

Western University
 Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research
 Department of History
 2015

WS 3330G & History 3296F/G: *Race, Gender, and Migration: The History of Black Women in Canada*

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Stuart Taylor

Online

The history of Black women in Canada is often overlooked, ignored, and neglected. Black women have been pushed to the periphery of Canadian historiography as their stories – and voices – are erased from the mainstream Canadian narrative. This interdisciplinary course will explore the history of Black women in Canada from slavery to the twenty-first century. The course will emphasize the history and the intersectionality of race, gender, and class. It will examine concepts of transnationalism, migration, and diaspora in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the West Indies as it relates to Black women.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop a historical understanding of Black women in Canada.
2. To “re-think” and “re-write” the place of Black women in Canadian history and Canadian society.
3. To engage in and develop knowledge of the Canadian historical narrative and immigration history in Canada.
4. To learn how to disseminate academic knowledge, analysis, and critical thought to the general public.
5. To view Black women and Black immigrant women in Canada as equal partners in the Canadian “cultural mosaic.”
6. To understand the role race, gender, class, and migration played in Canadian nation-building and present-day Canadian society.
7. To explore and engage in the interdisciplinary nature of the social sciences as it relates to the study and history of marginalized women in Canada.
8. To engage in methods of historical research methods including oral history and analyzing textual and visual primary documents at the upper-year undergraduate level.
9. To apply diverse theoretical models of analysis.
10. To gain critical thinking, develop oral and written communication, and encourage argumentative and analytical skills.

Course Evaluations:

Weekly Participation:	20%
Blog Posts:	30%
Research Proposal:	5%
Research Essay:	35%
Research Presentation:	10%

Course Evaluation Details:

Weekly Participation: As this is an online course, students are required to participate in ongoing class discussions via social media. The course will have its own designated Twitter hashtag, and students will be marked on the frequency (and quality) of their tweets/re-tweets/favourites. Students also have the opportunity to post newspaper/magazine/blog articles of current events and topics on Black women in Canada to the course blog and comment on the week's course material.

Blog Posts: Each week students are required to submit blog posts on the week's material. Blog posts will be brief (250-500 words); however, students must critically engage with the week's readings and provide original and thought-provoking analysis. The students' academic arguments must be accessible to a mainstream audience.

Research Proposal, Essay, and Presentation: Students will write a 10-12 page essay on a topic of their choice related to the course content – pending approval from the instructor. Each student must present their work in a 5 minute presentation that will be uploaded to the course blog/YouTube during the week of submission. Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible during their presentations.

Students must submit a 1 page proposal of their research topic, which includes their thesis and arguments.

***** Note: All submitted assignments must be double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman or similar font. *****

Required Texts (Available for Purchase Online)

Cooper, Afua. *The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal*. Toronto: Harper Collins, 2006

Hill, Lawrence. *The Book of Negroes*. Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 2007.

Wane, Njoki Nathani, Katerina Deliovsky and Eric Lawson. *Back to the Drawing Board: African-Canadian Feminisms*. Toronto: Sumach Press, 2002.

Course Policies:

Email: Please feel free to contact me by e-mail with any and all questions and concerns about the course and I will try to respond as quickly as possible.

Participation Etiquette: Students must be respectful of their colleagues and should do everything in their power to avoid ad hominem arguments/attacks, particularly as this is an online class. Trolling is strictly prohibited.

Submitting Assignments: It is the expectation that students will submit assignments by the assigned dates; in the event that this expectation cannot be met, students are advised that the policies and practices of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Science will be followed.

Plagiarism: "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking"

"Recycling" Assignments: "You cannot submit assignments in History 3296F/G-WS 3330G submitted or prepared for another course, at Western or elsewhere, unless you have explicit permission in writing in advance from both professors to do so."

Late Policy: All assignments are due by 4pm on the specified date. Students will be deducted 3% per late day unless granted an extension (in extraordinary circumstances) in a reasonable amount of time prior to the due date. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks following the due date.

Accommodation for Medical Illness: Please see the following link for Western's official policy on accommodation for medical illness.

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Support Services: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Here is the link to the official policy:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>

Turnitin.com: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com."

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>

Academic Offences: Students are directed to the following link that outlines what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Course Schedule

Week 1: *Introduction and “How-to-Read” lesson*

Week 2: *Aminata Diallo: Black Women in Historical Fiction*

Hill, Lawrence. *The Book of Negroes*. Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 2007.

Film: “*Sisters in the Struggle*”

http://www.nfb.ca/film/sisters_in_the_struggle/

Film: “*Everybody’s Children*”

http://www.nfb.ca/film/everybodys_children

Week 3: *Black Canada: A Historical Overview*

Hill, Daniel G. *The Freedom-Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada*. Agincourt, Canada: Book Society of Canada, 1981.

Walker, James W. St. G. “Allegories and Orientations in African-Canadian Historiography: The Spirit of Africville.” *Dalhousie Review* 77 (1997): 155-178.

Recommended Readings:

Alexander, Ken and Alvis Glaze. *Towards Freedom: The African-Canadian Experience*. Toronto: Umbrella Press, 1996.

Week 4: *A History of Canadian Immigration*

Arat-Koc, Sedef. “Gender and Race in ‘Non-discriminatory’ Immigration Policies in Canada: 1960s to the Present.” In *Scratching the Surface: Canadian Anti-Racist Feminist Thought*, edited by Enakshi Dua and Angela Robertson, 207-233. Toronto: Women’s Press, 1999.

