Course Syllabus

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Fax: (305) 348-3270

Office Hours: By phone or through Moodle chat by appointment; or in person, by appointment

E-mail: Please use Moodle Course Mail ONLY. Do not use FIU e-mail system to contact me or my TA.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the core course required for students who want a Certificate in African & African Diaspora Studies. This course provides students with an in-depth examination of key aspects of black popular cultures in their global dimensions. It has a comparative focus on historical processes, race or racialization, gender and sexuality, language, religion, identity or identification, and other related topics. The interdisciplinarity of the course will require that students understand and synthesize discipline-based information.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students will be able to:

• Identify the key issues, both historical and contemporary, that are relevant to the experiences of people of African descent in both continental Africa and in the Diaspora.

• Explain how scholars and researchers use various disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to examine these key issues.

• Engage in scholarly conversations and discussions with peers and the instructor on the global dimensions of black popular cultures.
• Critically evaluate popular and scholarly literature on the experiences of African people throughout the globe.

TEXTBOOK

REQUIRED READINGS (CHAPTERS FROM VARIOUS TEXTS)

All course readings can be accessed through Moodle. Required articles are located in the weekly sections for which they are assigned. There are also recommended readings included for some sections and an additional link for “Recommended Readings on Diasporas”.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

For more information about prerequisites, click here.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 quizzes</td>
<td>902</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<table>
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<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>above 92</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81 - 83</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91 - 92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 80</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>64 - 66</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 90</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 76</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61 - 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71 - 73</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note the total points possible in this course is 1,100; 100 extra credit points have been built into the method of assessment (I will calculate the final grade as if your total number of points was out of 1,000. Consider the two extra points as a gift). For this reason, there will be NO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDIT given for any reason in this course.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As a college, we care about and enforce the Policies and Procedures as they are important to the quality of the education we are providing to you. Details on FIU Policies can be found at:
**EXTRA CREDIT**

Attend at least one of the plenary sessions of the all day symposium organized by FIU’s African & African Diaspora Studies Program on October 30, 2009 in the GC Ballrooms on Modesto Maidique Campus. Write a 2 page report about the arguments developed by the main speaker, and summarize the response of the two discussants that followed the main speaker of the plenary session you chose to attend. The total length may not be over two pages. Identify the plenary session you have attended at the beginning of the two page report.

The program of the 10/30/2009 one day symposium will be posted on the main page of this course’s website shortly. An announcement will be made to advertise the posting.

Students MUST upload their extra credit reports in **MICROSOFT WORD FORMAT ONLY TO BOTH TURNITIN.COM AND MOODLE** by the due date in order to receive credit. Any submission in any other format than Microsoft Word will **not** be graded.

**Turnitin login information:**
For posting your compositions you must register with [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Once you are in that site, you must create a user profile. To create a user profile please do the following:

- On the upper right corner, click **CREATE A USER PROFILE**.
- Click **NEXT**.
- On the next window, enter the **CLASS ID** which is 2821507
- On **CLASS ENROLLMENT PASSWORD** enter: **privilege** (all lower case and together)

If you do not understand the instructions above, watch this [video](#).

**DISCUSSION**

As indicated in the syllabus, 10% (100 points) of the final grade will be reflective of your level of participation in the chapter discussions that the professor will initiate. There will be more than one discussion open per chapter. The chapter discussions will be open for a limited time period, which will correspond to the chapter we are covering in each specific week (see “Course Calendar”). When the discussions of a specific chapter will close, the discussions of the following chapters will automatically be available. What is looked for here with this system is your enthusiastic participation **IN DUE TIME**. It is highly recommended that you keep up with the program set up in the syllabus and calendar. Participation in chapter discussions helps students to score better in quizzes.

At the end of the semester, the professor will review the level of participation of each student in the course’s e-archives and assign a participation grade accordingly.

The objective of these discussions is to provide the students with the opportunity to discuss material that might be novel and surprising. Discussions help the comprehension of new concepts. However, in order to facilitate the actual discussions, and make sure that they stay on focus, students should enter relatively brief (3 paragraphs maximum) interventions at a
time. Twice a week, the professor will take a look at the evolving discussions and intervene as he sees it necessary.

The e-space of the discussions may NOT be used for the transmission of personal messages from a student to another, or from a student to the professor. For the latter, the course's e-mail and message posting systems must be used.

