**AAS 480 African American Studies Senior Seminar**

Mondays, 12:00 – 2:30pm

Longstreet 110

**Dr. Marvin King**

Associate Professor |Political Science and African American Studies

325 Deupree

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662-915-2054

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 1030am – 12:30pm and by appointment on Zoom.

A note about emails and titles: While I am not overly concerned about titles, many faculty do insist upon being addressed by their rank, so it is worth the time and trouble to use a person’s correct name and title – Dr. King, Professor, or Professor King – are all fine, rather than just “Hey.” The subject line should indicate the class you are in as well. I teach several classes and have some responsibility/contact with hundreds of students each semester.

I try my hardest to respond to emails directly related to course matters within one working day during the workweek. I will likely not respond to unsolicited student emails after 5pm or on the weekends

**SCHEDULE**

Page 4 has the weekly schedule.

**KEY ADMINISTRATIVE DATES**

January 20 – Last day to officially cancel registration & avoid responsibility for payment of tuition/fees

January 21 – Classes begin

February 3 – Refund period ends

February 10 – Mandatory drop date for non-attendance

March 7 – Deadline for withdrawal (no refunds)

**ASSESSMENTS**

**February 10 - Brainstorming Notes Due - 18%**

**February 24 - Outline Due - 18%**

**March 17 - Part 1 Due - 18%**

**March 31 - Part 2 Due - 18%**

**April 14 - Part 3 Due - 18%**

**April 21 - Dress Rehearsal - 10%**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, students will undergo a deep recollection of their academic journey at The University of Mississippi. We will focus on your African American Studies courses, but you can certainly supplement your engagement in this class with material learned from your other courses. The goal of this class is to methodically create a research/reflective paper built upon a foundation of your AAS classes. We want you to be able to synthesize and connect the different strands of information you have learned while an AAS major or minor. In short, if someone asks you, “What did you learn as an AAS major(minor)?,” how would you answer? What would you tell someone asking you that question? That is the genesis of this class - getting you to draw upon all that you have learned to help you ask and answer important questions.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

1. Write a substantive, well-researched, and grammatically correct research or reflective paper germane to African American Studies.
2. Prepare students to think objectively about their courses of study at The University of Mississippi.
3. Help students be able to consider the pros and cons of interdisciplinary academic study.

**MAKE-UP POLICY**

I allow make-up work only if you obtain a UM approved excuse. In lieu of a UM approved excuse, any student failing to turn in their assignment, or take their quiz or test, will receive a zero on that exam. For instance, if you do not feel well and you visit the Student Health Center, it is insufficient to send me a note stating you visited the doctor or a copy of your prescription. I require a note from a health professional stating your illness prevented you from completing your assignment (however, I do not need to know the exact nature of your illness).

Do not ask for an exception to this policy unless you bring a UM approved excuse. Missing class or an assignment because you are sick or not feeling well does not constitute a UM approved excuse. A UM approved excuse needs to be a written notice from another professor, department (i.e., Athletics, Band, Mock Trial, etc..) or from [UMatter](https://umatter.olemiss.edu/). If you miss class for any reason other than one for which you can obtain a UM-approved excuse do not ask me for the class notes. For instance, if you are not feeling well and you visit the Student Health Center, it is not sufficient to bring me a note stating you visited the doctor or a copy of your prescription.

**GRADING SCALE**

A: 93-100 A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89 B: 83-86 B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79 C: 73-76 C-70-72

D: <70

F: < 60

Please do not ask me to calculate your grade for you. The Political Science Department maintains a "C" policy. Students must make at least a grade of C or better for the course to count towards the major. If you think an error has occurred in the calculation of your grade, it is your responsibility to provide me copies of your work. To that end, it is prudent to save all your coursework until you receive your final grade report. All graded assignments will be graded within ten days of submission.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you have a documented disability, as recognized by Student Disability Services, please contact Student Disability Services at 234 Martindale Center, 662-915-7128. Course requirements will not be waived but reasonable accommodations may be provided as appropriate. Please consult <https://sds.olemiss.edu/> for more information on student disability services.

