INTRODUCTION TO BLACK STUDIES

AFR 303, ANT 310D
Ethics and Leadership, Cultural Diversity, Global Cultures Flags
Spring 2016

Room: FAC 21 T, Th 11:00 – 12:30 PM  Uniques: 29295, 30305
Instructor: Dr. Edmund T. Gordon  Office: BLS 3.124
Office Hours: W 3:00 – 4:00  email: etgordon@austin.utexas.edu
T.A.s: Olayemi Akinola  Office Hours: T 1:00-4:00 PM
Maya Berry  Office Hours: T, Th 9:30-11:00 AM
Melissa Burch  Office Hours: Th 1:00-4:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides students with an introduction to Black Studies. In the first section of the course we consider the history of Black Studies in the U.S. using the integration and development of Black Studies here at the University of Texas, Austin as a case study. We then turn to considerations of the historical construction of Africa, the Black Diaspora, and the idea of Blackness. Building on this foundation the course provides students with the analytical tools to critically explore canonical Black Studies literature, themes, and theories. This section of the course interrogates race, gender, class, sexuality, and their intersections. The second section of the course focuses on Black cultures, power and politics. It utilizes the analytical tools provided by the course to forge an understanding of Black gendered cultural forms. The third section of the course focuses in on the expression and use of Black Studies and the ethical questions raised by applying this perspective to everyday concerns in critical areas of social inequity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Class Attendance, Participation, and Readings (10 pts). Students are required to attend class (5pts), participate in class activities and discussions (1 pts), and post reading questions (4pts).
   a. Attendance - will be taken at every class meeting. Students attending 90% or more of classes will receive 5 pts. Those attending between 80% - 90% of classes will receive their percentage of points based on the number of classes they attend minus 0.5 pts. Those attending between 79% - 67% of classes will receive their percentage of points based on the number of classes they attend minus 1 pt. Those attending between 50% and 66% of classes will receive 0 pts. ANY STUDENT WHO MISSES MORE THAN 50% OF THIS COURSE’S CLASSES WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE.
   b. Participation - The instructor and TAs will jointly determine participation points. Class participation will be calculated on the basis of participation in class discussion, discussion with instructor and TAs after class, discussion that takes place with instructor and TAs during office hours.
   c. Each student will post on Canvas one discussion comment/question pertinent to each subsection’s reading by 11:59 P.M. the night before the reading is covered. These dates will be announced in class.
2. **Two Exams (50 pts.)** There will be two take home exams, one at the end of **Section I** and the other at the end of **Section II** of the course testing materials covered during these sections. Each exam is worth 25 pts. The first exam will be distributed on March 3, 2016 **due posted on Canvas by 10:30 AM March 10, 2016**. The second will be distributed on April 14, 2016 **due posted on Canvas by 10:30 AM April 21, 2016**.

3. **Two Quizzes (10 pts.)** There will be two in-class quizzes, one will test knowledge of African-American history and the other will test knowledge of the history of Black Studies within the context of Blacks at the University of Texas. Only some of the materials for these quizzes will be covered in class. Materials on these subjects are available online and on Canvas. Study guides for the quizzes will be distributed. Both quizzes will be administered **February 4, 2016 in class**. Each quiz is worth 5 pts. Each quiz can be taken a second time to improve one’s grade. Students wishing to retake these quizzes must make arrangements with the instructor and/or TAs to do so and retake before 5:00 PM February 11, 2016.

4. One **Participation/Research Essays (15 pts.).** You are required to attend at least two Black Studies events. You will write an essay providing a **summary and critical review of the events, highlight specific aspects that stand out to you, and relate the events and their content to materials presented in this course**. Essays must also include **title, time, place, and sponsor of the events**. The essay will be no less than two and no more than three double-spaced typewritten pages. The essays must be accompanied by proof of attendance of the events. We will provide a constantly updated list of approved events having to do with the African and African Diasporic experience on and off campus. You may also petition the instructor for permission to attend and write about events of your choice. **Your essay is due posted on Canvas no later than March 31, 2016 10:30 AM**. Essays may be turned in at any time before the last due date.

