

The University of Texas at Austin
INTRODUCTION TO BLACK STUDIES

AFR 303, ANT 310D

29620 & 30730

Ethics and Leadership, Cultural Diversity, Global Cultures Flags
Online Streamed

Spring 2019

Location: Mezes 2.200 + On Line

Instructor: Dr. Edmund T. Gordon

Office Hours: W 3:00 – 4:30

Time: M, W 11:30 – 1:00 PM

Office: MAI 2.100

email: etgordon@austin.utexas.edu

Technical Support: gatewaytechsupport@austin.utexas.edu.

Course Description:

This course provides students with an introduction to Black Studies. In the first section of the course we consider the history of Black Studies in the U.S. using the integration and development of Black Studies here at the University of Texas, Austin as a case study. We then turn to considerations of the historical construction of Africa, the Black Diaspora, and the idea of Blackness. Building on this foundation the course provides students with the analytical tools to critically explore canonical Black Studies literature, themes, and theories. This section of the course interrogates race, gender, class, sexuality, and their intersections. The second section of the course focuses on Black cultures, power, and politics. It utilizes the analytical tools provided by the course to forge an understanding of Black gendered cultural forms. The third section of the course focuses in on the expression and use of Black Studies and the ethical questions raised by applying this perspective to everyday concerns in critical areas of social inequity.

The course meets online during scheduled class times and includes a live-streaming video component. Students are encouraged to visit <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tower/tech.html> to test their computer and network connection and learn about the course structure.

Description of Online Format:

This is the Synchronous Massive Online Course (SMOC) version of the AFR303 course. Unlike almost all other courses offered at the University of Texas, you will be viewing this class online (from the comfort of your own home, library, or coffee joint) rather than in-person (except as required.) Though delivered as a live stream through Canvas, this course takes place at the official times described in the course schedule: 11:30 am – 1:00pm Mondays and Wednesdays. You are required to attend class by logging into the course site before 11:30am on Monday and Wednesday to watch the live, real-time video stream of our lectures and participate in class activities. It is very

important that you treat logging into the course website the way you would treat attending a traditional course held in a classroom; attendance is required. You will have the opportunity to pose questions online in real-time just as if you were raising your hand in class. The lectures will have 7 students participating directly with Dr. Gordon during the live class and another 18-20-person studio audience. These students will be chosen through an application process on a first come basis.

About the Live Online Class format:

Canvas class website: To get to everything associated with the class, go to: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1240671>. You can enter directly at this URL or through Canvas (<https://utexas.instructure.com/>). To log into Canvas and the class website, you will need your UTEID and password. Once you reach the class website, you can navigate your way to other areas.

Some of the most important features include:

1. Homepage – The homepage will have links to the Course Syllabus, the Video Stream where you watch class every day, a help section, and several other important links you'll use through the course.
2. Video Stream – The Video Stream is the page on which you will find the live lecture for the course. The Video Stream will also display the outline for the current lecture and links to other participation activities.
3. Modules – The Modules page includes links to the Assignments, Readings, Lecture video archives and other course documents.

Most of your activity on Canvas will take place in the Video Stream and Modules tabs.

Tech Requirements:

Required internet-enabled device: All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Your computer should have enough battery life to last an entire class period and meet the following requirements:

- Computer laptop or desktop
- RAM: at least 2GB
- Modern and updated operating system (MacOS or Windows)
- Browsers: Safari, Firefox, or Chrome (highly recommended)
- 5Mbps internet connection speed (check here: <http://beta.speedtest.net/>)

You should confirm that your computer is able to stream the video lectures by visiting the test stream page at <https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tower/tech.html>.

There are multiple computer labs on campus for your use if you do not have a personal computer or laptop. (You can find a listing of these labs [here](#). If you do not have an internet-enabled device, some inexpensive ones are available at local stores or on the internet, some for as little as \$100.

We also encourage you to watch the lectures with your classmates so if you do not have a personal computer or laptop you might consider pairing with a classmate who does.

Bandwidth limitations: Because the streaming video is bandwidth-intensive, you should not access YouTube, Skype, Gmail video chat or other online video system, or any other program that is bandwidth-demanding during class. During the class session, you should be watching the lecture, taking written notes, and nothing else! (I recognize the temptation to multi-task. If you find yourself frequently distracted online, I recommend you try browser-based solutions like StayFocused or LeechBlock that prevent you from accessing certain tempting websites during class hours).

