

# Black Women's History

Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson

Wellesley College

## Course Description

This course focuses on African American women's history in the United States with certain aspects of Black women's activism and leadership covered within the African Diaspora. We will examine ways in which these women engaged in local, national, and international freedom struggles while simultaneously defining their identities as wives, mothers, leaders, citizens, and workers.

The course will pay special attention to the diversity of Black women's experiences and to the dominant images of Black women from Mumbet (the first enslaved Black woman to sue for her freedom and win) to contemporary issues of race, sex, and class in the Age of (Michelle) Obama. Participants will explore such questions as: What is Black women's history? How does Black women's history add to our understanding of American history? Where should Black women's history go from here?

## Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor Kellie Carter Jackson, split into 14 lecture videos ranging from 12 to 40 minutes long. The videos provide the content needed to answer the course quizzes.

1. What is Black Women's History? (2 videos)
  - Why does Black women's history matter?
2. Women and the Middle Passage (1 video)
  - Terror, sex, and sickness on the Middle Passage
3. Women on the Run (1 video)
  - Truancy, escape, and fugitive females under the institution of slavery
4. Women Who Write (1 video)

- Enslaved women telling their experience
- 5. Women and Their Bodies (1 video)
  - Women's reproductive health and the effects of slavery
- 6. Women, Respect, and Religion (2 videos)
  - Politics of respectability and the politics of pleasure
- 7. Women and Their Labor (1 video)
  - Black women and domestic labor
- 8. Women and the Long Freedom Struggle (1 video)
  - Understanding Black women, rape, and resistance during the Civil Rights Movement
- 9. Women and Their Anger (1 video)
  - The politics of anger and understanding the tensions between Black and White women.
- 10. Women on the Political Run (1 video)
  - Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan: Black women in politics, how we see them, and their ability to effect change.
- 11. Women and #MeToo (1 video)
  - Anita Hill and the Clarence Thomas hearings, sexual harassment, and the Me Too Movement.
- 12. Women and Michelle Obama (1 video)
  - What does Black womanhood look like today?

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute's online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments and other course work in the videos. They are not part of the History U program. All quiz questions will be drawn directly from the lectures.

### Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course. Please note: History U participants are

not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

### Quizzes

The purpose of the 12 short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching each video in the course, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

### Certificate of Completion

After you finish watching all of the lectures, score an 80% or higher on each quiz, and complete the feedback survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email [historyschool@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:historyschool@gilderlehrman.org) with any questions.