INTRODUCTION TO BLACK STUDIES
AFAM 1
Syllabus
Fall 2020

Instructor/Coordinator: Dr. Jemima Pierre, Dep. of African American Studies & Dept. of Anthropology
Email: pierrej@ucla.edu

Email addresses for teaching assistants can be found on the Site Info page of the course website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to Black Studies as an intellectual, political, and cultural project steeped in a long and international tradition of Black radicalism. It broadly surveys the historical and ongoing process of Black politics, cultural production, and identity formation as structured through race and its intersection with gender, sexualities, and class. Though primarily focused on the U.S., many lectures and course materials extend beyond this country’s borders to explore the development, over time, of Black life, community, and culture against persistent anti-Black racism, economic and political exploitation, and gender oppression.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS
• CCLE: All the required readings will be uploaded to the course website. This includes access to e-book versions of the books by Butler and Danticat. You can also access these e-books through the UCLA Library catalog.

HOW CLASS WORKS
Students will watch pre-recorded video lectures, interviews, and films via mobile device or desktop browser. Reading assignments accompany all lectures. Two exams and weekly discussion board posts/participation determine the final grade. Students are responsible for keeping up with reading assignments, lecture presentations, and watching the assigned films. This is a fully asynchronous course. Students do not need to be online at a specific time or report to a physical location for any portion of the class.

COURSEWORK, GRADING, AND EXPECTATIONS
1. Course Participation (30 pts):
Each class lecture and discussion will be based on the assigned readings. It is imperative that students complete all assigned readings prior to the lecture for which they are assigned. In order to successfully complete this course, it is recommended that students commit themselves to regular and sustained reading. Students who do not do this will struggle to pass this course. Furthermore, students are expected to actively engage the reading and be able to form critical opinions about the readings and lectures.

*A Note on Sections: Participation grades will primarily be determined by your completed DISCUSSION BOARD assignments, which are administered by your Teaching Assistant. Please check your TA’s individual page (through the course CCLE page) for more detailed instructions.

2. Exams (30 points each; 60 points total)
There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. Both will be open book exams and will be uploaded to the course website via Turnitin. Students will have a window of several days to complete the exams by a specific deadline.

3. Response Paper (1) to Video Interviews (10 points)
Each student will be expected to turn in a 1p – 2pp response to one of the video interviews of Dr. Pierre and a scholar and/or activist. There are three of such interviews: Dr. Gerald Horne, Margaret Kimberley, and Lola Smallwood. In the paper, you should summarize the key themes of the discussion; link the discussion to course material; provide your personal reflections on the discussion (based upon the themes being covered in course materials and discussions).
Your video interview response papers will need to be uploaded to Turnitin by the Friday of the week the interview is assigned by 11:59 PM.

*You are to write a response for only one (1) of the three interviews.

**All papers are to be single-sided, double-spaced, typed in 12-point font, and have 1 in margins all around. Please make note of the deadline for the paper.

**A note on late exams and assignments
I realize that things are difficult for many in this time of tumult. Please feel free to contact your TA or me should you need an extension on an assignment. Please, for the sake of our schedules, try to be reasonable in your requests.

3. Grading:
Grades are calculated as follows:
Discussion board posts (Course Participation): 30%
Midterm – open book exam 30%
Final – open book exam 30%
1 Response to Video Interviews 10%

TOTAL 100%

GRADING SCALE
100 – 98 A+
97 – 93 A
92 – 90 A-
89 – 87 B+
86 – 83 B
82 – 80 B-
79 – 77 C+
76 – 73 C
72 – 70 C-
69 – 67 D+
66 – 63 D
62 – 60 D-
59 & below F

► PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Plagiarism is the presentation of another author’s words or ideas as if they were your own. It is a serious offence. University regulations require that any case of plagiarism be sent to the Dean of Students for review. Please review the university’s policies on academic integrity here: https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/studentconductcode. If you have any questions about this policy and, more specifically about documentation, quotations, for class assignments, please feel free to ask me.

► STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
UCLA provides, upon request, appropriate accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501, in person at Murphy Hall A255, or at www.cae.ucla.edu for more information. Once arrangements with the University have been made, I will work with you to make necessary accommodations. This process applies to both matriculated UCLA students and visitors in Summer Session.
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
Racist, sexist, homophobic, and overall offensive language does not contribute to creating a safe learning space. This class will engage in critical investigation and the open discussion of ideas in an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. But, please note that “respect for the viewpoints of others” does not include viewpoints that are hetero/sexist, racist, homophobic, and xenophobic.

COMMUNICATION
To ensure the highest quality of communication, first check the website and syllabus to make sure your question isn’t already addressed. Then, for questions about grades and grading, contact your TA; for questions about course materials and themes, contact your TA or Professor Pierre. Their email addresses can be found on the Site Info page. Contact the course administrators at online@tfi.ucla.edu if you are having technical difficulties or have questions about enrollment.

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SCHEDULE:
LECTURES, FILMS, AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 0 – October 1

INTRODUCTION


Lecture 1: The Fire This Time: White Supremacy, Insurrection, and the Struggle for Black Lives

Read before lecture:
Smith, Barbara, “The Problem is White Supremacy,” Boston Globe, June 30, 2020

WEEK 0 ASSIGNMENTS:
• Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website.

Week 1 – October 5

SECTION I: FOUNDATIONS


Read before lecture:

Lecture 3: The Sociology of Race [Dr. Marcus Hunter]

Read before lecture:

**FILM:** “The Difference Between Us,” Episode 1 of “Race: The Power of an Illusion” (2003, PBS)

**WEEK 1 ASSIGNMENTS:**
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website.
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

**Week 2 – October 12**

**Lecture 4:** *Intersections: Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality [Dr. Jemima Pierre]*

Read before lecture:
Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”

**FILM:** “The Story We Tell,” Episode 2 of “Race: The Power of an Illusion” (2003, PBS)

**Lecture 5:** *Afro-Indigenous History and Identity [Dr. Kyle Mays]*

Read before lecture:

**WEEK 2 ASSIGNMENTS:**
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

**Week 3 – October 19**

**SECTION II: THE BLACK ATLANTIC: ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICANS**

**Video:** Watch: Dr. Pierre Interview with Dr. Gerald Horne: “The Counter-Revolution of 1776” & “Settler Colonialism and the Dawn of the Apocalypse”

**Lecture 6:** *The Making of the Black Atlantic [Dr. Jemima Pierre]*

Read before lecture:
(Begin Reading *Kindred*)

**Lecture 7:** *The Institution of Slavery [Dr. Jemima Pierre]*

Read before lecture:
Knight, Franklin, “Social Structure of the Plantation Society”
(Continue Reading *Kindred*)

**WEEK 3 ASSIGNMENTS:**
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
• Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
• Turn in 1-2pp response to Video Interview (Dr. Gerald Horne) by Sunday, October 25 at 11:59pm (*Please remember that you have two other video interviews (and chances) to complete the video response paper assignment)

Week 4 – October 26

Lecture 8: Resistance to Slavery/The Haitian Revolution [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Read before lecture:
DuBois, Laurent “The Haitian Revolution”
(Continue Reading Kindred)

FILM: Watch: “The Last Supper” (1976, directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea)

SECTION III: EMANCIPATION AND AFTER

FILM: Watch: “Slavery by Another Name” (2012, PBS)

Read before lecture:
Frederick Douglass, "I Denounce the So-Called Emancipation as a Stupendous Fraud" (1888)
http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/douglassfraud.html

WEEK 4 ASSIGNMENTS:
• Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
• Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

Week 5 – November 2

FILM: Watch: “Ethnic Notions” (1986, directed by Marlon Riggs)

Read before viewing:
Bogle, “Black Beginnings: from Uncle Tom’s Cabin…”

Lecture 9: Self-Determination: Cultural and Political Responses to Post-Emancipation Terror [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Read before lecture:
*(MP3 file of Ida B. Wells's speech also available on CCLE)
McKay, “If We Must Die”
Cesaré, “Ode to Guinea” & “Harlem Riot”

FILM: Watch: “Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind”

Read before viewing:
Garvey, “Africa for the Africans”

WEEK 5 ASSIGNMENTS:

- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to one discussion board question, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
- Midterm – open book exam: prompt is available Wednesday, November 4, and is due Sunday, November 8 by 6:00 pm PDT. The midterm will cover material from Weeks 1-5.

