

JOMC/AFAM 112: The Black Press and U.S. History

Fall 2001

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[African-American Periodicals in UNC-CH Libraries](#)

Catalog description: *The Black Press and U.S. History JOMC 112 3 credits. A chronological survey of the African-American press in the United States since 1827. Emphasis is on key people and issues during critical eras in the African-American experience.*

Required Readings:

The Early Black Press In America, 1827 to 1860, Frankie Hutton.

A History of the Black Press, Armistead S. Pride and Clint C. Wilson II.

Raising Her Voice: African-American Women Journalists Who Changed History, Rodger Streitmatter.

[Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases](#), Ida B. Wells.

[Electronic Reserves](#) (write in "jomc112" for access)

Web sites as linked in the weekly section of this syllabus.

Outside Readings:

Articles are contained in folders at the Davis and Park libraries' reserve desks under "JOMC 112." Dissertations and masters theses also are in The Park Library.

Internet Sites: Sites assigned on the weekly syllabus are a part of the *required* reading for the course. Some of these sites also provide materials for original research. They include, for example:

The "Women In Journalism" link/site that contains the transcripts of extensive interviews of **Ethel Payne, Marvel Cooke, and Charlayne Hunter-Gault**, as part of the oral history project of the Washington Press Club Foundation.

The **Charles Alston** link/site that contains more than 100 of Alston's WWII illustrations -- from the National Archives -- which he created for publication in the black press.

The **Ida B. Wells** link/site contains extensive examples of her writing, including her 81-page masterpiece, *The Reason why the Colored American Is Not in the World's Columbian Exposition*, portions of which were written by **Frederick Douglass**.

The **Marcus Garvey** link/site contains several examples of Garvey's writings on Africa, the Caribbean and the United States.

And there are more.

Course Objective: The course will trace the development of the black press from its beginning in 1827 to the present, using major events in African American history as a backdrop. Primary emphasis will be on the development of the modern black press since World War I. We will look at black newspapers and magazines as cultural depositories and historical documents that recorded the philosophical debates, problems, solutions, concerns, growth and development of the African-American community in the United States.

Course Structure: The classes are made up of lectures and discussions based on the required and reserve readings, periodic handouts, films and Web sites. Students are responsible for having read all materials assigned on the daily syllabus. Even though all materials assigned on the daily syllabus may not be covered or discussed in class, the instructor assumes that students will have read all materials and that they understand all of the materials unless they ask questions during class.

Internet Communication: Some material will be sent to students via email on the Internet, or through the course listserv. All students officially registered for the class are included on the listserv with their UNC-CH email address. Students who wish to use another email address must notify the instructor immediately.

Research Paper (40 percent) -- Students are required to examine microfilm and original copies of black newspapers and magazines, review the literature on the black press, and develop a well-conceived research project. Any research method is acceptable, and models may be drawn from readings in the reserve readings. Topics should be chosen early -- no later than **Oct. 8**.

Undergraduate students are required to write a 10- to 12-page research paper; graduate students are required to write a 15- to 20-page paper. All papers are due Nov. 14. Papers not received by Nov. 14 will not be accepted. **Graduate students may also be required to make a class presentation.**

Examination # 1 (25 percent) -- There will be a 90-minute open-book examination on **Sept. 24**, on everything covered or assigned to that point. On Sept. 17, students will receive a list of questions, from which several will be taken to make up the examination. Students are encouraged to prepare for the examination by forming study teams.

Final Examination (35 percent) -- This is a three-hour, open-book final examination **Friday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m.**, using the same format and procedure as that used for the previous examination. A list of the final-examination questions will be posted on this site on Friday, Dec. 7.

Writing Standards -- Student writing will be judged by the usual School of Journalism and Mass Communication standards. Factual errors result in automatic failures; significant points will be lost for spelling, typographical, grammatical and punctuation errors. Of course, points will be added for exceptional research and writing. Consult Kate L. Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

Honor Code: Students are reminded that a failure to do all of their own research and writing would be a violation of the University Honor Code and could result in disciplinary action by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. For comprehensive information on the university's Honor System, go to www.unc.edu/depts/honor.

Topics/Dates/Readings/

Introduction to The Black Press and U.S. History

Aug. 22

Web Sites:

Black publications in UNC-CH Libraries: www.unc.edu/~haman/journals.htm

Black media online: <http://www.unc.edu/~haman/media.htm>

1827-1865 The early black press

Aug. 27, 29, **Labor Day Holiday** (Sept 3), 5

Discussion Topics: Abolition, emigration or integration? History and philosophy of the first editors. An examination of some ironies, themes and contradictions. The role of the black press. Frederick Douglass as writer and magazine editor. Women in the black press.

Readings:

Hutton: Entirety

Pride/Wilson: pp. 1-73

Streitmatter: pp. 140-152 / 1-36

Web Sites:

Douglass' "Fourth of July" speech: http://douglass.speech.nwu.edu/doug_a10.htm

Douglass' "Free Speech" speech: http://douglass.speech.nwu.edu/doug_a68.htm

1866-1919 Reconstruction and beyond

Sept. 10, 12, 17

Discussion Topic: The northern migration and the emergence of the modern black press. The case of the N.C. *Record* and the Wilmington Riot of 1898.

