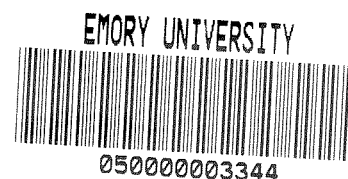


Prof. Mark Auslander	Office: Seney 312
Seney 322	O: (770) 784-4664
T Th 11:00-12:15	mausland@learnlink.emory.edu
Fall 2000	Office Hours: MWF 11-12; Tues 2-3

CULTURES OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Anth385R



GOALS OF COURSE: This course explores the diverse cultures of the African Diaspora, with particular attention to the "Black Atlantic" cultures of Brazil, the Caribbean, and the Sea Islands of Georgia and Georgia and the Carolinas. Particular attention will be given to ritual performance, popular narrative, and the cultural politics of memory. We will take several field trips to African American communities, including the barrier islands, in the region. Through original research, students will also help develop a museum exhibition on African-American history and culture in Newton County, Georgia.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: In addition to keeping up with the reading and fully participating in class discussion, three short (5 pages) papers and a final take home examination are required. As discussed below, students are expected to play a role in developing a museum exhibition on local African-American history and culture.

Regular **LearnLink** postings are required (at least one per week, preferably more) in response to the readings, to other students' postings, class discussion and students' day to day observations. From time to time, short **quizzes** (usually unannounced) on the readings will be given - on the web (Blackboard) and in class.

Plus/minus grading is used in this course, and the Honor Code is always in force.

Course materials are largely found in the "Blackboard" environment on line, at <http://blackboard.wcw.emory.edu>. Go to "Oxford College" and click on this course. You will be provided with a user ID and initial password.

There will be on **class weekend field trip**, to Sapelo Island, Georgia. (date to be announced, probably the weekend of Sept. 20-October 1). This will cost each student about \$50.00 in fees (mainly for food).

I would also like us to attend a number of African-American church services in the Oxford/Covington area over the course of the semester. I'll be announcing trips to local churches from time to time.

THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION: On November 1 (tentative date) we will open a student-developed exhibition on the African American history of Emory College and Oxford College, from 1836 onwards. Although this history has often been neglected, persons of African descent have made profound contributions to Emory throughout the institution's history. We'll explore the history and legacies of slavery and emancipation at Emory College and in the City of Oxford, and also tell the stories of local African American families and persons who worked at the college. We may bring the story up to the 1950s

or 1960s.

I would like to see students do a combination of archival and oral historical research for this exhibition. We might want to produce a modest video, incorporating interviews with older members of the Oxford African American community, and show the video at the exhibit.

Possible research topics include:

- Slavery at Emory College and in the village of Oxford 1836-1864
- The Story of Kitty and Bishop Andrew (African American and White Perspectives)
- Emancipation in Oxford (November-December 1864) and its immediate Aftermath
- Women's Labor outside of the College Grounds (laundry, boarding houses, etc)
- African American Church History in Oxford (including Rust Chapel U.M.C, the antebellum Methodist African American Congregation, and Mount Zion Baptist
- Kitchen Work.
- Physical Plant: including Robert Hammond and Billy Mitchell (Head janitors)
- Assembling a list of all African American employees of the College 1835-present
- Breaking the Color Line: The 1960s

READINGS. In much of this course, we are concerned with religious, ritual and aesthetic imaginations in the Afro-Atlantic world. For background and a comparative framework, we begin with John Thornton's comprehensive historical overview of Africa in the Atlantic World, 1400-1800. Thornton is primarily a social and economic historian, although he has strong interests in religion as well. You will, I expect, find it helpful to refer back to this book throughout the course. We next concentrate on the southeastern region of North America, in Mike Gomez's Exchanging our Country Marks and Edward Ball's Slaves in the Family. During this section of the course we'll take a weekend field trip to Sapelo Island, Georgia and students will continue to do local research for the Oxford/Emory history exhibition.

We then turn to African-inspired religious traditions elsewhere in the America. Jim Wafer's The Taste of Blood explores the complex religious system of Candomble in Brazil. We conclude with two looks at Cuba and Cuban-derived Afro-American ritual and aesthetics, Brandon's book on Santeria and Daniels' book on Rumba.

The following books are available for purchase at the college bookstore:

- John Thornton. Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800. Cambridge: New York : Cambridge University Press, 1998.(Second Edition)
- Michael A. Gomez. Exchanging our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South. University of North Carolina Press, 1998
- Edward Ball. Slaves in the Family. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998
- Jim Wafer . The Taste of Blood: Spirit Possession in Brazilian Candomble University of Pennsylvania Press. 1991
- Brandon, George. Santeria from Africa to the New World: The Dead Sell Memories. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1993.
- Daniel, Yvonne. Rumba: Dance and Social Change in Contemporary Cuba. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1995.

