Analysis Quizzes - 6%
Primary Source Quiz: Black Soldiers
Primary Source Quiz: Campaigning for Rights
Primary Source Quiz: Captured
Primary Source Quiz: Segregation
Primary Source Quiz: Detroit Race Riot
Primary Source Quiz: Migration

Period Exams - 51%
Period Exam: Modern Era
Period Exam: Progressive Era
Period Exam: Revolution Era:
Period Exam: The 1930s / WWII Era
Period Exam: The Civil War and Reconstruction Eras
Period Exam: The New Republic Era
Period Exam: Early Slavery
Period Exams: Antebellum Era
Period Exams: Civil Rights
Period Exams: Life as a Slave
Period Exams: The Gilded Age

Primary Source Projects – 28%
Primary Source Project 1: Slave Narratives

Primary Source Project 2: Black Films				
Assignment	% Of Grade		Grading Scale	
Period Exams	51%		90-100%	A
Primary Source Quizzes	6%		80-89%	B
Primary Source Projects	28%		70-79%	C
Learning Modules	15%		60-69%	D
			Below 60%	F

POLICY STATEMENTS

Course Time Expectations & Late Work Policy

This course is designed for you to succeed as a responsible, self-directed adult learner. Here's what you need to know to stay on track.

Understanding Your Weekly Workload

As a 3-credit course, the catalog specifies 9 hours of class-related work per week. To put that in perspective: you have 168 hours in a week, which gives you ample flexibility to plan around work, family, and other commitments — as long as you start early.

Why this matters: Waiting until the deadline is the single biggest reason students fall behind in this course. I will not be available online in the final hours before a deadline, so if you run into a technical issue or question at the last minute, there won't be time to get help. Planning ahead protects your grade.

Late Work Policy

- A grace period is available: late work may be submitted up until 3 hours with a 10% penalty.
- After that window closes, late work cannot be accepted.
- **Extreme circumstances** (e.g., a death in the family, documented severe illness): if something significant happens, contact me by **Sunday afternoon** so we can discuss options. Reaching out early gives us the best chance to work something out — this exception is reserved for genuine emergencies, not last-minute submissions.

Before You Submit — Please Double-Check

- You are responsible for confirming your submission actually went through, including any confirmation receipt.
- If no submission or receipt is found, the assignment will be recorded as a zero — so please take a moment to verify.
- Submit from a reliable computer and internet connection whenever possible, and don't wait until the last few minutes to upload.

Submission Method

All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard — no exceptions. Emailed assignments

will not receive credit, regardless of the reason, since Blackboard is the only official system for grading and records.

If you need help with an assignment, email me directly — I'm glad to help. Just keep response times in mind: reaching out with plenty of lead time gives us room to work through any questions before the deadline.

Working Ahead

Want to get ahead? Great — you're welcome to start the next week's assignment as soon as you finish the current one. Just complete each week's module fully and in order before moving to the next. Skipping ahead out of sequence will result in a 20% penalty on the assignments completed out of order.

Bottom line: If you know a busy week is coming, plan ahead and get your work done early. A little foresight goes a long way toward protecting your grade and your peace of mind.

Academic Honesty

Trust is the foundation of any healthy learning environment, and honesty is expected in every aspect of this course. Because dishonest practices break down that trust — for you, your classmates, and me — academic integrity isn't optional; it's essential.

What This Means for You

Academic honesty means the work you submit is genuinely your own. You may not submit someone else's work as yours, plagiarize from any source (printed, electronic, or another student's work), or have someone else complete your assignments for you.

What Counts as Plagiarism

It's easy to assume plagiarism only means "copying and pasting," but it covers much more. You are plagiarizing if you:

- Submit someone else's work as your own.
- Purchase a paper from a papermill, website, or any other source.
- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else's work — published or unpublished — without giving credit to the original author. (Direct quotes must be in quotation marks, cited to the exact source location in a footnote, and included on a works cited page.)
- Swap out a few words in someone else's sentence or passage without crediting the original author. *Changing some wording doesn't make the idea yours.*
- Use multimedia — graphics, audio, video, internet streams, computer programs, music, graphs, or charts — created by someone else without giving credit.
- Piece together phrases, sentences, or ideas from multiple sources to construct an essay.
- Build on someone else's idea or phrasing without acknowledging where it came from.
- Submit the same paper for credit in more than one course or section.
- Use AI to generate your answers or written work. (See the Getting Started assignment: *Using AI Ethically*, for guidance on appropriate use.)

Why This Matters

Academic honesty isn't just about avoiding penalties — it's about making sure the work you submit genuinely reflects your own learning and effort. If you're ever unsure whether something crosses the line (paraphrasing, citing a source, or using AI tools appropriately), please reach out to me before submitting. It's always better to ask first.

Testing Your Faith Policy

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records>, located in "Forms" and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources>.