

Syllabus

African-Americans: The Civil War and Aftermath

The role and status of Americans of African descent have been major aspects of the culture and politics of the United States since the nation's inception. It was THE major issue in the conflict that led to the American Civil War and was an issue throughout the war. The war resolved some issues related to slavery, but left most issues related to the role and status of African-Americans unresolved. The war and post-war years created the cultural and political structures that continue to define much of American society and politics. This course will offer a series of presentations by different individuals on topics that are intended to broaden our understanding of historical events in this pivotal period in our history. Presentations will address topics including Afro-American resistance to slavery, emancipation, reconstruction and post-reconstruction "Jim Crow" practices, and the struggle for civil rights during the 20th century. The course will be offered over Zoom.

Schedule and Presenters

November

- 9 Patrick Rael (Bowdoin)
- 16 Noma Petroff (Independent)
- 23 Ashley Towle (USM)
- 30 Chris Asch (Colby)

December

- 7 Brian Purnell (Bowdoin)