INTRODUCTION TO BLACK STUDIES
AFAM 1
Syllabus
Summer Session 2019

Instructor/Coordinator: Dr. Jemima Pierre, Departments of African American Studies & Anthropology
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Email addresses for teaching assistants can be found on the Site Info page of the course website.

CLASS WEBSITE: https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/191A-AFAMER1-1

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to Black Studies as an intellectual, political, and cultural project steeped in a long and international tradition of Black radicalism. It broadly surveys the historical and ongoing process of Black politics, cultural production, and identity formation as structured through race and its intersection with gender, sexualities, and class. Though primarily focused on the U.S., many lectures and course materials extend beyond this country’s borders to explore the development, over time, of Black life, community, and culture against persistent anti-Black racism, economic and political exploitation, and gender oppression.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS
• CCLE: All other required readings will be uploaded to the course website.

HOW CLASS WORKS
Students will watch pre-recorded video lectures via mobile device or desktop browser. Reading assignments accompany all lectures. Two exams and weekly discussion board posts/participation determine the final grade. Students are responsible for keeping up with reading assignments, lecture presentations, and watching the assigned films. This is a fully asynchronous course. Students do not need to be online at a specific time or report to a physical location for any portion of the class.

COURSEWORK, GRADING, AND EXPECTATIONS
1. Course Participation:
Each class lecture and discussion will be based on the assigned readings. It is imperative that students complete all assigned (“required”) readings prior to the lecture for which they are assigned. In order to successfully complete this course, it is recommended that students commit themselves to regular and sustained reading. Students who do not do this will struggle to pass this course. Furthermore, students are expected to actively engage the reading and be able to form critical opinions about the readings and lectures.

*A Note on Sections: Participation grades will primarily be determined by your completed discussion board assignments, which are overseen by your teaching assistant.

2. Exams:
There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. Both will be open book exams and will be submitted to the course website via Turnitin. Students will have a window of several days to complete the exams by a specific deadline; they are not scheduled at a particular time and students do not need to come to campus to complete them. The midterm will cover material from Week 1-3; the final from Weeks 4-6.

3. Grading:
Grades are calculated as follows:
Discussion board posts: weekly responses to questions 30%
Midterm – open book exam 35%
Final – open book exam 35%
► PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Plagiarism is the presentation of another author’s words or ideas as if they were your own. It is a serious offence. University regulations require that any case of plagiarism be sent to the Dean of Students for review. Please review the university’s policies on academic integrity here: http://www.oid.ucla.edu/programs/facultydev/teachersguide/academicdishonesty. If you have any questions about this policy and, more specifically about documentation, quotations, for class assignments, please feel free to ask me.

► STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
UCLA provides, upon request, appropriate accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501, in person at Murphy Hall A255, or at www.cae.ucla.edu for more information. Once arrangements with the University have been made, I will work with you to make necessary accommodations. This process applies to both matriculated UCLA students and visitors in Summer Session.

► COMMUNICATION
To ensure the highest quality of communication, first check the website and syllabus to make sure your question isn’t already addressed. Then, for questions about grades and grading, contact your TA; for questions about course materials and themes, contact your TA or Professor Pierre. Their email addresses can be found on the Site Info page. Contact the course administrators at online@tft.ucla.edu if you are having technical difficulties or have questions about enrollment.

LECTURES, FILMS, AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1

SECTION I: FOUNDATIONS


Required Reading:

Lecture 2: The Sociology of Race [Dr. Marcus Hunter]

Required Reading:


Lecture 3 Intersections: Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Required Reading:
Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”
Lecture 4: Afro-Indigenous History and Identity [Dr. Kyle Mays]

Required Reading:


*Section I Wrap Up [Dr. Jemima Pierre]*

WEEK 1 ASSIGNMENTS:

- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website.
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

WEEK 2

SECTION II: THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY

Lecture 5: The Making of the Black Atlantic [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Required Reading:
(Begin Reading Kindred)

Lecture 6: The Institution of Slavery [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Required Reading:
Knight, Franklin, “Social Structure of the Plantation Society”
(Continue Reading Kindred)

Lecture 7: Resistance to Slavery/The Haitian Revolution [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Required Reading:
DuBois, Laurent “The Haitian Revolution”
(Continue Reading Kindred)

FILM: “The Last Supper” (1976, directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea)

*Section II Wrap Up [Dr. Jemima Pierre]*

WEEK 2 ASSIGNMENTS:

- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
WEEK 3

SECTION III: EMANCIPATION AND AFTER

Lecture 8: Cultural and Political Responses to Post-Emancipation Terror [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Required Reading:
*(MP3 file of Ida B. Wells’s speech also available on CCLE)
McKay, “If We Must Die”
Garvey, “Africa for the Africans”
Cesaire, “Ode to Guinea” & “Harlem Riot”

FILM: “Slavery by Another Name” (2012, PBS)

Required Reading:
Sarah Haley, “‘Like I Was a Man’: Chain Gangs, Gender, and the Domestic Carceral Sphere in Jim Crow Georgia,” Signs, 39 (Autumn 2013), 53-77.

