

NYU DC

SCA-UA XXXX – DC1 (XXXX)

Black Lives Writing Washington, DC Spring 2022

Instructor Information

- Room TBD
- Office Hours TBD

Course Information

- SCA-UA TBD
- Black Lives Writing Washington, DC
 - Location TBD
 - MW 3.00pm-4.15pm

Course Overview and Goals

This course analyzes writing from 1845 to the present, surveying African American history and literature beginning with the writings of Frederick Douglass and the Harlem Renaissance writers that originate from Washington, DC's Howard University (Zora Hurston and Alain Locke). From this historical foundation, the course will move to examine issues of race and caste from Ta-Nehisi Coates' memoir *Between the World and Me*, a text that focuses on the death of Coates' Howard classmate at the hands of police. In addition to the selected texts, the course will use the location of Washington, DC as a resource, visiting sites related to course content, including the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Howard University, the National Museum of African-American Culture and History and the Martin Luther King Memorial Site. ***Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:***

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- To understand key events and concepts from a survey of African American history in the United States and Washington, D.C.;
- To

- understand key issues related to the Black Lives Matter Movement in the context of African-American history and literature; • To identify selected African-American writers affiliated with Washington, D.C..
- To identify Washington, D.C. landmarks related to African-American history and culture

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- Asch, Chris M. & Musgrove, George D., *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital* (2017)
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi, *Between the World and Me* (2015) • Mengestu, Dinaw, *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* (2008)

Excerpts Provided by Course Instructor on BrightSpace

- Gates, Henry L. & Smith, Valerie A. (Eds.). *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, 3rd Edition, Volume 1* (2014) • Gates, Henry L. & Smith, Valerie A. (Eds.). *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, 3rd Edition, Volume 2* (2014) • Jones, Edward P., *Lost in the City Stories* (2012)
- Roberts, F.L. BlackLivesMatterSyllabus.com
- Rothstein, Richard, "[The Black Lives Next Door](#)", *New York Times*, [Aug. 14, 2020](#)
- Wilkerson, Isabel, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* (2020)

Course Site Visits

- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
- Howard University (Bunche Center & Founders, Mooreland Spingarn Libraries)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
- National Museum of African-American Culture and History

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Resources

- Access your course materials: [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- Databases, journal articles, and more: [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing: [NYU Writing Center](http://nyuwritingcenter.com)

Grade Assessment

Site Visit Reflection Journals 40 points
Quizzes/Discussion Prep (Total of 6): 60 points
Essay #1 (5-7 pages) & Outline Worksheet 100 points
Essay #2 (5-7 pages) & Outline Worksheet 100 points
Mid-Term Exam 100 points
Final Exam 100 points
Total 500 points

Course Assignments

Site Visit Reflection Journal:

In addition to reading and course discussion, the class will visit four sites in Washington, DC throughout the course. A written assignment collected in a digital reflection journal is required for each field trip (40 points)

Quizzes/Discussion Prep:

Quizzes are multiple choice and will ask basic questions on selected novels and texts. In addition, for all texts, students should come prepared with 2-3 discussion questions prepared in advance of class on weekly course content. The pre-planned discussion questions will be collected with the every quiz. There are a total of 7 quizzes in the course. Each quiz is 10 points each. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped, for a total of 6 quizzes (60 points).

Course Essays:

Students will write a mid-term research paper and a final research paper. The essays are 5-7 pages, double spaced, 12-point font. The topics of the essay will be outlined in Brightspace and reflect topics related to our course. (100 points each)

Mid-Term & Final Exam:

In the middle and at the end of the semester, there will be a take home/open essay exam to assess the culminating learning outcomes of the course. Exams will include essay questions, assessing knowledge and understanding of key historical events, themes and concepts discussed throughout the course. (100 points each)

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
A	4.00	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
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D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.00	65-66
F	.00	Below 65