Part I. Historical Overview

Thursday, August 31. Introduction. (A) Overview of the "Atlantic System." (B) The Emory/Oxford African-American History Exhibition

Observation Exercise: Take a walk through the city of Oxford and note evidence of African and African-American contributions to the area. (You might visit the historically African-American section of the Oxford City Cemetery, or attend church services in an historically African-American church.) Please write up your observations and post them on LearnLink.

Tuesday, September 5. John Thornton. Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World: 1400-1800. (second edition). pp.1-97

Thursday, September 7. Thornton. pp. 98-151

Tuesday, September 12. Thornton. pp.152-271

Thursday, September 14. Thornton. pp.272-334.

First Paper Due Monday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m in Dr. Auslander's office. To what extent were Africans and persons of African Descent victims of the Atlantic economic system, 1400-1800? To what extent were they active players in this system?

Part II. Slavery and its Legacies in the American South

Note: During this part of the course, students will begin research in the local African American community, on a topic agreed upon with the instructor. This research will be incorporated into the second paper, and will also be the basis of the November 1st exhibition on Emory/Oxford's African American history. You may wish to video and edit digital video footage of members of the community, using Oxford's new Digital Technology Lab in Pierce.

Tuesday, September 19. Michael A. Gomez. Exchanging our Country Marks

Thursday, September 21. Michael A. Gomez. Exchanging our Country Marks

Tuesday, September 26. Michael A. Gomez. Exchanging our Country Marks

Thursday, September 28. The Gullah Case

- Michael A. Gomez. Exchanging our Country Marks
- Readings on Gullah Culture (on electronic reserve)

Weekend of September 30-October 1. **Class Trip to Sapelo Island, Georgia** (Tentative Date. Details to be announced)

Monday, October 2. Class Field Trip into Atlanta to observe Nat Turner ceremony. (Details to be announced)

Tuesday, October 3.

- Discuss Nat Turner Ceremony and Sapelo Island Trip.
 - Begin. Edward Ball. Slaves in the Family.
-

Thursday, October 5

- Edward Ball. Slaves in the Family.
 - Mark Auslander. The Myth of Kitty. (on electronic reserve)
-

Tuesday, October 10. Edward Ball. Slaves in the Family.

Thursday, October 12. Edward Ball. Slaves in the Family. conclude

Friday, October 13. Paper 2 due **by 4:00 p.m in Dr. Auslander's office**. Contrast Gomez and Ball's approaches to the Afro-American past, in light of your own observations on African-American culture in Oxford and on Sapelo.

Tuesday, October 17. **No class: Mid-Semester Break**

Wednesday, October 18 by 4:00 p.m. Oral Histories due in class Learnlink conference. Please read these carefully before our first exhibition workshop.

Thursday, October 19. Exhibition Workshop 1.

Tuesday, October 24. Exhibition Workshop 2. Draft captions due at start of class. (Please bring copies for all members of class)

Thursday, October 26. Exhibition Workshop 3.

Tuesday, October 31. Final Exhibition Workshop (in library)

Wednesday, November 1. Opening of Exhibition on Emory and Oxford's African-American History

(Oxford College Library)

Evening Symposium (Attendance required)

Thursday, November 2. Jim Wafer. The Taste of Blood: Spirit Possession in Brazilian Candomble pp.1-52

Tuesday, November 7. The Taste of Blood. pp 53-120

Thursday, November 9. The Taste of Blood.pp. 121-189.

Tuesday, November 14. Brandon, George. Santeria from Africa to the New World: The Dead Sell Memories.pp. 1-36.

Thursday, November 16. Brandon. pp.37-103

Tuesday, November 21. Brandon. pp. 104-185.

Wednesday, November 22 by 4:00 p.m in Dr. Auslander's office. **Paper 3 due.** Contrast Wafer and Brandon's approaches to the study of African-inspired popular religious movements in the New World.

Thursday, November 23. No Class: Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 28. Yvonne Daniel, Rumba, Dance and Social Change in Contemporary Cuba. pp. 1-63

Thursday, November 30. Workshop on Cuban Dance.

tba: View Buena Vista Social Club

Tuesday, December 5, Rumba. pp. 64-137

Thursday, December 7. Rumba. pp. 138-149.

Tuesday, December 12. Final Class. Take Home Examination Distributed.

Monday, December 18. Take Home examination due in Dr. Auslander's office by 4:00 p.m.