Course communication:

During Class:

The Class Chat feature allows you to communicate with your TA and other students during the class.

The Ask the Professor a Question feature on the Video Stream is the forum where students should ask questions for clarification or further elaboration.

We expect that you will treat online discussions as though you are having a **civil, respectful discussion** with your fellow classmates in the same classroom. Please refrain from using profanity or any euphemisms for profanity. Please do not bait other commenters or personally attack them. Please do not use sarcasm in a way that can be misinterpreted negatively. And please do not make the same point over and over again. Also, please ensure that your discussion in the class chat remain relevant to the topic at hand. In short, please just respect the right of your colleagues to ask questions and discuss their opinions about the subject matter of our course on the discussion board and refrain from unnecessarily being a distraction to others. Violators of these discussion rules will simply be shut out of the online discussion board and will be asked to see the professor in person.

Outside of Class:

The TAs and professor will often post Announcements in Canvas. Click on the “Settings” link in the upper-right corner of your Canvas page, to adjust your email address and notification preferences. This will allow you to receive email updates whenever course Announcements are made, or when assignments and grades are posted.

If you have a specific, personal or grade-related question, please email your TA or visit them during office hours.

Please do not use the Inbox feature within Canvas for course-related email.

Even though this is an online course, you are encouraged to communicate with the professors and TA. Come to our posted online office hours, or send an email to set up an appointment if none of the weekly office hours fit your schedule.

Honor system for quizzes and writing assignments:

By taking this class, you agree to abide by the University of Texas regulations concerning cheating. During the quizzes you cannot receive help from others or discuss your writing assignments with other students. If you observe others cheating, you are honor bound to contact the TAs or instructors.

Information and data security:

All quizzes and online interactions in Canvas will be saved and stored. All information will be kept for educational and general academic research. Any research or data sharing with other researchers will involve de-identifying the data, including the removal of names, UTEIDs, email addresses, or other information. To further ensure that your information is secure, please do not include identifying information in your online interactions with others. Remember that in online interactions, the instructors and TAs will have access to all information. Please communicate in a respectful manner.

Reporting technical problems:

If you experience a technical problem during class, your first course of action should always be to immediately report the issue to tech support via the tech chat accessible through the Home Page or the Video Stream. Please note that you must report any technical issue before the end of the lecture during which the problem occurs. The professor and teaching assistants will not address the ramifications that your technical problems might have on your grade if tech support does not have a record of your problem. If you experience a technical problem outside of class, please follow the link to contact tech support in Canvas.

Lecture Attendance – We Will Take Attendance!!

The course will meet two times per week for lectures by the professor. The lectures will present empirical material, and interpretive perspectives not available elsewhere. They will be complemented by the readings. Students are required to attend all lectures online. We will take your attendance three to four times during each lecture!!! If students must miss lecture due to sickness or other unchangeable obligations, they must inform the TA's as soon as possible. You are required to send explanations for absences to the TA's email (onlineAFR303ta@austin.utexas.edu) in advance when possible, and no later than 24 hours after lecture. If a satisfactory explanation does not arrive at the attendance TA's email within 24 hours of lecture, the student will be graded down for an unexcused absence. You must attend lectures!

In-Person Studio Attendance:

Although this is an online class, a self-selected group of students will attend each day. For those who will attend class in the studio, please be at the building by 11:10 a.m. The doors will close shortly after 11:15 a.m. so we can talk to you about studio rules. You will also get a chance to talk with the instructors, TA, and the other students who will be part of this. Please note that food and drinks are not allowed in the studio. Make sure to go to the restroom before you enter. When the live broadcast is in session you will only be able to leave in the case of an emergency.

The studio classroom is in Mezes (MEZ) 2.206. Enter the building from the west main entrance and walk up the stairs. Walk straight through the hallway and there will be an area for you to wait near the end of the hallway. A TA will be there to greet you and let you in to the classroom. Be sure to bring a laptop with you.

