BLACK IMAGES IN POPULAR CULTURE

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a survey of Black images within popular culture. The course will provide an introductory investigation of historical and contemporary African American tropes visible within these areas: chattel slavery, film, television, sports, comedy, music and politics. The course will integrate racialized gendered stereotypes emphasizing the relevance of intersectionality within the consumption of African American culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a survey of the Black image within popular culture. Students will interrogate the roots of African American stereotypes within North American culture. Through an understanding of this history, we will assess how these stereotypes have evolved over time and the role they have played in constructing and positioning African Americans in American society. Students examine the ways in which African Americans actively construct images of themselves for a variety of political and social purposes.

IMPORTANT DATES

ANOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
March 2

MIDTERM EXAM
MARCH 16

MEDIA ASSIGNMENT
APRIL 6 2017

FINAL EXAM
MAY 16 2017

*Information is subject to change at the professor’s discretion.
# ETHN 98-06 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

## WEEK 1: Jan 24-26 - Intro/Study of the Black Image in Pop Culture/Creating Black Stereotypes


- *Fanon, Franz* *Black Skin White Masks*  “Chapter 5 THE FACT OF BLACKNESS.“ 1952. Pgs 82-86.


## WEEK 2: Jan 31- Feb 2 - Study of the Black Image in Pop Culture/Creating Black Stereotypes


## WEEK 3: Feb 7-9- Images of African Americans in Film


## WEEK 4: Feb 14-16- Images of African Americans in Film

### Writing an Annotated Bibliography Workshop

- Bausch, Katharine. “Superflies into Superkillers: Black Masculinity in Film from Blaxploitation to New Black Realism,” *Journal of Popular Culture*


## WEEK 5: Feb 21-23- Images of African Americans in Film


WEEK 6: Feb 28 – March 2- Images of African Americans in Television


ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ASSIGNEMENT DUE

WEEK 7: March 7-9- Images of African Americans in Television


- “Will the Real Black People of Atlanta Please Stand Up?” By Kelly Smith Beaty, Black Voices Pop Culture, Huffington Post, June 20, 2012.


- “What we Can Learn From VHI’s Sorority Sister’s NBC.com March 26, 2015.


WEEK 8: March 14-16- *MIDTERM EXAM*

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10: March 28-30- Images of African Americans in Sports


WEEK 11: April 4-6- Images of African Americans in Comedy


*** Media Content Analysis ASSIGNMENT DUE ***

WEEK 12: April 11-13- Images of African Americans in Comedy

- https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/19/bill-cosby-image-shielded-cliams-rape-lectured-black-america


WEEK 13: April 18—20-Images of African Americans in Music


WEEK 14: April 25-27- Images of African Americans in Music


WEEK 15: May 2-4- Images of African Americans in Politics

This last week of class we will catch up on lectures and students will discuss other areas not mentioned throughout the course.


WEEK 16: May 9-11


- Catch up on Readings/ Lectures

***FINAL EXAM MAY 16th - 12:45 pm-2:45 pm ~

Any information may be subject to change based on professor’s discretion.
**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Annotated Bibliography**
An annotated bibliography is required as part of the Content Analysis Media Assignment. It includes a list of citations to books, articles, and documents etc. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Students must include two related course text readings one outside academic source and one website in their annotated bibliography. [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/)

**Content Analysis Media Assignment:**
This is a take home assignment in which students will watch and record data from television shows based on Race & Gender Stereotyping. Written Guidelines will be provided closer to assignment date.

**Midterm and Final Examination:**
The examination will consist of short answers and essay questions and will cover required readings, lectures and class discussions. There will be no make up examinations. Please remember that many questions on the midterms and the finals are based on the lectures and may not be found in your texts, therefore attendance in class is critical. *Students must be on time on the day of all exams or they will not be able to take exam.*

**Attendance/Participation**
Participation is a critical component of this class. Do not forget to sign in daily, as this will determine the points you receive and can have a significant impact on your grade. You will loose 2 points very every absence unless you provide proper documentation to support absence.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will be able to:
1. Identify and articulate stereotypical tropes of African Americans within contemporary contexts by gathering, summarizing, and analyzing multiple academic and popular texts.
2. Analyze and apply conceptual implications of discrimination, slavery coerced Americanization, colonization, sexism, and color consciousness on the social experiences of men and women of color.
3. Analyze the intersections of gender, race/ethnicity, class, and sexuality within a contextual media analysis.
4. Students will develop academic writing practices by creating an annotated bibliography.
5. Evaluate continuing effects of prejudice and discrimination in popular culture.
6. Analyze and apply cultural studies theoretical approaches understanding race, culture, and identity formation.
General Class Information

Required Course Reader: **The class reader is a compilation of articles is available at the CSUS Hornet Bookstore and SacCt Online. 916-278-6446.

Grading Scale:

- Annotated Bibliography: 10 points
- Media Assignment: 20 points
- Midterm Examination: 30 points
- Final Examination: 30 points
- Attendance/Participation: 10 points
- Total: 100 points

OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

- A = 95 – 100
- B+ = 87 – 90
- C+ = 77 – 79
- D+ = 67 – 69
- A- = 91 – 94
- B = 83 – 86
- C = 73 – 76
- D = 63 – 66
- B- = 80 – 82
- C- = 70 – 72
- F = 0 – 62

Midterm Examination: Week 8
Final Examination: Week 17

YOU MUST BE ON TIME FOR ALL EXAMS or you will forfeit your opportunity to take it.

"If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please provide a copy of your accommodation letter from Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD) and contact me as early as possible so that your learning needs may be appropriately addressed."

http://www.csus.edu/sswd/Support%20Services%20For%20Students/index.html