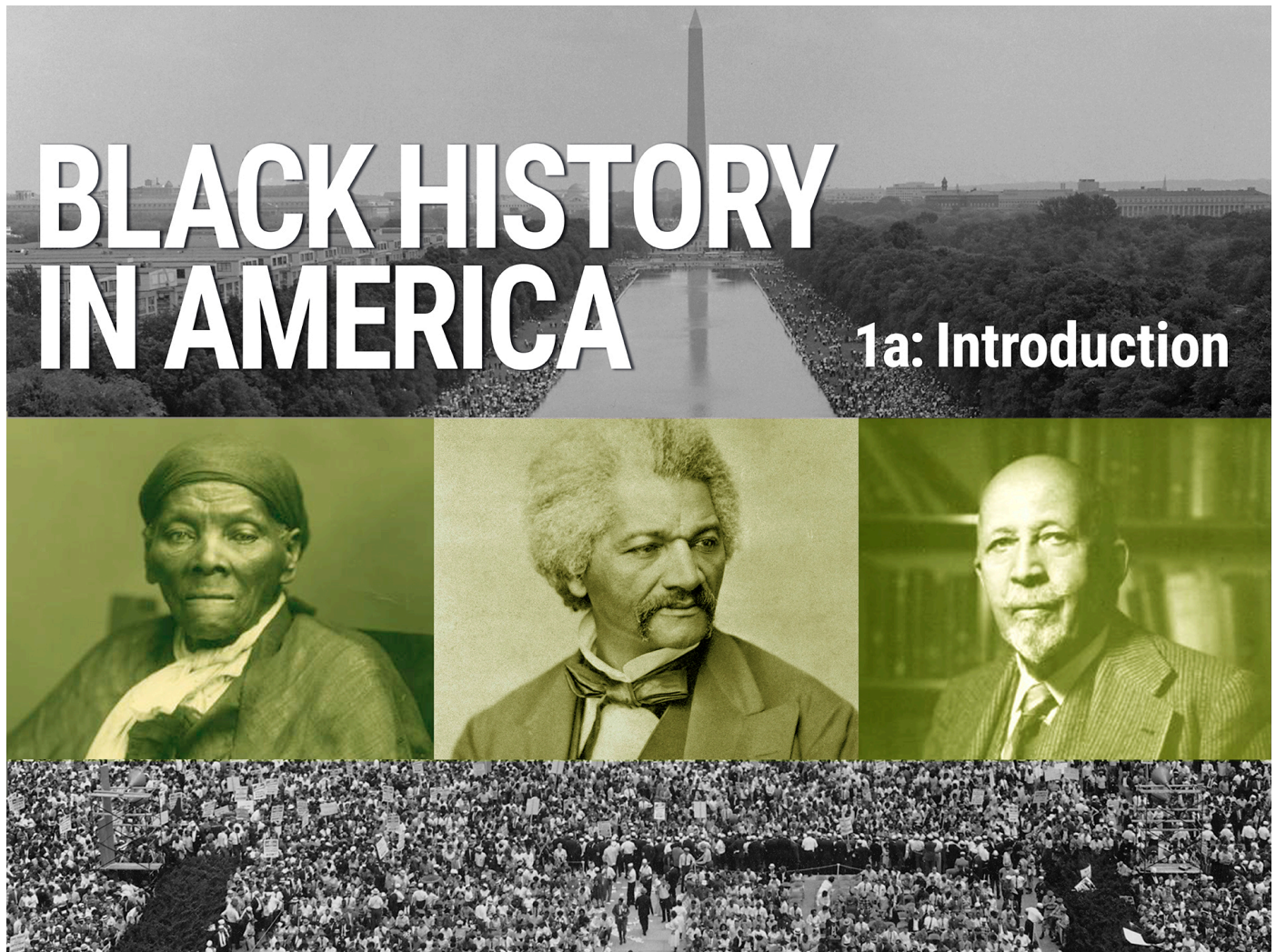


Course Syllabus

What you will learn in this course



Black History in America 1a: Introduction

By examining the stories of brave men and women who persevered, built community and contributed to our nation's goals—sometimes amid great persecution—we can all learn how to pave a brighter future. Learn about the incredible history of Black people who have left a mark on the fabric of the United States to the ways the country has wrestled with its past to understand slavery, emancipation, and the fight for civil rights in our nation.

