

Introduction to African American Studies
ETHN 140 Fall 2008

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Class meets from 9.30-10.20 daily in R 204

Required Texts:

1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History,
Race Matters, West

The White Boy Shuffle, Beatty

The Willie Lynch Letter, Lynch

Articles on Reserve, Class Website or Handouts

Course Description

Introduction to African American Studies uses an interdisciplinary, multimedia approach to examine the history, culture, religions, institutions, politics, economics, and arts of peoples of African descent in the United States. Focus is on U.S. life from a Black perspective, examining both historical and contemporary works.

Attendance is mandatory, unless previously excused. Each student will be expected to keep pace with the required reading assignments and to partake rigorously in all class room discussion. Reading assignments should be completed and students prepared for classroom discussion on the day that the reading assignment is due.

Each student will be required to submit one page, typed double spaced, self assessment at the end of class each Friday which addresses what you have learned from the class and what you have contributed to the class that week. There will be a total of ten self assessments for the quarter. These responses will contribute to the class participation grade.

Each student will participate in group research project which will be presented to the class. This group presentation will contribute 20% to the class participation portion of the final class grade.

In addition each student will write three (3) 2 ½-3 page essays spaced throughout the quarter. Assignments will be discussed in class prior to the date due. These essays will count as a total of 60% of the final class grade; 20% for each essay.

Grading

The formal essays will count for 60% of the final grade.

Class participation and group presentation will count for 40% of the final grade.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course successful students should be able to:

Learning Outcomes: (At the end of this course, students will be able to...)

1. At the end of this course, students will be able to read critically, actively and reflectively.
2. At the end of this course, students will be able to support their own conclusions about the validity of the assumptions and ideas they have encountered in the assigned readings.
3. At the end of this course, students will be able to form analytical questions about a text, a work of art, and/or a piece of music.
4. At the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how the aesthetic value of a piece of art or music has cultural/ethnic roots.
5. At the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate analysis of text, art and/or music through rhetorical techniques.

General Information

If you have a documented disability that will require some type of accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make whatever arrangements necessary.

My office hours are for your use. Come and see me any time you have a question of a problem with the course or your work. I am looking forward to this quarter, and hope that we can do good things together.