5. **Ethics Case Study Essay:** Ethical Case Studies will be presented during the last section of the course. You will write an essay in which you discuss the ethics presented in a Case Study, and determine a position you support regarding the issues raised by a Case Study. You must explain clearly why you have chosen the position you have taken. In your discussion, you must cite at least two scholarly essays assigned as class reading, and you must reference the arguments made during the presentation of Case Studies in class. Your essay must be no less than two and no more than three typed, double spaced pages. The prompt will be distributed on May 5, 2016 in class. **The essay is due posted on Canvas no later than 5:00 PM May 12, 2016**. Late essays will not be accepted. A rubric for writing this essay will be provided.

**GRADES**
The TA will work to return assignments within two weeks. After receiving each graded assignment, wait at least 24 hours before bringing concerns to the TA. Any concerns about grades must be brought to the TA’s attention no more than one week after the student receives the grade.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics Case Study Essay</td>
<td>15</td>
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Pluses and minuses will be used in calculating the final grades.

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\begin{align*}
A &= 94-100 	ext{ pts.} & A- &= 90-93 	ext{ pts.} & B+ &= 87-89 	ext{ pts} \\
B &= 84-86 	ext{ pts.} & B- &= 80-83 	ext{ pts.} & C+ &= 77-79 	ext{ pts} \\
C &= 74-76 	ext{ pts.} & C- &= 70-73 	ext{ pts.} & D+ &= 67-69 	ext{ pts} \\
D &= 64-66 	ext{ pts.} & D- &= 60-63 	ext{ pts.} & F &= 0-59 	ext{ pts.}
\end{align*}
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COURSES PROTOCOLS

- Rules for respectful discussion will be followed. These rules will be established and agreed upon by everyone early in the semester. If a student violates these rules, that student will be counted as absent for the day.
- Students may not use electronic device for anything other than taking notes. Those found using such devices for other purposes will be counted as absent for the day.
- Written assignments are due as indicated on the syllabus unless otherwise specified. Late assignments will not be accepted.
- The University of Texas rules and regulations regarding plagiarism and intellectual honesty will be enforced. For details please see: deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php
- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Readings for African American History Quiz:
http://www.npr.org/news/specials/blackhistorymonth/timeline.html#pre1800
http://www.blackpast.org/timelines/african-american-history-timeline-1900-200

ALL OTHER READINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON CANVAS

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Introduction to the Course

Section I: Black Studies: Race, Culture, Power, Blackness

Topic I: Black Studies and Blacks at UT

1) The origin of Black Studies
   
   Readings: Karenga (1982)

2) Blacks and Black Studies at UT
Readings: Marsh Duran (1979)

**Topic II: Africa the Black Diaspora and Blackness**

3) Africa and its Invention

  Readings: Davis (1998)

4) Out of Africa – the Diaspora

  Readings: Lovejoy (2000)

  Video: *Amistad* clip

5) Africa and Black Diaspora Cultures


**Topic III: The Conceptual Tool Kit - Race, Gender, Class, Sexuality**

6) Race?

  Readings: American Anthropological Association
  [http://www.understandingrace.org/home.html](http://www.understandingrace.org/home.html)

7) Social inequality based in race and class

  Readings: Macintosh (1989); Domhoff (2012)
  [http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html](http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html)

8) Black as Identity: African Descent = Blackness?

  Readings: Torres-Saillant (2009)

9) Blackness in the US, who is Black and who is not.

  Readings: Makalani (2001)

  Web Series: *Black is Black Aint*

10) Gender: Roles, Ideology, and Power

  Readings: Lorber (1994)

11) Gender, Race, Sexuality (Black Feminism, Queer Theory)
Reading: Hooks (2000)

Exam I: Due 3/10/16 (Distributed One Week Prior)

Section II: Black Cultures in the World

Topic IV: Culture and Power

12) Culture, what is it? Culture and power = hegemony. What is cultural politics?

    Readings: West (1988)

13) Black Culture: Culture of resistance

    Reading: Dubois (1973)

14) Black Cultural Deficiency = Cultural Racism

    Reading: Moynihan (1965) 1-55

    Video: Vanishing Black Family

15) Patriarchy and Black Cultural Forms

    Reading: Gordon (1998)

Exam II: Due 4/21/16 (Distributed One Week Prior)

Section III: Black Studies Themes and Ethics

16) Critical Black Studies and Affirmative Action

    Reading: TBD

18) Black popular Culture as the Moral

    Reading: TBD

19) Blacks Criminality and Justice

    Reading: TBD

Case Study Essay: Due 5/12/16 (Distributed last day of class)