OVERVIEW

This course is an introduction to the history of the African diaspora, a working definition of which is the history of the dispersal of Africans and their descendants throughout much of the world. From antiquity, such populations and communities have made their way through the realms of the Mediterranean and Europe, the central Islamic lands, Asia, and the Americas. At times their movement has been voluntary; often it was compelled. Throughout their long history, Africans have been both conqueror and conquered, slaveholder and enslaved. In all circumstances, they have made significant and lasting contributions to the economies and cultures of the societies into which they were introduced.

We will attempt to follow the progression of this diaspora, in effect a series of diasporas, both temporally and thematically. Our queries are multiple: What were the conditions that led to their dispersals? What were the circumstances under which Africans were received? If introduced
under conditions of inequality, what are the legacies of those inequalities? How was the fabric of the society in question altered? What have been the cultural manifestations of the African presence? How have technologies and industries been impacted by their contributions? How have notions of collective identity changed over time? To what extent have the experiences throughout the African diaspora converged/diverged?

All assigned readings should be prepared prior to class to fully engage the learning experience. However, assigned readings are designed to complement the weekly lectures and recitations, providing continuity, context, and interaction. Student attendance is therefore expected.

All books for purchase are also on reserve in Bobst. All assigned readings not available for purchase will be made available electronically.

**Grade Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Response papers are to be 3-4pp in length (double-spaced, normal font) and argumentative. Assignments will be issued every two to three weeks, and will be graded on an A-F scale. *All assignments must be completed to pass the course.*

**Policies**

**Recording and Transcription:** Audiotaping and other methods of mechanized recording are not permitted unless authorized by the professor.

**Late Work:** Any work submitted after the particular due date will suffer the loss of one whole grade. *Late work will not be accepted once the Final Exam Period begins.*

**Probity:** Violations of academic probity will meet with a response in conformity with official university policy. See attached addenda on academic guidelines and integrity.

**Objectives**

As a result of completing History V55.0532, each student will have:

- demonstrated a familiarity with the historical development of the African Diaspora.
- critically read primary texts.
- successfully written analytical response papers.
- successfully completed a final examination.

**NYU Classes**

Please regularly consult NYU Classes for syllabi, addenda, assignments, and all information
pertinent to the course.

**Lecture Schedule:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45am

**Lecture Location:** 12 Waverly, Room G08

**Recitation Preceptors, Meeting Times, and Locations (all meet on Wednesdays):**

002 (Allison Korinek): 8:00-9:15am, Silver 506
003 (Allison Korinek): 9:30-10:45am 25 West 4th, C3
004 (Wendi Muse): 12:30-1:45pm, Tisch Hall LC1
005 (Wendi Muse): 2:00-3:15pm, Tisch Hall LC5
006 (Alison Okuda): 12:30-1:45pm, Tisch Hall LC4
007 (Alison Okuda): 2:00-3:15pm, Tisch Hall LC2

**LECTURE SCHEDULE**

**Sept 2 (Wed)**

Classes Begin at NYU

**Sept 3**

Assigned Reading: Gomez, *Reversing Sail*, 1-17
William Leo Hansberry, *African and Africans as Seen by Classical Writers* (excerpts)


**Sept 7**

Labor Day – No Classes

**Sept 8 and 10**

Assigned Reading: Gomez, *Reversing Sail*, 18-28
*Kebrê Negest* (or *The Queen of Sheba*)

Further Reading: St. Clair Drake, *Black Folk Here and There: An Essay in History*
and Anthropology, 2 vols.; Steven Kaplan, The Beta Israel (Falasha) in Ethiopia: From Earliest Times to the Twentieth Century; Sergew Hable Sellassie, Ancient and Medieval Ethiopian History to 1270; Donald N. Levine, Greater Ethiopia: The Evolution of a Multietnic Society; Cain Hope Felder, Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class, and Family; Charles B. Copher, Black Biblical Studies: An Anthology of Charles B. Copher; James Cone, For My People: Black Theology and the Black Church.