**ACADEMIC ETHICS**

If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, just ask. If you think something might be wrong, it probably is. No matter, just ask for clarification. Please reference the [UM M Book](https://communications.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/10/MBook.pdf) for all policies regarding academic honesty, ethics, and plagiarism. Punishment for violations of academic ethics will range from loss of a letter grade on the assignment to failure in the class. The decision will be made by the faculty member in consultation with the department chair. Appeals can be made to the UM Academic Discipline Committee.

**STUDENT PRIVACY POLICY**

The University of Mississippi protects the privacy of all students, including online and distance learning students, through adherence to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) through compliance with other institutional policies and procedures governing the management and security of protected information of faculty, staff, and students, and by outlining the expectations of privacy for the university community as regards to electronic information. [Student Privacy Policy](https://secure4.olemiss.edu/umpolicyopen/ShowDetails.jsp?istatPara=1&policyObjidPara=11873531)

**UM RESOURCES**

[Center for Student Success](https://cssfye.olemiss.edu/student-support-programs/consultations-and-coaching/): Need extra help with your classes, but not sure where to start? This is a great starting point.

[Student Success Workshops](https://cssfye.olemiss.edu/academic-success-workshops/): Great workshops (many available as recorded Zoom sessions you can watch on your own schedule) from the Center for Student Success. I highly recommend the Time Management workshop

[Tutoring Services](https://cssfye.olemiss.edu/tutoring-resources-and-help-sessions/): Need a tutor for a specific class? Here is a comprehensive list of known tutoring services offered across campus.

[Writing Center](https://writingcenter.olemiss.edu/): Free writing consultation services for UM students with peer consultants working alongside UM students on projects in all disciplines at any stage of the composition process. The Writing Center can provide access to one-on-one consultations, group workshops, and other writing focused resources. These services are delivered face to face and on anv online platform. We work to help UM students cultivate individualized strategies for becoming independent, effective, and confident writers

[Speaking Center](https://speakingcenter.olemiss.edu/): The Speaking Center offers free public speaking consultation services for UM students.

[Counseling Center](https://counseling.olemiss.edu): The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students with many types of life stressors which interrupt day-to-day functioning. They offer individual counseling, couple’s counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. There is no fee for currently enrolled University students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential.

Title IX: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the [appropriate resources here](https://umsafe.olemiss.edu/what-is-title-ix/).

**MISCELLANEOUS**

* Email is the best way to reach me. Emails sent after 5pm may not be returned until the next workday. All work must be submitted through Blackboard, unless specifically required.
* This syllabus is a guide for the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, but I will do my best to adhere to this syllabus.
* Use your olemiss.edu email address and please be accessible via Blackboard.
* Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection under Title 17 of the United States Code. Under certain Fair Use circumstances specified by law, copies may be made for private study, scholarship, or research. Electronic copies should not be shared with unauthorized users. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under UM policies.

**SCHEDULE**

Monday, January 27 – Course Introduction

Monday, February 3 - Brainstorming

Monday, February 10 – Brainstorming

**Brainstorming Notes Due (18%)**

Monday, February 17 - Outline

Monday, February 24 – Outline

**Completed Outline Due (18%)**

Monday, March 3 – Part 1

Monday, March 10 – Spring Break

Monday, March 17 – Part 1

**Part 1 Due - Completed Draft, pages 1-7 (18%)**

Monday, March 24 – Part 2

Monday, March 31 – Part 2

**Part 2 Due - Completed Draft, pages 8-14 (18%)**

Monday, April 7 – Part 3

Monday, April 14 – Part 3

**Part 3 Due - Completed Draft, pages 15-20 (18%)**

Monday, April 21 – No Class

Monday, April 28 – **Dress Rehearsal (10%)**

Week of April 28 or May 5 - Exit Interview