

COURSE TITLE: Race & Contemporary Society

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 1998.01 and 1998.02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 11:50 – 1:20pm and TR 1:50 – 3:20pm

INSTRUCTOR: Darnise Martin

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

With particular emphasis upon the contemporary era (i.e., the 1970's forward), this course primarily follows the struggles and triumphs of African Americans through the various developments and contributions of selected intellectuals, artists and religious leaders. Additionally, the course will acquaint students with the history and struggles of selected other ethnic groups in the U.S. via interdisciplinary and intersectional modalities. We will examine some of the cultural, historical, religious, political and artistic influences which have contributed to the survival and empowerment of selected ethnic groups in American society.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The successful student will be able to do the following at the end of the course:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical trajectory of the African-American freedom struggle
- Demonstrate an appreciation of African-American artistic and religious diversities
- Articulate in clear manner the influences of specific intellectual and religious leaders upon American ethnic minority groups
- Understand the complexities and nuances of discourse on matters of race, identity, culture and society

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/A

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Stacyann Chinn, *The Other Side of Paradise*

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Students can expect to be evaluated via quizzes, 2-3 essay assignments and a final exam.

COURSE TITLE: SS: Race, Comics and Film

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 3998.01

TIMES and SECTIONS: TR 1:50-3:20pm

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. A. Nama

Description: In this post-Civil Rights era, African Americans are a part of American culture in ways that reflect not only a high degree of visibility but also extraordinary popularity. Moreover, American cinema has delivered, whether real or fictional, various representations of black people, racial progress and notions of racial pathology. This course examines how Hollywood cinema, has defined the issue of race in American society by offering controversial, entertaining and engaging representations of African Americans. Accordingly, an in-depth exploration of the history and criticism of the Black image in film, the film industry along with issues of audience reception are covered concerning how to critically “read” film for the ideological subtext as well as social and political symbolism. The class is also concerned with connecting the cultural ferment created by the Civil Rights, Black Power Movements of the 1960s and the mainstreaming of Hip-Hop as substantial moments in bringing about many of the changes in the status, role and representation of African Americans in American film.

Required Textbooks:

Guerrero, Ed. Framing Blackness: The African American Image in Film, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, PA: 1993.

Hall, Stuart. Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices. Sage. 1997.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and explain how political-social-historical-cultural factors have influenced and shaped perspectives of the images associated with the African American and fundamental literature, arguments, substantive arguments and critics associated with the intersection of black racial formation in film.
- Explain debates concerning historical and contemporary representations of African Americans by deconstructing debates/issues associated with negative stereotyping and mass media effects.
- Through evaluative essays, exams and oral presentations explain the difference between black cultural criticism and other more traditional approaches to examining film, for its encoded ideological message and cultural appeal to race, class, gender and sexual orientation mythologies that often masquerade as common sense or social fact.

Instructional Methods:

Lecture/Discussion for the first hour of class followed by a screening of a film, documentary or television show. The following meeting will involve a critical lecture and discussion of the material viewed along with the reading assigned.