Unit 1: Black Identity

Black history in America is the rich and complex narrative of what it means to be Black in America as well as the experiences that shape Black identity and contributions that Black Americans have made to their country and the world. It highlights the vibrant expressions of culture that characterize Blackness—from food and music to art and science and so much more. This course explores what representation has and continues to mean for an entire community. In Black History in America, we invite you to take a nuanced journey through the complex

social, political, and economic influences that have shaped the past and present experiences of Black people in America.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Describe the various ways to define Blackness in American society
2. Discuss how assimilation and stereotypes have had effects on Black identity
3. Explore how Blackness is a collective social and cultural marker
4. Consider what it means to be Black in America today

Unit 1 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: What Do We Mean by "Black"?	Lesson
Lesson 02: When Differences Don't Make Us Stronger	Lesson
Lesson 03: One, But Not the Same	Lesson
Lesson 04: Being Black in America Today	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: What Do I Want to Learn?	Submission
Activity 2: How is Modern American Culture Influenced by African Culture?	Submission
Unit 1 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Unit 2: The Shifting View of Citizenship for Black Americans

Whether your family has been in America for generations, or you are new members of our national community, we can all agree that the values of freedom and democracy serve as a beacon of hope for others across the globe. Each year, countless people take steps to create their own version of the American dream and apply for citizenship. But the path to citizenship has almost always been a difficult one, and this is particularly true in the case of Black Americans in the years after slavery. After being freed, it would take centuries of fighting and collaboration before Black people in America could proudly call themselves citizens. Let's explore the long road to citizenship and the shifting perspectives and narratives that made it possible.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain how perceptions of citizenship for Black Americans changed immediately after slavery ended
2. Trace changing perspectives on Black citizenship in the decades after slavery ended
3. Identify regional and demographic differences between various sectors of the Black American population and how these differences impact their political perspectives
4. Discuss the role language and nomenclature have on Black identity

5. Explore Black Americans' diversity of ancestry and its impact on identity and culture

Unit 2 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: We Are All Americans	Lesson
Lesson 02: Reconstruction and Black Politics	Lesson
Lesson 03: Which Side of the Mason-Dixon Line?	Lesson
Lesson 04: What's in a Name?	Lesson
Lesson 05: There is Strength in Diversity	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: How Has Language Changed Over Time?	Submission
Activity 2: How Did the Black Experience Vary by Region?	Submission
Unit 2 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 2 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 2 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Unit 3: African Ancestral History

Did you know that every year, more than 50 million people travel to Africa?^[1] Many people dream of taking a safari or gazing at the pyramids of Giza. Africa has a unique and beautiful cultural history to offer the world. As the second-largest continent on the planet—and the one widely regarded as the cradle of humanity—Africa is also home to numerous diverse ethnic groups. Over the centuries, African societies have developed intricate systems of government, religion, education, art, and trade. It is these systems, as well as the culture and traditions, passed down through generations—even across the perilous middle passage—that form the foundation of Black American history.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain why Africa is often called the “Mother Continent”
2. Explore the early societies in Africa and the natural resources that make Africa unique
3. Discuss the elements of society that were important to ancestral African communities
4. Understand how European and colonial views of Africans were influenced by early explorers
5. Identify commonalities in slavery across the globe prior to the Atlantic slave trade

Unit 3 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: The Mother Continent	Lesson
Lesson 02: Early Societies and Resources	Lesson
Lesson 03: Roots	Lesson
Lesson 04: The "Dark Continent"	Lesson
Lesson 05: Slavery Around the World	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: How Has Slavery Been Practiced Across Human History?	Submission
Activity 2: How Does Pre-Colonial Africa Compare to My Culture?	Submission
Unit 3 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 3 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 3 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Unit 4: The Rise of Chattel Slavery

In many ways, we've been leading up to this topic the whole course. There is an undeniable relationship between colonization and the rise of chattel slavery in the Americas. When European powerhouses such as England, Spain, Portugal, and France—among others—established colonial outposts in the Americas, they created the conditions that led to the emergence and expansion of chattel slavery. Across the African diaspora, the effects of colonization and chattel slavery continue to play a significant role in the culture and identity of the descendants of enslaved Africans. Let's explore more about the cultural, social, political, and economic impacts of colonization and the role that practice played in the wide-spread establishment of chattel slavery in the Americas.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Describe the impact of colonization on the Americas, West Indies, and other areas of the African diaspora
2. Define the transatlantic slave trade and its impact on Black Americans
3. Explain the factors that contributed to the growth and development of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade
4. Identify the factors that contributed to the rise of the plantation system in the South, the development of textile mills in the North, and the economic interdependence between the North and South

Unit 4 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: The Empire Strikes First	Lesson
Lesson 02: The Transatlantic Slave Trade	Lesson
Lesson 03: Factors That Influenced the Transatlantic Slave Trade	Lesson
Lesson 04: The Silent Agreement	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: How Were the West Indies Colonized?	Submission
Activity 2: How Could Math Help Me Re-Evaluate My Conclusions?	Submission
Unit 4 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 4 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 4 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Midterm Exam

1. Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
2. Take a course exam based on material from the **first half** of the course (**Note:** You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Midterm Exam Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Midterm Exam	Multiple Choice
Midterm Discussion	Discussion

