

ICS 11: The Roots of African American Experience

M/W: 1:30 pm – 3:10 pm

Rm: MCC-13

Office: MCC

Office Hours: M/W 10:25am – 11:25am, by appointment

Website: <http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/lewisjulie/>

Course Description:

ICS 11: Roots of the African American Experience is an interdisciplinary course utilizing the award-winning docudrama, *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*. We will explore the African American experience, particularly as it relates to the historical relationship between Western Europeans and slavery, the Civil War, and a broad range of issues relevant to the understanding of the African American experience. Through critical readings, class discussions, and films students will have opportunities to develop an understanding of institutional discrimination, race, gender and sexuality situated within the context of African American life during the time period in which the book details.

Prerequisites: EWRT 100B and READ 91 (or LART 100), or ESL 4 is advised.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the historical relationship between Africans and Western Europeans and its effects on the African American experience.
2. Define key concepts such as race, ethnicity, culture, class, and explain how such concepts function within African American community.
3. Recall and identify how the institution of slavery affected Africans, Europeans and Americans.
4. Recognize and interpret the value of one's cultural heritage and that of others.
5. Recognize and interpret differences between African, African-American and Anglo- American cultures in such areas as art, religion, and philosophy.

Special Needs:

Students with special needs who require reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodation process.

Required Text:

Haley, Alex. *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, 1st ed. (paperback)

Jacobs, Harriett. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Unabridged. (online: Google books)

Required Video/ DVD:

Roots, The Miniseries, 1977.

Media Availability:

Video: The video for this course is Alex Haley's *Roots* mini series. We will NOT be watching the film in class. Each student is responsible for viewing the film on their own time. Each individual disc is available at the Library. To check out videos you must present your valid DASB card. Videos are also available for rental from many libraries and video rental outlets including **Netflix**.

Course Policies

Attendance:

All students are expected to arrive to class on time and leave when class is dismissed. Any student showing up 20 minutes or more late for class will receive an absence for the day. More than **six absences** for the quarter will **lower your final grade** by one letter grade.

Name _____
Email/Phone _____

Name _____
Email/Phone _____

Class Conduct:

Behaviors such as sleeping in class, talking during lectures, **text messaging**, talking on your cell phone, using the internet, listening to music, coming to class under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, asking others to sign in for you, packing up early, and leaving before class is dismissed are signs of **severe disrespect** for one's fellow students, the instructors, and the course materials and will have a detrimental effect on your participation grade and **I will ask you to leave the class immediately**.

Late Assignments:

Late assignment extensions or make-up exams will only be considered after verification of a documented personal or family emergency (i.e. a signed physician's note, etc.)

Add/Drop:

It is the **student's responsibility** to pay close attention to the college's add/drop deadlines.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is failure to provide proper citations and attribute ideas and quotes to the original source. Academic responsibility and integrity is crucial. Examples of a lack of academic integrity include **signing in or other students**, or other kinds of misrepresentation to the professor or to other students. Any demonstration of lack of academic integrity will result in the failure of an assignment and possibly the class.

Class Participation:

All students are expected to engage in respectful and considerate debate in the classroom. The environment will stimulate analysis, challenge paradigms, and raise critical questions. We will maintain a healthy environment by not insulting your peers and/or disrupting the learning process, through abusive and harsh language.

Extra Help

Students are **highly encouraged** to seek help from the professor, teaching assistants, tutoring and **writing assistance** at the Learning Assistance Center. I also encourage you to **come to office hours**.

Assignments:

1. **Book Review/Responses:**

Each student will provide three (3) written reviews/responses to the reading material throughout the course. The responses should analyze the characters, important themes, and issues of the text. The responses should also analyze any connections to contemporary issues within the text.

2. **Museum Experience Project:**

Each student is required to attend The Museum of the African Diaspora located in San Francisco, CA, and write a **4 page** paper on the experience and its relation to the materials learned in the course.

3. **Oral History or Genealogy (Family Tree) Paper:**

Each student will have the option to either interview a person of **African American** descent or research their family tree. You will write a **5-7 page paper** that either analyzes your interviewee's life and compares and contrasts it to the major themes, issues, and concepts learned in the course or details your research findings and compare and contrast it to the major themes, issues, and concepts learned in the course.

4. **In –class (Pop) Quizzes:**

There will be five (5) in-class quizzes given throughout the course pertaining to both the readings and lectures.

5. **Examinations:**

The midterm and final will include multiple choice questions and short answer questions based on course reading, lectures, films, and class discussions.

Grade Distribution

Museum Experience	100 pts.
In-Class Quizzes	50 pts.
Midterm Examination	50 pts.
Book Responses (3)	100 pts. (total)
Final Exam	50 pts.
<u>Oral History/Genealogy Paper</u>	<u>150 pts.</u>
Total	500 pts.

Grading Scale:

A range = 500 – 450 B range = 449 – 400 C range= 399 – 349 D range= 348 – 298 F => 297

Course Schedule:

Weekly assignments are listed below in the following order:

1. Topic(s) of the week
2. Chapters to Read in *Roots* by Alex Haley **or** *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs
4. Roots Video Episodes
5. Assignments

Week 1:

1/3: Introduction to course; Guidelines & Expectations

1/5: Film: *A Conversation with Alex Haley*; Roots of the African American Experience

Read: *Roots* Chapters: 1-15

Week 2:

1/10: Understanding the context of *Roots*; *Oral History/Genealogy Guidelines (Handout)*

1/12: Africa; *Book Response Guidelines (Handout)*

Read: *Roots* Chapters 15-30

Video: Episode 1

Week 3:*

1/17: Martin Luther King Holiday – NO SCHOOL (*Free M0AD Admission*)

1/19: Film: *Africans in America*; Class Discussion

Read: *Roots* Chapters 31-45

Video: Episode 2

Week 4:*

1/24: The Middle Passage; Reading & Discussion: Slave Narratives

1/26: Black people in Early Colonial America

Read: *Roots* Chapters 46-60

***Museum Paper Due 1/26**

Week 5:*

1/31: Rising Expectations: Black slaves & the Struggle for Independence

2/2: Class discussion on Readings

Read: *Roots* Chapters 61-75

Video: Episode 3

*** 1st Book Response Due 2/2**

Week 6:*

2/7: The Revolutionary Era: Crossroads of Freedom

2/9: Life in the Cotton Kingdom

Read: *Roots* Chapters 76-90; *Incidents* Chapters I-X

Video: Episode 4

Week 7:*

2/14: **Midterm**

2/16: Film: *Slavery & the Making of America*, Ep. 3; Class Discussion

Week 8:*

2/21: Free Blacks in Antebellum America

2/23: African Americans in the Reform Era, 1831- 1850

Read: *Roots* Chapters 91-100; *Incidents* Chapters XI-XX

***2nd Book Response 2/23**

Week 9:*

2/28: A Prelude to War

3/2: Civil War & the Promise of Freedom

Video: Episode 5

***Interview/Genealogy Paper Due 3/2**

Week 10:*

3/7: The Meaning of Freedom- The Promise of Reconstruction

3/9: Class Discussion/Activity

Read: *Roots* Chapters 101-110; *Incidents* Chapters XXI-XXX **Video:** Episode 6

Week 11:*

3/14: Film: *Unchained Memories*;

3/16: Discussion on Readings

Read: *Roots* Chapters 111-120; *Incidents* Chapters XXXI-XLI

***3rd Book Response Due 3/16**

Week 12:

3/21: Course Wrap-Up

***Final: Tuesday, March 22nd 1:45 pm -3:45 pm**