

# BLACK IMAGES IN POPULAR CULTURE

**ETHNIC 98-06 IND (34961)**

**TR: 12-1:15PM**

**Library 4021**

**Dr. Andrea L. S. Moore**

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**Office Hours: TR 10:30-11:30 am Amador 462B**



## IMPORTANT DATES

**ANNOTATED 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.*

## 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.

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## ETHN 98-06 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

- Dates, Janette L. and William Barlow, editors. *Split Image: African Americans in the Mass Media*. "Introduction: A War of Images," Washington, D.C. Howard University Press, 1993. Pgs 1-22.
- Fanon, Franz. *Black Skin White Masks*. "Chapter 5 THE FACT OF BLACKNESS." 1952. pgs 82-86.
- SCREENING ETHNIC NOTIONS~ [http://fod.infobase.com.proxy.lib.csus.edu/p\\_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=49775](http://fod.infobase.com.proxy.lib.csus.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=49775)

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

- Turner, Patricia A. *Ceramic Uncles & Celluloid Mammies: Black Images and Their Influence on Culture*. "Introduction-Chapters 1&4". Bantam-Doubleday-Dell, 2451 S. Wolf Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60018, 1994.
- Covington, Jeanette. *Crime and Racial Constructions: Cultural Misinformation about African Americans in Media and academia*. "Introduction" Lexington Books, 2010. Pgs 1-21. AND pgs. 190-198. AND 218-223.
- Okorafor-Mbachu, Nnedi Stephen King's Super-Duper Magical Negroes, "Strange Horizons", October 25, 2004.
- Reese, Renford. *American paradox: Young Black Men*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2004, 127-140.

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

- Bogle, Donald. *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies and Bucks, An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Films*. "Chapters 1-4" New York: Continuum, 2001.
- Watkins, S. Craig. *Representing: Hip Hop Culture and the Production of Black Cinema*. "Chapter 3." University of Chicago Press, 1998.
- Sims, Yvonne. "Metamorphosis of the Black Action Heroine." *Women of Blaxploitation: How the Black Action Film Heroine Changed American Popular Culture*, McFarland. 2006.

### **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*
- Rajakumar, Mohana. Alisha Saiyed. *Movies in the age of Obama: the era of post racial and neo-racist cinema*. "I am Trayvon Martin. Obama and the Black Male in Cinema" Edited by Izzo, David Garrett. Rowan and Littlefield, 2015, 105-110.
- Murguia, Salvador. *Movies in the age of Obama: the era of post racial and neo-racist cinema*. "162 Years after 12 Years a Slave" Edited by Izzo, David Garrett. Rowan and Littlefield, 2015, 241-250.

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

- Ndounou, Monica White. *Shaping the Future of African American Film: Color-coded Economics and the Story Behind the Numbers*. "Conclusion." Rutgers University Press, 2014, 239-250.
  - "The Whitest Oscars Since 1998" *The Daily Beast*, by Kevin Fallon  
<https://www.facebook.com/HuffingtonPost/videos/10152868575401130/>
  - "Oscars: Record Six Black Actors Nominated, Diversity Improves After Controversy" *Variety*, by Jenelle Riley  
<http://variety.com/2017/film/news/2017-oscars-diversity-denzel-washington-viola-davis-octavia-spencer-1201968125/>
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**WEEK 6: Feb 28 – March 2- Images of African Americans in Television**

- Donald Bogle, *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. “Chapter 1”(New York: Farrar, Straus, and Grioux. 2001.
- Acham, Christine. *Revolution Televised: Prime Time and the Struggle for Black Power*. “Reading the Roots of Resistance, Chapter 1” University of Minnesota Press, 2004.
- Gray, Herman. *Watching Race: Television and the Struggle for Blackness*. “Transformation of the Television Industry and the Social Production of Blackness, It’s a Different World, & Jammin’ On the One! Say It Loud!” University of Minnesota Press, 1995.
- [Freeman, Hadley. “How Bill Cosby’s image shielded him from claims of Rape” The Guardian Nov 19, 2014.](#)

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT DUE****WEEK 7: March 7-9- Images of African Americans in Television**

- “VH1's Reality: A Rock and a Hard Place.” By Yvonne Villarreal and Greg Braxton, *Los Angeles Times*. June 03, 2012.
- “Will the Real Black People of Atlanta Please Stand Up?” By Kelly Smith Beaty, Black Voices Pop Culture, *Huffington Post*, June 20, 2012.
- “Race and Reality: The Quiet Success of the Black Unscripted Boom” *Hollywood Reporter*, April 3, 2014.
- “What we Can Learn From VH1’s Sorority Sister’s *NBC.com* March 26, 2015.
- “How 'Empire' Takes Hip-Hop and Black Respectability to Task” Shannon M. Houston *Shadow and Act* Feb 5, 2015.  
<http://blogs.indiewire.com/shadowandact/how-empire-takes-hip-hop-and-black-respectability-to-task-20150205>
- Respers France, Lisa. [‘Power’ creator Courtney Kemp on Success of the Show” CNN July 22, 2016.](#)