Unit 5: Migration and Finding Community

If you've ever been to cities like Chicago, Detroit, New York City, or Philadelphia, you'll know that a major part of the culture of those cities is due to the contribution of countless Black Americans. But how did we get from the days of slavery to a point where Black Americans were in the North? The Great Migration is how. It had an undeniable impact on Black identity and culture. When thousands of Black people flocked to cities in the North, not only did they change the landscape of America, but they redefined and expanded the idea of the American dream.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the causes and effects of forced and voluntary migration on the Black American community
2. Discuss the economic and social conditions that contributed to the Great Migration
3. Examine the impact the Great Migration had on Black identity and culture
4. Trace the historical and ongoing impact of environmental changes on the Black community in America

Unit 5 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: Coming to America	Lesson
Lesson 02: The Great Migration	Lesson
Lesson 03: Black Excellence	Lesson
Lesson 04: Moving On Up	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: How Can I Use Maps to Communicate About History?	Submission
Activity 2: What Have I Learned So Far?	Submission
Unit 5 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 5 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 5 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Unit 6: Independence, Abolition, and Emancipation (1776–1865)

Independence, abolition, and emancipation: what do they have in common? Each of these events in American history are centered around an idea that is wholly American—freedom. And each event reminded the nation of its promise of liberty and justice for all. From 1776 through 1865, the United States had a complicated relationship with the idea of freedom and how equally that principle was applied to people living within its shores. In this unit, we'll learn how independence, the abolitionist movement in the United States, and the eventual emancipation of enslaved people helped to shape the country's future toward fulfilling its founding principles and ensuring freedom, equality, and justice for all its citizens.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the economic, social, religious, and legal rationalizations and ramifications of slavery in the United States
2. Describe the impact of the Three-Fifths Compromise and the Fugitive Slave Act
3. Analyze how slavery and opposition to slavery impacted the development of nationalism and sectionalism in the United States
4. Examine the individuals and groups that aided abolition efforts in the United States

Unit 6 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: The Long Road to Freedom	Lesson
Lesson 02: The Three-Fifths Compromise and Fugitive Slave Act	Lesson
Lesson 03: How Slavery Shaped the Nation	Lesson
Lesson 04: The American Abolitionist Movement and Emancipation	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: How Did Abolition Come About in the United States?	Submission
Activity 2: What Can We Learn from Historical Justifications of Slavery?	Submission
Unit 6 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 6 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 6 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Unit 7: Economic Opportunities and Challenges

Imagine if you had just been freed from slavery. Where would you go? What would you do? What skills could help you earn a living? Once free, Black Americans began a long and ongoing journey to establish economic opportunities for their community. In this unit we can follow the journey of a group of people who, despite discrimination and hardship, worked to build businesses, develop financial markets, and carve out a better life for themselves and their descendants.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the impact of the Industrial Revolution, King Cotton, and the cotton gin on the American and global economy
2. Discuss how sharecropping and redlining limited economic opportunities for Black Americans
3. Consider the importance of generational wealth on Black Americans' opportunities for economic mobility
4. Analyze how the American labor movement and unionism affected Black Americans
5. Describe the rise and development of Black businesses and entrepreneurship as well as their contributions to the American economy

Unit 7 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: A Complex Relationship with Cotton	Lesson
Lesson 02: The Journey to Economic Freedom	Lesson
Lesson 03: Economic Mobility	Lesson
Lesson 04: Organizing for a Cause	Lesson
Lesson 05: Black Business Ventures	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: How Do Policies Like Redlining Affect Economic Opportunities?	Submission
Activity 2: How Can I Evaluate Solutions?	Submission
Unit 7 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 7 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 7 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Unit 8: The Push and Pull of Political Decisions

In many ways, the creation of our nation was beautiful and inspiring. It represented the will of the people to govern and free themselves from tyranny. But like all creations, the founding of our nation was far from perfect. In this unit, we'll discuss the founding of our country, the path to freedom for all, and the ways Black Americans have worked to make the United States a country they can be proud to call their home.

What will you learn in this unit?

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the impact of the founding documents on the Black American's political journey to freedom and beyond
2. Discuss the complicated relationships Black Americans have with the founding fathers, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson
3. Explore Abraham Lincoln's evolving views on Black Americans and how they impacted the Emancipation Proclamation
4. Describe how Black Americans have worked to change or influence politics throughout American history

Unit 8 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Lesson 01: A Complicated History	Lesson
Lesson 02: The Founding Fathers	Lesson
Lesson 03: Abraham Lincoln and the Enslaved	Lesson
Lesson 04: Influencing a Nation	Lesson
Critical Thinking Questions	Submission
Activity 1: How Have the America's Founding Documents Influenced the Country Over Time?	Submission
Activity 2: What Did I Get from This Course?	Submission
Unit 8 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 8 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 8 Quiz	Multiple Choice

Final Exam

1. Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
2. Take a course exam based on material from the **second half** of the course (**Note:** You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Final Exam Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Final Exam	Multiple Choice
Final Discussion	Discussion

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1. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1193505/monthly-international-tourist-arrivals-in-africa/> ↵