University of Waterloo  
Department of History  
HIST 421  
Special Topics in History: The Black Atlantic  
Winter 2020  
Thursday 2:30-5:20pm, HH 124

Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. Christopher Stuart Taylor, PhD  
Office: HH 154  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:20; Thursdays 1:30-2:20  
Email: Christopher.Taylor@uwaterloo.ca  
Twitter: @DrCSTaylor

Course Description
Using a number of approaches, including Black Feminist Theory and Critical Race Theory, students will explore the diverging and converging histories of Black people(s) in the 'Atlantic' and examine the diachronic realities of the Black Self in the twenty-first century.

Course Objectives
• To develop an interconnected historical understanding of Black people in the Atlantic World.  
• To ‘re-think’ and ‘re-write’ the place of Black people in historical and present-day society.  
• To understand the role race, gender, class, and migration played in the history of Black people.  
• To engage in and develop knowledge of Black-centric historical narratives of heterogeneous Black communities, ethnicities, nations, and nation-states.  
• To view Black women and Black newcomer women in Canada as equal partners in the Canadian ‘cultural mosaic.’  
• To learn how to disseminate academic knowledge, analysis, and critical thought to the general public.  
• 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.  
• To engage in methods of historical research methods including oral history and analyzing textual and visual primary documents at the upper-year undergraduate level.  
• To apply diverse theoretical models of analysis, specifically Critical Race Theory and Black Feminist Theory.  
• To gain critical thinking, develop oral and written communication, and encourage argumentative and analytical skills.

Course Requirements and Assessment
More information on Course Requirements and Assessment will be made available.  
All written assignments must be submitted in Arial 12pt font and double-spaced.
**Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>All classes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Conference Presentation</td>
<td>Weeks 12, 13</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay (Draft, final, and Peer Review)</td>
<td>Weeks 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>100%</td>
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**Class Participation**

Attendance will be recorded; however, ‘showing up’ is only the bare minimum. There is no such thing as a ‘wrong’ answer and students are encouraged to share any and all views on the readings and class discussions.

**Essays**

Students will write an 8,000-10,000 word research essay on a topic of their choice related to the course content – pending approval from the instructor. All submitted assignments must be double-spaced in 12 pt. Arial font.

**Student Conference**

Students will present their research essays in the final week of class.

**Peer Review**

As students, you will be receiving, and providing, substantive feedback on the research essays. We will be following a provided set of guidelines to be distributed during class.

“Feedback is rooted in the partnership between student and teacher...When students respond to feedback as an invitation to contribute something of their own to an academic conversation, they do so because students imagine their instructors as readers waiting to learn from their contributions, not readers waiting to report what they’ve done wrong on a given paper.”


**Course Outline**

Course Outline is subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings Due</th>
<th>Shadow Readings (A History of Being Unapologetically Black)</th>
<th>Assessment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 9, 2020</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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</table>
David Brion Davis. *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World.* “Chapter 3: The Origins of Antiblack Racism in the New World.”  
Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks.* (Full Text)  
Joseph, Tiffany. “How does racial democracy exist in Brazil?” | Black Women  
Angela Davis,  
Patricia Hill Collins  
bell hooks (teaching resistance) |
<table>
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</table>
David Brion Davis. *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*. “Chapter 5: The Atlantic Slave System: Brazil and the Caribbean.”  
Beckles, Hilary McD. “Historicizing Slavery in West Indian Feminisms.”  
*African Women: A political economy*  
*Want to start a revolution*  
*The Womanist Reader*  
*Ida B. Wells, Lynch Laws* |                                                                 |
- Chapter 1: Africa and the colonial challenge.  
- Chapter 2: European partition and conquest of Africa: an overview.  
- Chapter 11: Liberia and Ethiopia, 1880-1914: the survival of two African states | Garvey & the Pan-Africanists  
*African Fundamentalism*  
*Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey*  
*Langley, Garveyism and African Nationalism* |                                                                 |
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As told to Alex Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* |
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 20, 2020</td>
<td>Ghana &amp; Togo Week</td>
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<td>Krebs, Andrea, “Hockey and the Reproduction of Rocky Jones and Donald Moore</td>
<td>Don Moore: An Autobiography</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>March 26, 2020</td>
<td>Student Conference</td>
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<td>Race as “Science” Angela Saini, Superior: The Return of Race Science</td>
<td>Conference Paper Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 2, 2020</td>
<td>Student Conference</td>
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<td>Conference Paper Presentations</td>
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**Late Work**

Please note, late assignments, without a valid University of Waterloo approved reason (e.g. medical reasons with a doctor’s note), will be accepted up to **3 days** past their due date. After three days, assignments will **no longer be accepted and you will receive a mark of 0 on the assignment**.

For each day that the assignment is late, the final grade of the assignment will be docked 5% (for a total of 15%). You will not be allotted an extension (without late penalty) due to issues with time or workload management. However, I encourage you to exercise your right to lose 5% per day, for three days, if you need longer to complete your assignment. Please note that extensions granted for ‘compassionate reasons’ refers only to those circumstance where there is a death in the family.

**Email Policy**

All course related email must be sent to Christopher.Taylor@uwaterloo.ca. The subject line **must** have the title of your course section (i.e. “HIST421”) and be written in a professional manner (i.e. “Dear Dr. Taylor”). Remember, you are writing to your professor, not sending a text to your friend. Any email correspondence that does not follow these guidelines will be ignored and deleted. Email will be responded to within 2-3 business days (Monday to Friday).
**Electronic Device Policy**
Research clearly shows that the use of electronic devices can be distracting during learning and also disrupt the learning of others. Therefore, the use of technology such as laptops, tablets, or cell phones is not permitted in this class. If students use such technology without permission of the instructor, they will be asked to leave the classroom and lose 1% of their mark for each infraction. After the third incident, the student will be removed from the course. If you require the use of a laptop to assist with your note-taking or you are a note-taker for Accessible Learning, please connect with me after class, or come to see me during office hours.

**Attendance Policy**
In-class attendance is mandatory and will be recorded as a part of the ‘participation’ grade.

**Peer Attendance and Accountability (PA²)**
To support the transition to University, students will follow the Peer Attendance and Accountability (PA²) model. Students will be required to have a class ‘partner’ that will they will be able to use as a supporting resource throughout the term. The nature of the relationship will be entirely student driven; however, students will use the PA² as a means to support attendance and missed classes, lecture notes, informal feedback on assignments, a ‘sounding board’ for class discussion, an accountability measure to ensure assignments are handed in on time and done to the best of one’s ability.

NOTE: Students will be heavily penalized if they use the PA² model to violate the University’s policies of Academic Integrity and Plagiarism.

**Academic Integrity**
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) for more information.

**Discipline**
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

**Grievance**
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties), Section 4.
When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals**
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Note for Students with Disabilities**
The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Information on Plagiarism Detection**
Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

**Mental Health Support**
All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

**On Campus**
- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form Student Life Centre

**Off campus, 24/7**
- **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website
Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72)
Download the [WatSafe app](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information
Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo

Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.