**WEEK 8: March 14-16- \*MIDTERM EXAM\*****WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK****WEEK 10: March 28-30- Images of African Americans in Sports**

- Hoberman, John. *Darwin’s Athletes: How Sport Has Damaged Black America and Preserved the Myth of Race*.
- “Preface, “Introduction, “The African America Sports Fixation, & Athleticizing the Black Criminal.” Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997.
- Reese, Renford. *American paradox: Young Black Men*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2004, 96-101.
- “What Marshawn Lynch and Richard Sherman Teach Us About Respectability & Black Masculinity” *The Crunk Feminist Collective (CFC)* February 3, 2015.
- “Stardom Doesn’t Change Where You’re From.” By Richard Sherman Apr 2, 2014  
<http://mmqb.si.com/2014/04/02/richard-sherman-deshaun-jackson>
- <http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/wireStory/blackgirlmagic-takes-spotlight-olympics-41531023>
- <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/2016-rio-summer-olympics/blackgirlmagic-african-american-women-take-spotlight-rio-olympics-n635101>

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

- Means Coleman, Robin R. African American Viewers and the Black Situation Comedy: Situating Racial Humor. "Introduction." New York: Garland Publishing, Inc. 2000.
- Acham, Christine. Revolution Televised: Prime Time and the Struggle for Black Power. *Reading the Roots of Resistance*, "Chapter 6 and Conclusion." University of Minnesota Press, 2004.

**\*\*\* 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-claims-rape-lectured-black-america>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/mar/07/ghostbusters-leslie-jones-defends-remake-racial-stereotyping-criticism>
- [http://www.etonline.com/news/193824\\_leslie\\_jones\\_makes\\_triumphant\\_twitter\\_return\\_after\\_racist\\_attacks/](http://www.etonline.com/news/193824_leslie_jones_makes_triumphant_twitter_return_after_racist_attacks/)

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

- Henderson, Errol. "Rap and Black Nationalism" *Journal of Black Studies*. September 1995, Vol. 26. No. 1.
- Watkins S. Craig, "Black Youth and the Ironies of Capitalism," *That's the Joint! The Hip- Hop Studies Reader*, Eds. Murray Forman and Mark Anthony Neal, Routledge, 2004, pp. 557-578.

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

- Cummings, Andre Douglas Pond. "Thug Life: Hip-Hop's Curious Relationship with Criminal Justice." *Santa Clara L. Rev.* 50 (2010): 515.

**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.

Henderson, Carol E., ed. *Imagining the Black Female Body: Reconciling image in Print and Visual Culture*. "Introduction pgs. 1-6." Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

**WEEK 16: May 9-11**

- Harris-Perry, Melissa V. *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America*. Yale University Press, 2011, 277-292.
- **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.*



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## **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/>

### **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**

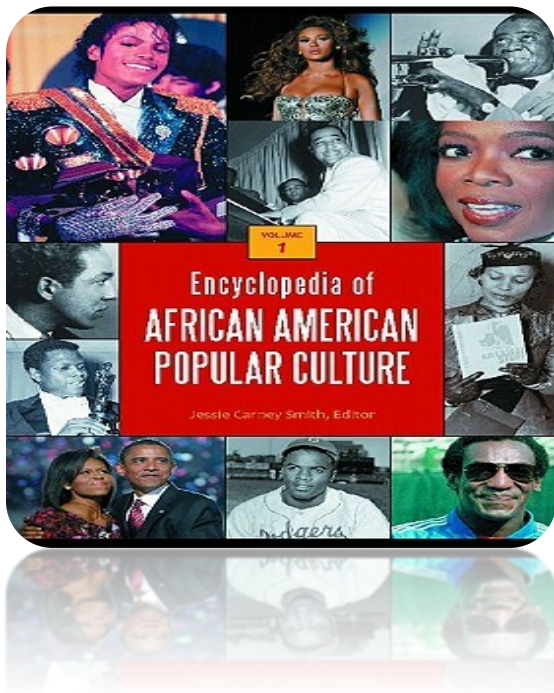
Participation is a critical component of this class. Do not forget to sign in daily, as this will determine the points you receive and can have a significant impact on your grade. You will lose 2 points very every absence unless you provide proper documentation to support absence.

## **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	<u>10 points</u>
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>