Readings:

Pride/Wilson: pp. 85-126

Streitmatter: pp. 37-83

Film:

"Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice"

Web Sites:

Booker T. Washington's "Industrial Education for the Negro":

http://douglass.speech.nwu.edu/wash_b04.htm

W.E.B. DuBois' critique of Washington's autobiography:

http://douglass.speech.nwu.edu/dubo_a09.htm

W.E.B. DuBois' "Talented Tenth": http://douglass.speech.nwu.edu/dubo_b05.htm

Ida B. Wells' *Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases*

To peruse other writings of Wells, type "ida" in keyword search at:

<http://www.binghamton.edu/womhist/search.htm>

Electronic Reserve: "Close Ranks," an editorial by W.E.B. DuBois.

Into the 20th Century
Sept. 19, (24, Exam # 1), 26

Discussion Topics: The move for integration and equality: "No Officers, No Fight." Robert Abbott and the *Defender*. The U.S. government and the black press.

Readings:

Pride/Wilson: pp. 127-184

Gatewood Folder (Mitchell)

U.S. Congress Folder ("Radicalism and Sedition...")

Web Sites:

Marcus Garvey's papers: <http://www.isop.ucla.edu/mgpp/>

1920-1940 Between the wars
Oct. 1, 3, 8, 10 **Research-paper topics due Oct. 8!**

Discussion Topics: The Harlem Renaissance. Variations on previous themes: nationalism, integration and socialism -- Garvey, DuBois, Randolph. The Associated Negro Press. The Great Depression. The National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Readings:

Streitmatter: pp. 84-94

[Electronic Reserve](#): "Charles S. Johnson" (*Opportunity*)

[Electronic Reserve](#): "A. Philip Randolph" (*The Messenger*)

Vincent: chapters 1, 2, 3

Web Sites:

[Electronic Reserve](#): "The FBI and the Black Press"

Film:

Clip from "The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords"

Web Sites:

[The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords](#)

Survey Graphic Harlem issue: <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/harlem/contents.html>

Afro American beauty ads: <http://www.afroam.org/history/bnw/bwmain.html>

1941-1945 The black press and WWII
Oct. 15, 17

Discussion Topics: The "Double V" campaign. The black war correspondents. Editorial drawings of Charles Alston. *Negro Digest* and the beginning of Johnson Publications.

Readings:

Pride/Wilson: pp. 185-197

Web Sites:

peruse *This Is Our War* excerpts: <http://www.afroam.org/history/OurWar/intro.html>

Afro Reporter Art Carter's story on the 99th Fighter Squadron in Italy:

<http://www.afroam.org/history/OurWar/carter.html>

[Charles Alston](#) (editorial drawings).

[After you click on the above link, click on "NAIL Digital Copies Search," then enter "Charles Alston" and click on "Display results" for 106 WWII drawings

F A L L B R E A K (Oct. 18 & 19)

The black press and WWII continued
Oct. 22, 24

1946-1953 The black press after WWII
Oct. 29, 31; Nov. 5

Discussion Topics: Johnson Publication expands. The Korean War and the McCarthy era. Jackie Robinson and the black press. In the tradition of Wells: Alice Dunnigan and Ethel Payne.

Readings:

Streitmatter: pp. 95-106

Bleske Folder ("No Runs, No Hits...")

Web Sites:

Afro's history of Jackie Robinson: <http://www.afroam.org/history/Robinson/intro.html>

"Women in Journalism" site with *extensive* interviews with [Marvel Cooke](#), [Ethel Payne](#), and [Charlayne Hunter-Gault](#).

1954-1964 The Civil rights era
Nov. 7, 12, 14
Research Paper due Nov. 14!

Discussion Topics: The decline of the black press; the rise of Johnson Publishing. Role of the black press during the Civil Rights Movement.

Readings:

Hirsch Folder (*Ebony*)

Click Folder (*Ebony*)

Web Site:

Peruse the Daisy Bates papers: <http://cavern.uark.edu/libinfo/speccoll/bates.html>

1965-1970s A move toward nationalism and conservatism
Nov. 19, (**Thanksgivings Day Break 21, 22**) 26

Discussion Topics: The black press and Bakke. *Muhammad Speaks* coverage of the Vietnam War. *The Black Panther*, *Black Scholar*, and *Freedomways*. The "New Black" magazine survivors: *Black Collegian*, *Black Enterprise* and *Essence*.

Readings:

Pride/Wilson: pp. 211-260

Streitmatter: pp. 129-139

Stroman/Poindexter Folder (Bakke)

1980s to the millennium
Nov. 28, Dec. 3, 5

Discussion Topics: The Kerner Commission Report. The future of the black press. The black press in North Carolina.

Readings: Pride/Wilson: pp. 261-268

Pride/Wilson: pp. 261-268

Kerner Commission Report ("The News Media...")