Economics 4450
African American Entrepreneurship
T.B. Boston, Spring 2011
TTh 9:35 – 10:55 Rm G10 Old CE Bldg

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There are no Prerequisites for the course: There is no required textbook. Readings are located at: http://buzzport.gatech.edu.

Related books that are recommended for your library:

2. Eric Flamholtz and Yvonne Randle (2007) Growing Pains: Transitioning from an Entrepreneurship to a Professionally Managed Firm. (San Francisco: John Wiley and Sons)

Objectives:
The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding and appreciation of the dynamics of entrepreneurship in general and African American entrepreneurship and minority entrepreneurship, in particular. The course will focus primarily on the state of African American entrepreneurship, including its history, current status, practices and strategies. Students will become acquainted with the literature, data sources and empirical techniques for conducting empirical research on business dynamics. Students will have the option of selecting to prepare a final research paper or business plan. Learning objectives include the development of public presentation skills and the ability to organize, prepare and present business related information and research in a concise and professional manner.

Active and informed classroom participation and regular attendance are expected of each student. Furthermore, in addition to classroom discussions, each student will be assigned a major business topic to present to the class.
Grading Procedures
Grading will be based on five activities: 1. Class presentation (10%); 2. Mid-semester examination (30%); 3. Second examination (25%); 4. Final semester research paper or business plan (30%) and class participation and attendance (5%). The grading scale is as follows: A = 90% to 100%; B = 80% to 89.9%; C = 70% to 79.9%; D = 60% to 69.9%.

Content of Examinations
Examinations will cover lecture notes, assigned reading material and material presented by discussion leaders.

Location of Reading Material
There is no required text for the course. Most readings are posted on the class website. Readings that are not posted on the class website are available on the World Wide Web; a link to the site is provided after the reading. For presentations made by students, only the discussion leader is required to obtain the reading/book. The material presented in class must be summarized electronically and a hard copy and electronic copy must be provided to me at the time the presentation is made. Students will be responsible for the summary of the discussion leader's class presentation, but not the book or article, which discussions drawn.

Class presentations must be accompanied by a power point and the presenter is responsible for summarizing the material in the most efficient manner and stimulating class discussion. Each student will have 15 minutes to present material and five minutes to entertain class discussion. An electronic copy of the discussion summary will be posted on the class website.

Important Dates

March 8th: Examination #1
March 21-25: Spring break
April 5th: Concept Paper of final research or business plan
April 7th: Approval and comments on concept paper
April 12th: Examination #2
April 28th: Last class
May 3rd 5:00 pm. Final research paper or business plan due in my office.
May 7th: End of term
Required Readings:

Introductory Lecture

Student's introductions, review of Syllabus and course requirements, selection and assignment of student discussion material, overview of the course material, and general discussion of African American entrepreneurship.

Topic #1: Introduction to African American Entrepreneurship


Topic #2: African American Entrepreneurship: Historical Background and Contemporary Status


2. World Book Encyclopedia:
   - From Africa to America
   - From Slavery to Freedom
   - The First Years of Freedom
   http://www.worldbook.com/wb/Students?content_spotlight/aajourney/aajourney

   - 1829 and 1833 Acts: Laws banning the teaching of blacks to read
   - 1845 Act: law banning slaves and free blacks from engaging in construction contracts
   - 1865: Abolition of slavery
   http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/court/lawsfreed.txt

   http://library.uncg.edu/slavery_petitions/transcripts/11285609.asp

5. Order of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, "Order by the Commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi, in the field, Savannah, Georgia, January 16, 1865. Special Feel Orders, No. 15. Order redistributing coastal lands to freed slaves.
   http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/sfo15.htm
Topic 3: Development of the Enclave Economy; African-American Businesses from slavery through Jim Crow Segregation

1. Free Blacks in the Immediate Post Slavery Era
   a. Emancipation Proclamation
      http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_emancipate.html
   b. Reconstruction
      http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_reconstruct.html
   c. Hayes-Tilden Election and the Rise of Klan Terror
      http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_election.html
      http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_kkk.html

2. U.S. Supreme Court Decision, Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
   http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/1890s/plessy/plessy.html


Topic 4: Entrepreneurship and Affirmative Action in the Post-Civil Rights Era

5. Thomas D. Boston (2007) Increasing the Capacity of the Nation’s Small and Disadvantaged Businesses (SDBs), a report prepared for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

Topic 5: The Current Characteristics of Minority Owned Businesses


Topic 6: Business Growth


Topic 6: Business Research


Topic 7: Minority Entrepreneurship and Community Development


Articles for Class Presentations:


   • Booker T. Washington (1895) Booker T. Washington Delivers the 1895 Atlanta Compromise Speech.


7. Women Entrepreneurs

8. Asian Entrepreneurs
9. Hispanic Entrepreneurs

Books for Class Presentations


