**Ethnic Studies 250**  
*Introduction to African American Studies: Hemispheric Legacies of the Plantation*  
MW 0830-0950 112 Lillis Hall

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Prof. Irmary Reyes-Santos  
Office Hours: W 12:00-1:50PM, and by appointment (217 Alder)  
Email: irmary@uoregon.edu  
Office phone: 346-0928

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**Course Description**  
This course complicates the “American” in African American Studies by broadening the geographical scope of the field. Through the framework provided by African Diaspora Studies, we engage in a transnational examination of political, economic, and cultural matters of relevance to Afro-descendant peoples in the Americas. In this course, we point to the main questions of the field and its related key concepts. During the quarter, you must strive to learn how to think critically, ask pertinent questions, engage in productive conversations with your peers, read academic and cultural texts, define and apply concepts, and examine U.S. history and your everyday life through the framework provided by African Diaspora and African American Studies.

**Required Texts**
- Blackboard Readings
- Hard Road to Freedom vol. 1 and vol. 2 (Horton and Horton-Duck Store)
- Erzulie's Skirt (Duck Store)
- Reserve readings – You can find Hard Road to Freedom in hard reserves in the library.
- If you have any difficulties obtaining the readings (for financial or technological reasons) please communicate with the professor and the necessary arrangements will be made.

You MUST bring a hard copy of the assigned readings for every lecture. Read the assigned texts before lecture.

**Course Policies**  
**Creating a safe learning environment:**  
The student is responsible for attending every lecture, keeping up with all assigned readings, and participating actively in conversations in the classroom. The readings and lecture are only a small part of the learning experience. You must confront the challenge of the course by engaging with your teachers and classmates. Listen carefully and support your comments through references to the readings, sections, and lecture. In your comments and body language, you MUST show RESPECT for your instructors and peers. When someone is speaking, everyone listens. I reserve the right to ask you to leave the room, and/or drop the course, if you have disrupted classroom dynamics or disrespected your teachers and/or classmates. I must ensure that the classroom is a safe space for all. For this reason, you will have a strictly PROFESSIONAL relationship with the professor and GTF.
See campus policy on these matters at [http://aaeo.uoregon.edu](http://aaeo.uoregon.edu) and [http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_500/OAR_571/571_004.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_500/OAR_571/571_004.html). For campus regulations regarding academic dishonesty, classroom disruption, alcohol and drug violations, theft, physical assault, and sexual misconduct, see the Office of Student Judicial Affairs website: [http://studentlife.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm](http://studentlife.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm). Also see campus policy on affirmative action and equal opportunity posted on Blackboard.

**The Lecture:**
You should approach the lectures as models for understanding the texts. Be prepared to articulate the analytical frameworks presented in lecture in your assignments. I request that you avoid using your personal computers in lecture, unless it is necessary. They tend to be a distraction to you as well as your classmates. If you take notes on your laptop, you must sit in the first row of the classroom. If you arrive late, you must do the same. If you miss a lecture, or section, it is your responsibility to get notes from classmates and know the material. You can also come to see me during office hours to discuss material you have missed. Lecture notes will not be available by email or e-reserves.

**Office hours:**
The classroom and office hours are the spaces and time-slots allocated to meet your intellectual needs. We can schedule appointments. I encourage you to come to my office (or the GTF’s office) at least once in the quarter to talk about the readings, the lecture or assignments. When an assignment is due or an exam approaching, I may decide to set strict time-slots for individual students during my office hours. Therefore, if you have any questions, concerns, or just need to discuss anything at length with me, you should plan to meet before high demand periods. I strongly encourage you to seek your GTF’s feedback on your work. When you come to office hours, be open to constructive comments on your work.

**Email policy:**
Email is not the primary medium to contact me or the GTF. We should not be expected to respond to email immediately. Since not all of you have internet access all the time, it would be an unfair advantage for those who do to rely on email for communication. Moreover, the professor and GTFs have other responsibilities (preparing class, grading, writing), which are also part of their responsibilities and occupy their time outside the classroom and the office. You can email to set appointments, ask specific questions about the reading or lecture, or send the instructors information about any health-related or personal situation affecting your academic performance.

**Email Etiquette:**
Please remember that correspondence by email is another way that you participate in the class. Therefore, it is important to ensure that your email interactions with me are professional and courteous. Please include a subject line. Do not send papers to my email address. Do not email me questions that are already answered by the syllabus. You should always address me as Prof. Reyes-Santos by email, and sign your whole name at the end of your message.
Evaluation:
Participation 20 % (includes weekly responses due on Wednesdays)
One Assignment 15 %
Mid-term Exam 30 %
Final Exam-Portfolio 30 %
Surprise Quizzes 5 %

You will be evaluated on the skills mentioned in the course description (first page).

Attendance and Participation
Your grade for attendance and participation requires active participation and doing the
homework assigned. If you do not participate in our conversations for the whole quarter nor go
to office hours, do expect to receive a 0 in participation. If you arrive late to lecture or section,
just seat yourself quietly and wait until the class is over to ask what you missed. If you use your
laptop for activities not related to the course, you will lose ten percent of your participation
grade.