Course Requirements:

1. **Class Attendance (6 pts.).** Students are required to attend class
 - a. Attendance - will be taken three to four times during every class meeting. A TA will send you pop-up “Instapolls” throughout the lecture at random times to gauge your participation. Students answering 90% or more of all instapolls sent during the semester will receive 6 pts. Those answering between 80% - 89% of instapolls will receive 4.4 pts. Those answering between 79% - 70% of instapolls will receive 2.4 pts. Those answering less than 69% of instapolls will receive 0 pts. **ANY STUDENT WHO MISSES MORE THAN 50% OF THIS COURSE’S INSTAPOLLS WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE.**
 - b. 21 self-selected students will attend class in person in the studio for the entire semester. For these students, attendance will be taken by a TA with a sign-up sheet. The same point system as above applies ie. Students attending 90% or more of in studio lectures will receive 6 pts etc.
 - c. Students who commit to attending class in studio will receive a 2 point bonus on their final grade and will not be required to complete the reading discussion posts.
2. **Reading Discussions (5 pts.)**
 - a. Students will be asked to participate in four on line group discussion over the course of the semester focused on sets of class readings. These group discussions will not be announced before hand and will be randomly posted on Canvas on Wednesdays and are due by 10pm on Sundays.
3. **Vox Pops (4 points)**
 - a. students will conduct short video interviews with members of the UT population or general public. The questions are pre-determined and will be posted on Canvas. The videos can be recorded using your camera, smart phone, tablet, or laptop.
4. **Quiz (30 pts.)**
 - a. There will be 3 timed quizzes testing knowledge of African-American history and the history of Black Studies within the context of Blacks at the University of Texas, Black Studies core concepts and Ethics. Only some of the materials for these quizzes will be covered in class. Additional material on these subjects are available online and on Canvas. A study guide for each quiz will be available on Canvas. Each quiz will be administered in Canvas and students can take each up to 2 times.
5. **Short Essays (45 points)**
 - a. There will be 6 1-page essays covering the main topics discussed throughout the semester. The prompts will be posted on Canvas and the essays are to be uploaded to Canvas by **11:59 pm** on their due date. Each essay should be 1 double spaced page. Essays are worth 7.5 points each
6. **Ethics Case Study Essay (10 pts.)**

- a. You will write 1-2 page response essay in which you discuss the ethics presented in a Case Study provided for you and determine a position you support regarding the issues raised by the Case Study. You must explain clearly why you have chosen the position you have taken. In your discussion, you must cite at least two scholarly essays assigned as class reading, and you must reference the arguments made during the presentation of ethics in class. Your essay must be no less than one and no more than two typed, double spaced pages. **The essay is due posted on Canvas no later than 5:00 Friday May 10, 2019.** Late essays will not be accepted unless previously authorized. A rubric for writing this essay will be provided on Canvas.

Grades:

The TA will work to return assignments within two weeks. After receiving each graded assignment, wait at least 24 hours before bringing concerns to the TA. Any concerns about grades must be brought to the TA's attention no more than one week after the student receives the grade. Gordon will not discuss questions on the grading of your assignment with you unless you have had a previous discussion with the TA who graded your assignment.

Graded Assignments:

Essays	45 pts.
Ethics Case Study Essay	10
Quizzes	30
Attendance	6
Reading Discussion	5
Video Responses/Vox Pops	4
TOTAL	100 pts.

Points to letter grades for final grade:

A = 94-100 pts.	A- = 90-93 pts.	B+ = 87-89 pts
B = 84-86 pts.	B- = 80-83 pts.	C+ = 77-79 pts.
C = 74-76 pts.	C- = 70-73 pts.	D+ = 67-69 pts.
D = 64-66 pts.	D- = 60-63 pts.	F = 0-59 pts.

Academic Accommodations and Academic Integrity:

Upon request, the University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 512-471-6259 or 512-410-6644(video phone).

Academic integrity is central to the mission of the university. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas found in published volumes, on

the Internet, or created by another student. For more information about the university's expectations for academic integrity, see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.

Course Protocols:

- Rules for respectful discussion will be followed. These rules will be established and agreed upon by everyone early in the semester. If a student violates these rules, that student will be counted as absent for the day.
- Written assignments are due as indicated on the syllabus unless otherwise specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless an acceptable excuse is provided before the due date.
- The University of Texas rules and regulations regarding plagiarism and intellectual honesty will be enforced. For details please see: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/>
- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Readings:

Readings for African American History portion of Quiz:

<http://www.npr.org/news/specials/blackhistorymonth/timeline.html#pre1800>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American_history

<http://www.blackpast.org/timelines/african-american-history-timeline-1900-2000>

All other readings will be available on CANVAS.