Week 6 – November 9

SECTION IV: BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENTS

Lecture 10: Anticolonial Movements and Black Power [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Read before lecture:
James, C. L.R., “Revolts in Africa”
USA Black Panther Party: The Ten-Point Program
(https://www.marxists.org/history/usa/workers/black-panthers/1966/10/15.htm)

FILM: Watch: “Eyes on the Prize: A Nation of Law?” (1990, PBS)

Lecture 11: The Black Studies Movement [Dr. Scot Brown]

Read before lecture

Video: Watch: Dr. Pierre Interview with Margaret Kimberley on Prejudential: Black America and the Presidents

WEEK 6 ASSIGNMENTS:

- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
- Turn in 1-2pp response to Video Interview (Ms. Margaret Kimberley) by Sunday, November 15 at 11:59pm (*Please remember that you have one more video interview (and chance) to complete the video response paper assignment)

Week 7 – November 16

SECTION V: FOCUS: US BLACK COMMUNITY, LIFE, CULTURE

Lecture 12: The Sociology of Urban Black America [Dr. Marcus Hunter]

Read before lecture:

Lecture 13: Race and Wealth: The “Culture of Poverty” Thesis and U.S. Blacks (I & II) [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Read before lecture:
Oliver, “Sub-prime as a Black Catastrophe”
Listen to this Radio Interview:  
“Busting the Myth of the American Dream: Meet William Darity”  
http://bpr.org/post/busting-myth-american-dream-meet-william-darity


Read before viewing:  
(Begin reading: Brother, I’m Dying)

WEEK 7 ASSIGNMENTS:

- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

Week 8 – November 23 *

Lecture 14: African American Music: An Introduction [Dr. Cheryl Keyes]

Read before lecture:
*Music Chart  
(Continue reading: Brother, I’m Dying)

FILM: Watch: “What Happened, Miss Simone?”

WEEK 8 ASSIGNMENTS:

- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website  
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.

Week 9 – November 30

Lecture 15: Labor and L.A.’s Black Community [Ms. Lola Smallwood]

Read before lecture:  
UCLA Labor Center & Los Angeles Black Workers Center: “Ready to Work: Uprooting Inequity”, a report on the state of Black employment in LA County  
(Continue reading: Brother, I’m Dying)

Video: Dr. Pierre Interview with Lola Smallwood on “Black LA, Labor, and the Impact of COVID-19”

FILM: Watch: “When the Bough Breaks” (Part of the Unnatural Causes series)

Lecture 16: Black Studies and the Critique of Capitalism and Empire (I & II) [Dr. Peter James Hudson]

Read before lecture:

WEEK 9 ASSIGNMENTS:
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to two discussion board questions, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
- Turn in 1-2pp response to Video Interview (Ms. Lola Smallwood) by Sunday, December 6 at 11:59pm (*This is your last chance to complete the video response paper assignment)

**Week 10 – December 7**

Lecture 17: Black Immigrants in the U.S and Across the World & Class [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Read before lecture:
Danticat, Edgwidge, *Brother, I’m Dying*


Lecture 18: Course Wrap Up [Dr. Jemima Pierre]

Read before lecture:

FILM: View before lecture:

WEEK 10 ASSIGNMENTS:
- Review TA blog and webcam, posted on TA’s website
- Respond to one discussion board question, posted on your TA’s website. Responses are due by Friday at 11:59 pm PDT.
- Final – open book exam: prompt is available Wednesday, December 9 and is due Sunday, December 13, by 6 pm PDT. The final will cover material from Weeks 6-10 (it is not cumulative.)

*This syllabus is subject to change.*