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week #	Date	Unit Topic & Planned Site Visits	Readings Discussed in Class this Week	Assignments Due This Week
1	January 26	Course Introduction		
2	Jan. 31 & Feb. 2	UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN WASHINGTON, DC	<i>Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital</i> , Chapter 2	
3	Feb. 7 & 9		<i>Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital</i> , Chapter 3 Selected Readings and Biographies of Frederick Douglass in <i>Norton Afr-Am Anthology Volume 1</i>	2/9: Quiz #1 on Weekly Readings
4	Feb. 14 & 16	<i>Wednesday Site Visit to Home of Frederick Douglass</i>	<i>Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital</i> , Chapter 4	Essay #1 Topic & Outline Due, Thursday, 11.59pm
5	Feb. 21 & 23	UNIT 2: FROM HOWARD TO HARLEM: INTRO TO THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE SHAPED BETWEEN	Selected Readings and Biographies of Alain Locke and Langston Hughes in	2/21: Site Visit Journal Reflection

		<u>WASHINGTON, DC AND NEW YORK</u>	<i>Norton Afr-Am Anthology Volume 1</i>	2/23: Quiz #2 on Weekly Readings
6	Feb 28 & Mar. 2		Selected Readings and Biographies of Zora Neal Hurston and Toni Morrison in <i>Norton Afr-Am Anthology Volume 1</i>	3/2: Quiz #3 on Weekly Readings Essay #1 Due, Thursday, 11.59pm
7	Mar. 7 & 9	<i>Wednesday Site Visit to Howard University, hosted by the Center for HBCU Research, followed by optional dinner at Busboys & Poets Cafe</i>	Selected Readings from <i>Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital,</i> Chapter 5	Mid-Term Exam Due, Thursday, 11.59pm
8	March 14-20	SPRING BREAK		
9	March 21 & 23	<u>UNIT III: NARRATIVES ON RACE, CASTE AND DIFFERENCE</u>	Selected Reading from Caste by Isabelle Wilkerson <i>Between the World and Me</i> by T. Coates	3/21: Site Visit Journal Reflection 3/23: Quiz #4 on Weekly Readings
10	March 28 & 30		<i>Between the World and Me</i> by T. Coates	
11	April 4 & 6	<u>UNIT IV: THE ROAD TO WASHINGTON: BLACK MARCHES AND MOVEMENTS IN THE US</u> <i>Wednesday Site Visit to Martin Luther King Memorial</i>	<i>Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital,</i> Chapter 10	4/4: Quiz #5 on Weekly Readings

11	April 11 & 13		<p><i>Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital</i>, Chapter 11</p> <p>R. Rothstein's NYT article: "Black Lives Next Door"</p>	4/11: Site Visit Journal Reflection
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			Selected Essays from: BlackLivesMatterSyllabus.com	
12	April 18 & 20		Selected short stories from: <i>The Lost City Stories</i> by E.P. Jones	4/18: ESSAY #2 Topic & Outline Due 4/20: Quiz #6 on Weekly Readings
13	April 25 & 27	<u>UNIT V: DC AFRICAN DIASPORA & MIGRATION</u>	<i>The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears</i> by D. Mengestu	4/25: Quiz #7 on Weekly Readings
14	May 2 & 4	<i>Wednesday Site Visit to Smithsonian National Museum of African American Heritage and Culture followed by optional dinner at Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant</i>	<i>The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears</i> by D. Mengestu	
15	May 9	Course Reflections & Conclusion (Monday, 5/9)		Site Reflection and Essay #2 Due, Monday, 11.59pm

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can

cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students' semester grades.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade (for courses that meet once per week; for courses that meet twice per week, it is a one percent reduction per missed class).

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must use the online absence reporting form within 24 hours of their first missed class. Students may be required to produce a

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doctor's note with that day's date, especially if the student has missed any classes already that semester or if exams/presentations/papers occurred in the missed class.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Staff at least 7 days before the missed date(s) in question. If faculty members do not receive notification of an excused absence, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each lecturer to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/ or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave Washington, DC before the end of the finals week.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

Late Assignment

- 1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- 2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed.
- 3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
- 4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- 5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.
- 6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.
- 7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

Incomplete Grade Policy

An “incomplete” is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of “incomplete,” present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

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In order for a grade of “incomplete” to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site’s academic office. The submitted form must include a deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University’s policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you **MUST** inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Religious Observances

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

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Students must notify their professor and the Washington, DC Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.