Recorded Lectures:

All live lectures are recorded and made available in Canvas Modules 24 hours after the class. Students can re-watch the lectures on-demand. To review a recording, locate the Archived Lectures module in Modules on Canvas.

Sequence of Topics and Readings:

1: Black Studies: Race, Culture, Power, Blackness

Topic 1: Black Studies and Blacks at UT

Wed Jan 23 Blacks in higher education and Black Studies: An Introduction
Reading: Karenga (1982)

Sunday Jan 27: Assignment Vox Pop 1

Mon Jan 28 Blacks and Black Studies at UT
Reading Marsh Duren (1979)

Topic II: Africa, the Black Diaspora and Blackness

Wed Jan 30 Africa and its Invention
Reading: Davis (1998)

Friday Feb 1: Assignment – Essay 1

Mon Feb 4 Out of Africa – The Diaspora/ Invented Africa
Reading: Lovejoy (2000)

Wed Feb 6 Africa and Black Diaspora Cultures/ Slavery and Diaspora
Reading: Falola (2003)

Fri Feb 8: Assignment - Last to take Quiz 1

Sun Feb 10: Assignment – Vox Pop #2

Mon Feb 11 Cultural Domination, Accommodation and Resistance

Topic III: The Conceptual Toolkit – Race, Gender, Class, and Sexuality

Wed Feb 13 What is Race?
Reading: AAA statement on race
1.
<http://www.americananthro.org/ConnectWithAAA/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=258>
3

On genetic ancestry testing: Bolnick et al. 2007

Fri Feb 15: Assignment - Essay 2

Mon Feb 18 Social Inequality based in race and class
Readings: Macintosh (1989)

Wed Feb 20 Race and Racisms
Reading: Domhoff (2012)

Mon Feb 25 Race and Racisms

Wed Feb 27 Race and Racisms
Fri Mar 1: Assignment - Essay 3

Mon Mar 4 African Ancestry and Blackness/ Black as Identity
Reading: Vargas (2004)

Wed Mar 6 Who is Black and who is not?
Reading: Windance Twine (1999)

Fri Mar 8: Assignment – Last day to take quiz 2

Mon Mar 11 African Ancestry and Blackness
Wed Mar 13 Gender: Roles, Ideology and Power
Reading: Lorber (1994)

Fri Mar 15: Assignment – Essay 4

Mon Mar 18 SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
Wed Mar 20 SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Sun Mar 24: Assignment – Vox Pop #3

Mon Mar 25 Gender and Intersectionality
Viewing: Kimberle Crenshaw

Wed Mar 27 Black Feminist Thought
Reading hooks Feminism (2015)

Mon April 1 Black Queer Identities
Reading: Combahee River Collective Statement

Section II: Black Cultures in the World

Topic IV: Culture and Power

Wed April 3. What is Culture? Culture and Power = Hegemony. What is Cultural Politics?
Reading: Ngugi (1993)

Fri April 5: Assignment – Essay 5

Mon April 8 Black Culture: Culture of Resistance
Reading: hooks – Plantation Patriarchy (2004)

Wed Apr 10 Black Culture: Culture of Resistance
Reading: West (1998)

Mon Apr 15 Black Cultural Deficiency = Cultural Racism
Reading: Moynihan
Viewing: Vanishing Black Family

Wed Apr 17 Black Cultural Deficiency = Cultural Racism / Gendered Cultural Forms
Sun Apr 21: Assignment – Vox Pop #4

Mon Apr 22 Gendered Cultural Forms
Reading: Gordon (1998)

Wed Apr 24 Black Women and Gendered Cultural Forms
Fri April 26: Assignment – Essay 6

Topic V: ETHICS

Mon Apr 29 Introduction to Ethics
Reading: Axelsen (1977)

Wed May 1 Ethics: Critical Black Studies and Affirmative Action
Fri May 3: Assignment – Quiz 3 - Ethics

Mon May 6 Ethics: Blacks, Criminality, Justice, Ethics
Reading: Weaver 2007

Wed May 8 Conclusions
Fri May 10: Assignment – Essay 7 - Ethics