Lecture 9: The New Negro’s Anthem [Dr. Shana Redmond]

Required Reading:
Alain Locke, “The New Negro” in Ed. Alain Locke, The New Negro, 3-16
James Weldon Johnson, “Harlem: The Culture Capital” in Alain Locke (ed.), The New Negro, 301-311
Mamie Smith, “Crazy Blues” (1920) [music]
William Grant Still, Movements 1 & 3 of “The Afro American Symphony” (1930) [music]

FILM: “Ethnic Notions” (1986, directed by Marlon Riggs)

Required Reading
Bogle, “Black Beginnings: from Uncle Tom’s Cabin…”

*Section III Wrap Up [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

WEEK 3 ASSIGNMENTS:
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to one discussion board question, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
- Midterm – open book exam: prompt is available Wednesday, July 11 and is due Monday, July 16 by 6 pm PDT. The midterm will cover material from Weeks 1-3.

WEEK 4

SECTION IV: BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENTS

Lecture 10: Black Freedom Movement (I & II) [Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson]

Required Reading:
Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963)
Listen to speech by Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, before the Democratic National Convention Credential Committee (1964)
http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/sayitplain/flhamer.html
Lipsitz, George, “Abolition Democracy and Global Justice”

**FILM:**
“Palante, Siempre Palante!” (1996, PBS)

**Lecture 11:** Anticolonial Movements and Black Power

**Required Reading:**
James, C. L.R., “Revolts in Africa”
USA Black Panther Party: The Ten-Point Program
(https://www.marxists.org/history/usa/workers/black-panthers/1966/10/15.htm)

**FILM:**
“Eyes on the Prize: A Nation of Law?” (1990, PBS)

**Lecture 12:** The Black Studies Movement [Dr. Scot Brown]

**Required Reading**

*SECTION IV Wrap Up: Anticolonialism in Africa and the Diaspora: Struggles, Connections, and Imaginations [Dr. Jemima Pierre]*

**WEEK 4 ASSIGNMENTS:**
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

**WEEK 5**

**SECTION V:** FOCUS: US BLACK COMMUNITY, LIFE, CULTURE

**Lecture 13:** The Sociology of Urban Black America [Dr. Marcus Hunter]

**Required Reading**

**Lecture 14:** Race and Wealth: The “Culture of Poverty” Thesis and U.S. Blacks (I & II) [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

**Required Reading**
Oliver, “Sub-prime as a Black Catastrophe”
Shapiro, “The Racial Wealth Gap Increases Fourfold”

**Suggested Radio Interview:**
“Busting the Myth of the American Dream: Meet William Darity”
http://bpr.org/post/busting-myth-american-dream-meet-william-darity

**FILM:**

**Required Reading**
(Begin reading: *Brother, I’m Dying*)

**Lecture 15:** Structural Racism and the Education of Black Children in the US: Constraints and Possibilities [Dr. Pedro Noguera]
Required Reading
*Young, Gifted and Black* (by Theresa Perry and Claude Steele), chapters 1-3
(Continue reading: *Brother, I’m Dying*)

Lecture 16: **Black Political Behavior [Lorrie Frasure-Yokley]**

**Required Reading**

**Recommended Reading**

(Continue reading: *Brother, I’m Dying*)

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**WEEK 5 ASSIGNMENTS:**
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

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**WEEK 6**

Lecture 17: **Labor and L.A.’s Black Community [Ms. Lola Smallwood]**

**Required Reading**
UCLA Labor Center & Los Angeles Black Workers Center: “Ready to Work: Uprooting Inequity”, a report on the state of Black employment in LA County

(Continue reading: *Brother, I’m Dying*)

Lecture 18: **Black Studies and the Critique of Capitalism and Empire (I & II) [Dr. Peter James Hudson]**

**Required Reading:**

Lecture 19: **Black Immigrants in the U.S and Across the World & Class & Course Wrap Up [Dr. Jemima Pierre]**

**Required Reading**
Danticat, Edgwidge, *Brother, I’m Dying*

**FILM:**
“Black Is… Black Ain’t” (1994, directed by Marlon Riggs)
WEEK 6 ASSIGNMENTS:

- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to one discussion board question, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
- Final – open book exam: prompt is available Friday, July 27 and is due Friday, August 3 by 6 pm PDT. The final will cover material from Weeks 4-6. (It is not cumulative.)

*This syllabus is subject to change.*