Documentary: Wonders of the African World

Sept 15 and 17
The Classical Islamic World and Africa
Assigned Reading: Gomez, Reversing Sail, 29-45
Alexander Popović, The Revolt of African Slaves in Iraq in the 3rd/9th Century (excerpts)
Music: North Africa and Egypt; Gnawa

Sept 22 and 24
Africans in the Islamic Imagination and Experience
Assigned Reading: Gomez, Reversing Sail, 45-55
John Hunwick and Eve Troutt Powell, eds., The African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam (excerpts)
Documentary: Saints and Spirits

Sept 29 and Oct 1
Global Slave Trades
Assigned Reading: Gomez, Reversing Sail, 59-81
Robert J. Allison, ed., The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano
Further Reading: Michael A. Gomez, Exchanging Our Country Marks Joseph E.

Oct 6 and 8
Assigned Reading: Slavery and Resistance in the Americas
Gomez, Reversing Sail, 82-108
Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Oct 13
Legislative Day- No Class

Oct 15
Assigned Reading: Slavery and Resistance in the Americas (cont.)
Gomez, Reversing Sail, 109-141
Esteban Montejo, Biography of a Runaway Slave
The Diary of Thomas Thistlewood, excerpts
Further Reading: Nancy Prince, A Black Woman's Journey through Russia and Jamaica; Carolyn Fick, The Making of Haiti; Sterling Stuckey, Slave Culture: Nationalist Theory and the Foundations of Black America; C.L.R. James, The Black Jacobins; Toussaint Louverture and the San Domingo Revolution; Hilary Beckles and Verene Shepherd, Caribbean Freedom: Society and Economy from Emancipation to the Present; Mavis Campbell, The Maroons of

Film
Sankofa

Oct 20 and 22
Assigned Reading:
Gomez, Reversing Sail, 141-161
W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk (excerpts)
Verene Shepherd and Hilary McD. Beckles, eds., Caribbean Freedom, 12-20, 132-140, 192-214, 238-244, 274-283 (excerpts)

Further Reading:
W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction; Ada Ferrer, Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898; Aline Helg, Our Rightful Share: The Afro-Cuban Struggle for Equality, 1886-1912;

Music:
Negro Spirituals, Blues, and Gospel

Oct 27 and 29
Assigned Reading:
Gomez, Reversing Sail, 162-175
Irma Watkins-Owens, Blood Relations: Caribbean Immigrants of the Harlem Community
LeRoi Jones, Blues People, (excerpts)

Further Reading:
Documentary:  
*Ilê Aiyê*

Music:  
Negro Spirituals, Blues, and Gospel

**Nov 3 and 5**  
**Assigned Reading:**  
Gomez, *Reversing Sail*, 175-192  
Irma Watkins-Owens, *Blood Relations*  
Amy Jacques-Garvey, *Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey* (excerpts)

**Further Reading:**  

**Documentary:**  
*Against the Odds*

**Music:**  
The Progression of Jazz

**Nov 10 and 12**  
**Assigned Reading:**  
Gomez, *Reversing Sail*, 193-203  
Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

**Further Reading:**  

**Film:**  
*Daughters of the Dust*

**Music:**  
Genres from Latin America and the Caribbean

**Nov 17**  
**Assigned Reading:**  

Carlos D. Bustamante, et al., “Genome-wide patterns of populations structure and admixture in West Africans and African Americans,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 107(2) 12 January 2010: 786-91
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2818934/


http://rd.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00439-006-0261-7#page-1

Further Reading:

Chris Stringer, *Lone Survivors: How We Came to be the Only Humans on Earth* (Times Books, 2012)

Fatimah Jackson, “Ethnogenetic Layering (EL): an alternative to the traditional race model in human variation and health disparity studies,” *Annals of Human Biology* 35(2) 2008: 121-44
http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03014460801941752

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3257290/


http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2675968/

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3056271/
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3009670/

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2712685/

Nov 19, Dec 1 and 3  
**Assigned Reading:**  
Diaspora and the Politics of North America  
- Gomez, *Reversing Sail*, 203-219  
- Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

**Documentary:**  
- TBA

**Music:**  
- Music and Politics

Dec 8 and 10  
**Assigned Reading:**  
Diaspora as a More Recent Phenomenon  
- Adichie, *Americanah*


**Media:**  
- An African City

Dec 15  
**Assigned Reading:**  
Diaspora as a More Recent Phenomenon (cont.)  
- Adichie, *Americanah*

Miriam Jiménez Román and Juan Flores, *The Afro-Latin@ Reader: History and Culture in the United States*, excerpts

**Further Reading:**  

**Film:**  
- Negrita (o *Chocó o Blacks in Latin America*)

Dec 16  
**Reading Day**

Dec 17 thru 23  
**Fall Semester Exams**