Knowles, Valerie. *Strangers at Our Gates: Canadian Immigration and Immigration Policy, 1540-1997*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2007. (Chapters 2, 4, 6 & 12)

Week 5: *Gender, Race and Migration*

Bannerji, Himani. *The Dark Side of The Nation: Essays on Multiculturalism, Nationalism and Gender*. Canadian Scholars’ Press, 2000. (Chapter 2)

Espin, Oliva. *Women Crossing Boundaries*. New York: Routledge, 1999. (Introduction)

Recommended Reading:

Creese, Gillian, *The New African Diaspora in Vancouver: Migration, Exclusion, and Belonging*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011. (Introduction, Chapter 5)

Wong, Madeleine. "Ghanaian Women in Toronto's Labour Market: Negotiating Gendered Roles and Transnational Household Strategies." *Canadian Ethnic Studies Journal* 32 (2000): 45-75.

Week 6: Black Feminist Thought

Wane, Njoki Nathani and Notisha Massaquoi. *Theorizing Empowerment: Canadian Perspectives on Black Feminist Thought*. Toronto: Inanna Publications and Education, 2007. (Wane and Neegan, Amoah, Crawford, Wane "African Women and Canadian History," Madibbo, Reece, Conclusion)

-----, Katerina Deliovsky and Eric Lawson. *Back to the Drawing Board: African-Canadian Feminisms*. Toronto: Sumach Press, 2002. (Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 5 & 7)

Recommended Readings:

Bobb-Smith, Yvonne. *I Know Who I Am: A Caribbean Woman's Identity in Canada*. Toronto: Women's Press, an imprint of Canadian Scholars' Press Inc., 2003.

Hill-Collins, Patricia. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1990.

hooks, bell. *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*. Boston: South End Press, 1981.

-----, *Rock My Soul: Black People and Self-Esteem*. New York: Atria Books, 2003.

-----, *Sisters of the Yam: Black Women and Self-Discovery*. Toronto: Between the Lines, 1993.

-----, *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*. Boston: South End Press, 1989.

Week 7: Black Women and Slavery in Canada

Cooper, Afua. *The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal*. Toronto: Harper Collins, 2006.

Drew, Benjamin. *The Refugee; or, the Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada. Related by Themselves, with an Account of the History and Condition of Colored Population of Upper Canada. Coles Canadiana Collection*. Toronto: Coles Publishing Co., 1972. (Introduction, Harriet Tubman, Mrs. Nancy Howard, Sophia Pooley, Mrs. John Little, London, Buxton, Dresden/Dawn)

Week 8: Nineteenth and early twentieth century Black Women in Canada

Bristow, Peggy. *"We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up:" Essays in African Canadian Women's History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994. (Chapters 2, 3, 4 & 5)

Wane, Njoki Nathani, Katerina Deliovsky and Eric Lawson. *Back to the Drawing Board: African-Canadian Feminisms*. Toronto: Sumach Press, 2002. (Chapter 4)

Recommended Reading:

Rhodes, Jane. *Mary Ann Shadd Cary: The Black Press and Protest in the Nineteenth Century*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.

Week 9: *Black Women and Racial Discrimination in Canada in the early to mid-twentieth century*

Backhouse, Constance. "I Was Unable to Identify With Topsy": Carrie M. Best's Struggle Against Racial Segregation in Nova Scotia, 1942." *Atlantis* 22 (1988): 16-26.

Walker, Barrington. *The African Canadian Legal Odyssey: Historical Essays*. Toronto: Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 2012. (Introduction, Chapters 4, 7 & 8)

Recommended Reading:

Mills, Sean. *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2010. (Chapter 4)

Week 10: *The Emigrant Ambassadors: The Black West Indian Nurses and Domestic Workers in Canada*

Calliste, Agnes. "Women of 'Exceptional Merit': Immigration of Caribbean Nurses to Canada." *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* 6 (1993): 85-99.

Lawson, Erica. "The Gendered Working Lives of Seven Jamaican Women in Canada: A Story about 'Here' and 'There' in a Transnational Economy." *Feminist Formations* 25 (2013): 138-156.

Recommended Reading:

Flynn, Karen. "'I'm Glad That Someone is Telling the Nursing Story': Writing Black Canadian Women's History." *Journal of Black Studies* 38 (2008): 443-460.

Henry, Frances. "The West Indian Domestic Scheme in Canada." *Social and Economic Studies* 17 (1968): 83-91.

Silvera, Makeda. *Silenced: Talks with Working Class Caribbean Women about their Lives and Struggles as Domestic Workers in Canada (revised edition)*. Toronto: Sista Vision: Black Women and Women of Colour Press, Canada, 1989.

Week 11: *Longing for Home: Black Immigrant Women in Exile*

Matsuoka, Atsuko and John Sorenson. "Eritrean Canadian Refugee Households As Sites of Gender Renegotiation." In *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*, edited by Doreen Indra. New York: Berghahn Books, 1999.

Wane, Njoki Nathani, Katerina Deliovsky and Eric Lawson. *Back to the Drawing Board: African-Canadian Feminisms*. Toronto: Sumach Press, 2002. (Chapter 8, 12)

Recommended Reading:

Brand, Dionne. *A Map to the Door of No Return: Notes to Belonging*. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2002.

Week 12: *Representations of Black Women (and men) in Canada: From Angelique and Cary, to Jean Augustine and Anne Cools, to Michaëlle Jean and Margaret Best*

Massaquoi, N. "An African Child Becomes a Black Canadian Feminist: Oscillating Identities in Black Diaspora." *Canadian Woman Studies/le cahiers de la femme* 23 (2004): 140-145.

Morgan, Anthony. "The Universal Charter on Media Representations of Black Peoples."

Discussion: Queer Black Women and Black Female Sexuality

Recommended Readings:

hooks, bell. *Reel to Real: Race, Class and Sex at the Movies*. New York: Routledge, 2009.

----- . *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

***** Note: This outline is subject to change with reasonable notice. *****