The professor has a zero tolerance for plagiarism, as per the FIU policies (see course's homepage). Any student who is caught plagiarizing will receive an "F." grade for the course. In such a case, the professor will request from FIU's Academic Affairs that this "F" grade not be removed.

**QUIZZES**

Important information regarding quizzes:

- If a quiz/exam has a time limit; all questions must be answered and **submitted before** the time expires. When the time has run out, the quiz/exam is submitted automatically with whatever answers have been filled in so far and will automatically receive a grade of zero.
- Be aware of the availability window on quizzes/exams.
  - For example: If your quiz/exam is available from 7am - 7pm and you have 1 hour to complete the exam; you would need to start your quiz/exam at 6pm in order for you to have the full hour. If you start at 6:20 then you will only have 40 minutes to complete your exam.
- If multiple attempts are allowed on your quiz/exam there will be a 30 minute time delay between attempts.

One quiz (focused on the films and required readings) will be administered at specific dates (see calendar and syllabus). Each quiz (short answer questions) will count for 82 points. These quizzes will not be cumulative. The dates of availability of each quiz are indicated below and in the course's Calendar. They will be available for two days, always starting on a Friday afternoon and due by Sunday at 11:55pm. Required readings MUST be done in advance, which is to say by the dates indicated below, in the section "Schedule of classes." You should read the required readings prior to going through the short videotaped conversations with Dr. Rahier and the Power Point presentations.

One quiz (focused on the films and required readings) will be administered at specific dates (see calendar and syllabus). Each quiz (short answer questions) will count for 82 points. These quizzes will not be cumulative. The dates of availability of each quiz are indicated below and in the Course Calendar. They will be available for two days, always starting on a Friday afternoon, and will be due by the following Sunday at 11:55pm. Required readings MUST be done in advance, which is to say by the dates indicated below, in the section "Course Calendar." You should read the required readings prior to going through the Power Point presentations.

Students are strongly encouraged to present the quizzes individually. Quizzes must be completed on Moodle via the weekly links on the course homepage. Students will complete
their short answer quizzes in Moodle by following the procedure below:

- Click on the assignment labeled “Quiz” in the appropriate weekly section
- Read the instructions for the quiz at the top of the page
- Type your answers into the individual submission fields
- Click “Submit” when you are finished

### Quiz Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz</th>
<th>Available Date</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QUIZ 1</td>
<td>9/4/09 at 4pm</td>
<td>9/6/09 at 11:55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIZ 2</td>
<td>9/11/09 at 4pm</td>
<td>9/13/09 at 11:55pm</td>
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<td>QUIZ 3</td>
<td>9/18/09 at 4pm</td>
<td>9/20/09 at 11:55pm</td>
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<td>QUIZ 4</td>
<td>9/25/09 at 4pm</td>
<td>9/27/09 at 11:55pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUIZ 5</td>
<td>10/2/09</td>
<td>10/4/09 at 11:55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIZ 6</td>
<td>10/16/09</td>
<td>10/18/09 at 11:55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIZ 7</td>
<td>10/23/09</td>
<td>10/25/09 at 11:55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIZ 8</td>
<td>10/30/09 at 4pm</td>
<td>11/01/09 at 11:55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIZ 9</td>
<td>11/13/09 and due by</td>
<td>11/15/09 at 11:55pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUIZ 10</td>
<td>11/20/09 and due by</td>
<td>11/22/09 at 11:55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIZ 11</td>
<td>12/4/09 and due by</td>
<td>12/06/09 at 11:55pm</td>
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### EXPECTATION OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online courses are the same as for traditional courses; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Online courses are not independent study courses. You will be expected to interact online with the professor and your fellow students; to do assignments; to meet deadlines; and in many classes, to work in virtual groups. In some online courses, you may be required to come to campus to take midterms and exams.

Tips for Success in your online course, [click here](http://moodle.fiu.edu/mod/resource/view.php?inpopup=true&id=5777).