Late assignments
Late assignments will be marked down one-half letter grade (1.5%) for every day, unless you
have a special arrangement with the instructor, which would only be possible under very
extenuating circumstances. There are no make-up quizzes or examinations. You will be asked to
produce a doctor’s note if an exception is allowed. You cannot drop off late papers at the Ethnic
Studies office or my office. You will have to wait until the next lecture.

Late Papers, Grades, Questions
If you did not meet a deadline, avoid emotional outbursts in the Ethnic Studies office, my office,
or email. You are responsible for your performance in the course and punctuality. We can always
discuss exceptional circumstances.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty
I will not tolerate any kind of academic dishonesty. Familiarize yourself with campus policy with
regards to academic dishonesty: http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/
Punishment could include an F for the assignment, an F or withdrawal from the course, and
suspension or expulsion from the university. We actively investigate any sign of academic
dishonesty in our grading.

Health Conditions and Disability Services
If you have a documented health condition or experience any physical or emotional conditions
that impede your full participation in the course, please meet me soon. You may be asked to
bring a notification letter from Disability Services outlining your approved accommodations.
Week 1: Introduction: Why African Diaspora Studies at the University of Oregon?
Key Terms: African American Studies, African Diaspora Studies, Race, Social Construction, President Barack Obama

Monday:
- Syllabus

Wednesday:
- Introduction to the course: Race, the Power of an Illusion, Part I
- Quaker Oats pamphlet (Blackboard)

Week 2: Why African American and African Diaspora Studies?
Key Terms: Slavery, Racism, the Plantation, Alliances

Monday:
- Film: Race, the Power of an Illusion, Part III

Wednesday:
- “A Slave Girl Tells of Her Life” [Blackboard]
- Fanny Lou Hamer “Voting Rights in Mississippi”, “Get on the Ground” [Blackboard]
- Martha Calhoon, “A History of Eugene’s Race Politics” (May 18, 2006)[Blackboard]

Assignment due on Friday, Week 3 [Blackboard]

Week 3: Whiteness, Privilege

Monday:

Wednesday:
- Horton and Horton, “From Reconstruction to Jim Crow,” “From Civil Rights to Black Power,” “Conservatism and Race in Multicultural America” [Book]

Week 4: Intersectionality
Key Terms: Intersectionality, Gender, Sexuality, Heteronormativity, Ableism, Ageism, Feminism, Whiteness, Privilege

Monday:
- George Lipsitz, “The Possessive Investment in Whiteness”[Blackboard]
- Derrick Bell, “The Space Traders” [Blackboard]

Wednesday:
- Jewelle Gómez, “But Some of Us are Brave Lesbians” [Blackboard]
- Film: Black Nations/Queer Nations
Week 5: Institutionalized Racism  
Key Terms: Multiculturalism, Neoliberal State, Prison Industrial Complex, Institutionalized Racism 

Monday:
- Cheryl Clarke, “A House of Difference”  
- Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”  
- “Rights vs. Rights: An Improbable Collision Course” 

Wednesday:
- Continue discussion or film 

Take-home mid-term due Monday, Week 6 [Blackboard] 

Week 6: Freedom and Repression  
Key Terms: Freedom, Repression 

Monday:
- Mid-Term Exam due in class 

Wednesday:
- The Black Panthers, “Bobby Seale Explains Panther Politics: An Interview”  
- Michael Hames-García, “The Practice of Freedom: Assata’s Struggle”  
- Film: Black Panthers and Ethnic Studies in SFSU 

Week 7: Anti-racist Struggles and Decolonization Movements  
Key Terms: Citizenship, Imperialism, Blackness, Haitian Revolution, Identity, the Black Revolution 

Monday:
- Dessalines, “Haitian Constitution”  
- Malcolm X, “Answers to questions at the Militant Labor Forum”  
- Malcolm X, “The Black Revolution”  
- “The Victims of the Ku Klux Klan” 

Wednesday:
- Martin Luther King, “Conscience and the Vietnam War” 1967  
- Video: Yuri Kochiyama (significance of Malcolm X) 

Week 8: African Diaspora and Anti-War Movements
Key Terms: Prison Industrial Complex, Third World Feminism, Solidarity, Human Rights, Civil Rights

Monday:
  o Audre Lorde, “Grenada Revisited” [Blackboard]
  o Angela Davis, “Abolition Democracy” [Blackboard]

Wednesday:
  o Continue discussion
  o Dateline episode: Abu Ghraib (Blackboard)
  o Trouble the Water

Week 9: TODAY
Key Terms: Alliances, Family, Resistance

Monday:
Memorial Day Holiday

Wednesday:
  o Lorde, "The Uses of the Erotic" (Blackboard); Erzulie's Skirt (150 pages) (Book)

Week 10

Monday:
  o Erzulie's Skirt (finish novel) (Book)
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Wednesday:
  o Concluding Remarks
  o Preparing for the Final Exam

Take-home Final Exam (TBA)

Recommended readings on Blackboard:
  o “A Black Feminist Speaks Out” (1851)
  o “An Abolitionist is Given the Death Sentence in 1851”
  o Executive Order: “Desegregation of Central High School 1957”
  o “Ku Klux Klan Creed”
  o “Our Nation is Moving Towards Two Societies” 1968
  o and more