INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES  
SUMMER 2013  
PROF. CHARISE CHENEY  
OFFICE: ALDER 201  
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY & TUESDAY 9-10  
OR BY APPT

ETHNIC STUDIES 250 (CRN 42308)  
MON-THURS 10:00-12:20  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
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.

TEXT AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD

ASSIGNMENTS:

REFLECTION PAPER (30% OF FINAL GRADE):
You will have three opportunities to submit a 3-5 page reflection paper. Each date corresponds roughly with a section of the course: January 28, February 25, and March 11. The purpose of the reflection paper is to create a space to apply what you have learned in this course to your own lived experiences, and how this knowledge confirms or contradicts your values, perspectives and/or experiences. While reflection papers privileges the articulation of your experience, they also need to significantly engage course material (lectures, readings, films).

EXAMS (60% OF FINAL GRADE):
The midterm and final exams are take-home exams that will each include a combination of short answer questions and longer essay questions. Exams seek to measure your ability to remember the key ideas from the class, to draw conclusions from themes discussed throughout the course, to synthesize multiple reading and video assignments, and to craft persuasive arguments citing direct evidence from assigned readings. The midterm exam is worth 30% of your grade and the final is worth 30%. Both must be completed in order for you to pass the course.

Be sure to format exams with 1” margins (top, bottom, and sides) in double-spaced Times/Times Roman/Times New Roman 12pt. font. Be sure that the pages are numbered and that your name appears on each page in the header. Your GTF may not accept improperly formatted documents. EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Quotations of text and citation of sources are required and must be in compliance with the style sheet provided on Blackboard.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE (10% OF FINAL GRADE):
Attendance is required. You are expected to attend all lectures, and in-class assignments done during lecture sections count toward your participation grade. Furthermore, you will be responsible for material from in-class videos and lectures on the exams and quizzes. Reading responses should be posted to Blackboard by 10 a.m. each day. These postings factor into your participation grade.

ACCESSIBILITY
The University of Oregon seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable
accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services @ [http://ds.uoregon.edu/](http://ds.uoregon.edu/). The Center will work with you and I will gladly make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**E-MAIL ETIQUETTE**
Your relationships with Dr. Cheney and your GTF are professional relationships. When corresponding by e-mail, always include a salutation (e.g. “Dear Prof. Cheney”) 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.

**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](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**

**The Origins of and Debates within Africana Studies**

Lecture: “The Birth of Black Studies”
Lecture/Discussion & Film: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*

**Required Readings:**
Molefi Asante, “Afrocentricity” ([http://www.asante.net/articles/1/afrocentricity/](http://www.asante.net/articles/1/afrocentricity/))
The Origins of the African Diaspora: Slavery in the New World
Lecture: “Slavery in the New World”
Required Readings:
Katie Geneva Cannon, “Slave Ideology and Biblical Interpretation”
Adrienne Davis, “‘Don’t Let Nobody Bother Yo’ Principle: The Sexual Economy of American Slavery”

The Social Construction of Blackness
Lecture: “Blackness & the Principle of Hypodescent”
Discussion & Film: A Question of Color
Required Readings:
Winthrop Jordan, “Mutual Causation’ of Racism and Slavery”

SECTION TWO: BLACK POLITICAL THOUGHT/ACTIVISM

Quotidian Resistance
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”

Civil Rights Activism
Lecture: “The Modern Civil Rights Movement”
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”

Midterm Exam Monday, July 8

Black Nationalism & Black Radicalism
Lecture: “The Black Power Movement”
Film: “Power! 1966-1968”
Required Readings:
Black Panther Party, “What We Want/What We Believe”
Eldridge Cleaver, “The Allegory of the Black Eunuch”

A Challenge to Hegemony: Black Feminist Thought
Lecture: “Black Feminist Theory and Thought”
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

Literature as a Form of Cultural Resistance
Lecture: “The Harlem Renaissance”
   Required Readings:
   Alain Locke, “The New Negro”
   Langston Hughes, “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”

**The Cultural Politics of Black Music**
Lecture: “Women in the Rap Music Industry: Pornographic Imaging 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”

**BLACK SEXUALITY**
**Week Ten/Black Is, Black Ain’t: Exploring A Politics of Exclusion in Black Communities**
Lecture/Film: “Black Is/Black Ain’t”
   Required Readings:
   Dwight McBride, “Can the Queen Speak? Racial Essentialism, Sexuality and the Problem of Authority”

**FINAL: THURSDAY, JULY 18**