### COURSE CALENDAR

It is highly recommended that all students consult regularly, for each chapter, the resources that the professor has made available on the course’s website. These resources include a series of relevant information related to the content of the articles included in each chapter.
## Weeks 1 & 2 (08/24 & 08/31)

**I Introduction to the course’s main focus**

A. The discipline of Anthropology and the concept of “race”
B. What is “Diaspora”?

- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor about the details of the course.
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor about the content of the course.
- Do the required reading for the Introduction.
- Go through the Power Point Presentation (PPT).
- Participate in the class discussions.
- Do the quiz .1

**Required Readings**

- The American Anthropological Association (AAA)’s statement on “race”
  [http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm](http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm)
- The AAA’s statement on “race” and intelligence
  [http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/race.htm](http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/race.htm)
  [http://www.aaanet.org/gvt/ombdraft.htm](http://www.aaanet.org/gvt/ombdraft.htm)
- Safran, William

**Recommended Readings**

- Gilroy, Paul

See the additional link included in this weekly section for more recommended readings about Diasporas.

## Week 3 (09/07)

- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Participate in the class discussions.
- Watch the film “W.E.B. Du Bois: A Biography in Four Voices”.
- Do the quiz 2.

**II The Transnationality of “Black Popular Culture” (1)**

A. The issue of African origins
B. Roots and Routes

- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Go through the Power Point Presentation (PPT).
- Do the required reading.
- Participate in the class discussions.
Week 4 (09/14)

- Do the quiz 3.

Required Reading
• Rahier, Jean Muteba
• Gilroy, Paul

Week 5 (09/21)

II The Transnationality of “Black Popular Culture” (2)
C. The notion of “black cultural traffic”
D. Globalization and Race
(Since its very beginning, because of its diasporic condition, what has been called “Black Culture” has had transnational dimensions)

- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Go through the Power Point Presentation (PPT).
- Do the required reading.
- Participate in the class discussions.
- Do the quiz 4.

Required Readings
• Jackson, Kennel
• Thomas, Deborah and Kamari Clarke

Week 6 (09/28)

II The Transnationality of “Black Popular Culture” (3)
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Do the required reading.
- Watch the film “Ça Twiste à Poponguine”.
- Participate in the class discussions.
- Do the quiz 5.

Required Readings
• Diawara, Manthia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7 (10/05)</th>
<th>Week 8 (10/12)</th>
<th>Week 9 (10/19)</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **III The Importance of Paris (France) in the Development and Circulation of Africans and African Americans**  
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.  
- Participate in the class discussions.  
- Do the required reading.  
  
**Recommended Readings**  
Berliner, Brett  
  
Berliner, Brett  
  
**Recommended Film**  
“La Revue des Revues” (1927); Netflix has it.  

**IV Muhammad Ali versus George Foreman in Zaire**  
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.  
- Do the required reading.  
- Watch the film “When We Were Kings”.  
- Participate in the class discussions.  
- Do the quiz 6.  
  
**Required Readings**  
• Ryan, Susan  
1996 "When We Were Kings." Cineaste 22(4): 54(2).  
• Carrington, Ben  

**V Fela Anikulapo Kuti and the Afrobeat**  
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.  
- Do the required reading.  
- Watch the film “Fela Kuti: Teacher Don’t Teach Me Nonsense”.  
- Participate in the class discussions.  
- Do the quiz 7. |
Week 10 (10/26)

VI Reggae Music: From Jamaica to the World Scene
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Do the required reading.
- Watch the film “Bob Marley: Catch a Fire”.
- Participate in the class discussions.
- Do the quiz 8.

Required Readings
- Olaniyan, Tejumola

Week 11 & 12 (11/02 & 11/09)

VII Clothing Fashion in Africa
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Do the required reading.
- Watch the film “Cinderella of the Cape Flat”.
- Participate in the class discussions.
- Do the quiz 9.

Required Readings
- Singh, Simboonath
- Rovine, Victoria L.
- Rogerson, Christian

Recommended Reading
- Rabine, Leslie

VIII The Black Body in Transnational Perspectives
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Do the required reading.
- Watch the film “The Life and Time of Sara Baartman. The Hottentot Venus”.
- Participate in the class discussions.
### Week 13 (11/16)

- Do the quiz 10.

**Required Reading**
- Partridge, Damani James

**Recommended Reading**
- Magubane, Zine

- Gilman, Sander

### Weeks 14 & 15 (11/23 & 11/30)

IX Global Dimensions of Hip Hop
- Watch the videotaped conversation with the Professor.
- Do the required reading.
- Participate in the class discussions.
- Do the quiz 11.

**Required Readings**