

FW2026-27 AP/HIST 3536 6.0A African Canadian History Up to 1900

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

HIST 3536 examines the history of African-Canadians from colonial contact in the 17th century through to the turn of the 20th century.

Course Director: N. Henry - Dixon

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

HIST 3536 introduces students to the 400-year history of Black people pre- and post-Confederation up to the turn of the 20th century. It begins with the early decades of European settlement of the seventeenth century when Africans first arrived in New France as labourers on trans-Atlantic ships and were enslaved. The course then explores the experiences of Black Loyalists, Black people enslaved in British North America, and the “passengers” of the Underground Railroad, before assessing the structures of African Canadian communities, institutions and abolition movements.

Through each of these chapters in African Canadian history, students will be asked to address themes such as migration patterns, work experiences, family structures, community organizations, and political activism. The course will also analyze the historical production of racial categories and of racist thought and practice. It will also consider how class, national origin, gender and sexuality intersected with “race” to produce African Canadian identities over time.

Additional Requirements:

Required Course Text/Readings:

TENTATIVE

Students will read a range of book chapters and articles and watch assigned short videos.

Weighting of Course:

TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown

Class Participation & Attendance	15%
Class Participation	10%
Reading Responses	20%
Fall Research Assignment	15%
Public History Assignment	15%
Final Exam	25%

Organization of the Course:

The course involves weekly meetings. These sessions will combine lectures and discussions of required readings, supplementary texts, and viewing films which serve to introduce, enrich, clarify, and illustrate course topics and themes. There will also be activities to apply skills and concepts taught. Students are expected to read the assigned materials before each class, to attend class regularly and to contribute to the discussions as fully as possible. Students are expected to complete the assignments in the course to fulfill assessment requirements.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course allows students to examine the experiences of African Canadians from the seventeenth century to the turn of the twentieth century; it will:

- introduce and excite undergraduate students about the study of African Canadian history specifically and Canadian history broadly
- ground early history learners in some of the essential knowledge, tools, and skills for successful history education and future pursuits in the study of African Canadian history specifically and Canadian history broadly
- support the acquisition of basic historical research skills, including (as appropriate) the effective use of libraries, archives, and databases
- foster critical conversations.

Additional Information/Notes: