

## 1969, Fall

**Michigan State University** offers its first African-American History course focusing exclusively on black culture on a trial basis, entitled History 309: The Negroes in America: Varieties in Slavery. Dr. Leslie B. Rout, Jr. teaches this class along with the next trial course in African-American History offered in the winter of 1969 called History 310: The Negro in the United States: Since Emancipation, in which Dr. David Blight enrolls.<sup>1</sup>

**The College of William and Mary** teaches for the first time history course #466: "The Negro in the United States since 1861."<sup>2</sup>

**Hampden-Sydney College** instructs its first course on African-American History.<sup>3</sup>

**Virginia Commonwealth University** offers its first course in African-American Studies.<sup>4</sup>

## 1969, Winter

**The University of Virginia** offers one of its first black history classes.<sup>5</sup>

## 1971

**Radford University**, then known as Radford College, offers History 311: "History of the Negro in the United States" to the course catalog in January. The three credit-hour course is offered as an elective and described as "a survey of the historical development of the American Negro from his earliest African beginnings down to the present time."<sup>6</sup>

**Old Dominion University** adds History 385: "The Negro in American History" to its course catalog.<sup>7</sup>

## 1972, Fall

**James Madison University** teaches History 355: "Afro-American History to 1877", followed by History 356: "Afro-American History since 1877" in spring of 1973.<sup>8</sup>

## 1973, Spring

**Christopher Newport University** augments its curriculum by adding their first African-American History class: Black History 361. The class focuses on understanding the issues of black-white relations by studying the background and customs of African-American communities and facilitating discussion on the topic. Thirty-two students enroll in the class.<sup>9</sup>

## 1981

**Virginia Tech** hires its first professor of African-American History, Professor Phillip Morgan.<sup>10</sup>

## 1984, Spring

**Washington and Lee University** offers one of its first courses focusing exclusively on African-Americans, English 232: "American Black Literature". According to a current professor at Washington and Lee, at least one African-American History course was taught as a freshman seminar in the late 1970s or early 1980s.<sup>11</sup>

## 1985, Spring

**The University of Richmond** teaches their first history class focusing only on African-American History. Dr. Barry Westin instructs History 328: "Americans from Africa".<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Michigan State University Course Catalog, 1969, MSU Archives.

<sup>2</sup> College of William and Mary Course Catalog, 1969-1970, Special Collections Research Center: Earl Greg Swem Library, the College of William and Mary University Archives.

<sup>3</sup> Hampden-Sydney College History Department, Dr. Caroline Emmons, e-mail correspondence, 3 August 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Virginia Commonwealth University Undergraduate Bulletin, 1969-1970, James Branch Cabell Library: Virginia Commonwealth University.

<sup>5</sup> University Archives-- Authority Files, Special Collections, University of Virginia.

<sup>6</sup> Radford College Bulletin, Vol. LVIII, No. 1, January 1971.

<sup>7</sup> Old Dominion University General Catalogue, 1971, Social Science Reference at Old Dominion University Library.

<sup>8</sup> James College Bulletin, (Vol. XXX, No. 4) Aug. 1972, p. 161.

<sup>9</sup> Diane Scott, "Black Studies," *Christopher Newport University Captain's Log*, 6 March 1973.

<sup>10</sup> Virginia Tech University Archives, University Libraries.

<sup>11</sup> Washington and Lee University Registrar; Dr. Theodore Carter Delaney, e-mail correspondence, 4 August 2009.

<sup>12</sup> University of Richmond Registrar, e-mail correspondence, 31 July 2009.