This course introduces students to the theoretical models used in the interdisciplinary study of African-America. Using a thematic approach, students will learn to critically engage the development of and dynamics between race, racism and blackness in the United States. This course, then, highlights the symbiotic relationship between structural domination and cultural resistance. As a sub-field of Ethnic Studies, the Introduction to African-American Studies pays special attention to the intersections of race, class, gender and sexuality.
**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the professor as soon as possible. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu or http://ds.uoregon.edu/DS_home.html. Please also request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter to Prof. Cheney verifying your disability.

**E-MAIL ETIQUETTE**
Your relationships with Dr. Cheney and your GTF, Miriam Abelson, are professional relationships. When corresponding by e-mail, always include a salutation (e.g. “Dear Prof. Cheney” or “Dear Ms. Abelson”) and a closing that identifies who you are (“Sincerely, María Rodríguez”). If we have not replied to e-mail, within a day or two, do not hesitate to follow up in person or with a second e-mail.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES**
Wireless and handheld devices and cell phones must be turned off prior to class. Please do not text in class. If you use a laptop during class, you will be required to sit in the first two rows of class with the wireless switch turned off.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGARISM**
All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. Please review the University’s policies at: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/judicial/conduct/sai.htm

**STUDENT CONDUCT**
Two standards of expectations regulate student responsibility in ES 250—these standards are non-negotiable. 1) Respect yourself and others: a diversity of views should be expected and protected. The topics covered in this course are often emotionally charged and are not always comfortable to discuss openly. You are expected to engage the issues in a mature, reasonable, and respectful manner, and to show respect for other students, the GTFs, and the professor at all times. 2) Bring your brains: Ethnic Studies is an academic discipline. This course is an intellectual, not an experiential, endeavor. Therefore an informed discussion of the problems and issues addressed in this course is required.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*Note: Readings, films, and lecture topics may be subject to minor modifications, which will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. Make sure your email is linked to the course Blackboard site.*

**SECTION ONE: THE ORIGINS OF AFRICAN-AMERICA**

**Week One/ The Origins of and Debates within Africana Studies**

- **M (3/28)**  Lecture: “The Birth of Black Studies”
- **W (3/30)**  Lecture/Discussion & Film: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*
Required Readings:
Molefi Asante, “Afrocentricity” (http://www.asante.net/articles/1/afrocentricity/)

Week Two/The Origins of the African Diaspora: Slavery in the New World
M (4/4) Lecture: “Slavery in the New World”
W (4/6) Lecture/Discussion & Film: “Africans in America”
Required Readings:
Katie Geneva Cannon, “Slave Ideology and Biblical Interpretation”

Week Three/The Social Construction of Blackness
W (4/13) Discussion & Film: “A Question of Color”
Required Readings:
Winthrop Jordan, “Mutual Causation’ of Racism and Slavery”
Barbara Fuchs, “A Mirror Across the Water: Mimetic Racism and Cultural Survival”
Patricia de Santana, Pinho, “White but Not Quite: Tones and Overtones of Whiteness in Brazil”

SECTION TWO: BLACK POLITICAL THOUGHT/ACTIVISM

Week Four/Quotidian Resistance
M (4/18) Lecture: “Slave Culture”
Required Readings:
Barbara Bush, “The Woman Slave and Slave Resistance”
Barbara Dianne Savage, “Biblical and Historical Imperatives: Toward a History of Ideas about the Political Role of Black Churches”

Week Five/Civil Rights Activism
W (4/27) Lecture/Discussion & Film: “Eyes on the Prize”
Required Readings:
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS (1954)
http://www.nationalcenter.org/brown.html
Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” 1963
Charles Payne, "Men Led, but Women Organized: Movement Participation of Women in the Mississippi Delta”

Week Six/Black Nationalism & Black Radicalism
M (5/2) Lecture: “The Black Power Movement”
Required Readings:
Black Panther Party, “What We Want/What We Believe”
Eldridge Cleaver, “The Allegory of the Black Eunuch”
Michele Wallace, Black Macho

Week Seven/A Challenge to Hegemony: Black Feminist Thought
W (5/11)  Lecture/Discussion: “Black Feminism in Practice”
Required Readings:
Combahee River Collective, “The Combahee River Collective Statement”
Deborah K. King “Multiple Jeopardy, Multiple Consciousness: The Context of
Black Feminist Ideology”

SECTION THREE: BLACK CULTURAL TRADITIONS/PRODUCTION
Week Eight/Literature as a Form of Cultural Resistance
Required Readings:
Alain Locke, “The New Negro”
Langston Hughes, “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”

Week Nine/The Cultural Politics of Black Music
and/or Feminist Politics?”
Required Readings:
Hazel V. Carby, “‘It Jus Be’s Dat Way Sometime’: The Sexual Politics of
Women’s Blues”
Tera Hunter, “The Blues Aesthetic and Black Vernacular Dance”

SECTION FOUR: BLACK SEXUALITY
Week Ten/Black Is, Black Ain’t: Exploring A Politics of Exclusion in Black Communities
M (5/30)  Memorial Day/No Class
W (6/1)  Lecture/Film: “Black Is/Black Ain’t”
Required Readings:
Cheryl Clarke, “The Failure to Transform: Homophobia in the Black
Community”
Dwight McBride, “Can the Queen Speak? Racial Essentialism, Sexuality and the
Problem of Authority”

FINAL DUE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 @ 10:15 A.M.