

SYLLABUS for 545 AUTUMN QUARTER 2007

COURSE NAME: Intersections: Approaches to Race, Gender, Class, and Sexuality in American culture.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Viola M. Newton

CLASSROOM: Room 145 Frank Hale Black Cultural Center 153 West 12th Avenue

DAYS: Monday, and Wednesday from 11:30a.m. to 1:18 p.m.

OFFICE AND OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE: 386E UNIVERSITY HALL

DAYS: Monday and Wednesday from 3:45 to 5:00 and by appointment

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Office: 292-1127; AAAS Department 292-3700

E-mail Address newton.11@osu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

African American Studies AAAS 545 seeks to provide a theoretical framework for studying the making of the African American identity. Because race, gender, class, and sexuality continue to play a seminal role in shaping the black experience, this course will investigate and challenge some complex issues of structural racism and discrimination based on gender, race, class, and sexual orientation. The course begins with an **overview** that examines these intersections as both sources of social inequality and elements of personal identity. The remainder of the course is studied from four basic components designed to develop a conceptual framework that defines approaches for studying the interlocking nature of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

Part I examines how race, gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and other systems of inequality are constructed across ideological, political, and economic systems of power.

Part II discusses Prejudice and Stereotypes, legal discrimination, power and racism.

Part III gives an in depth focus to Violence: rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, murder, and interracial hostility.

Part IV calls attention to education, health issues, sports, politics, pop culture, and social change

Intersections of race, gender, class and sexuality highlighted throughout each section are intended to engender a holistic approach, one that will provide students with an analytical strategy for defining interconnected structures of inequality that influence the African American identity. This intersectional approach also allows students to conduct original research that gives focus to social issues, political ideology, and social theory that set apart the racial nuances that characterize the everyday experiences of African Americans. Students will view documentaries, distinctive movies, and clips from TV shows and share in discussions with guest speakers. Students will demonstrate their understanding of intersections of race, gender, class and sexuality in written reports, oral presentations, class discussions, and a term paper.

THE **TEXTBOOK** FOR AAAS 545 is a Course Packet that features essays, magazine articles, and Internet productions from a variety of sources, organized by Dr. Viola M. Newton and published by Zip publishing.

The cost for the textbook is around \$55.00. **Each student must purchase his or her own book by Monday, September 24, 2007. Sharing of books in class is not permitted.**

PAGE TWO

1. **Reading Assignments** will come from the Anthology and notes printed on the Weekly Guide; **Written Responses to the Readings, Oral Presentations;** Eight (8) written response activities and two oral presentations will count for **20 percent** of the final grade.
2. **The Term Paper** is a research project, (five to ten typed papers, developed from an assigned topic), that will count for **40 percent** of the final grade. **The Term paper is due at the end of Week Number Nine.**
3. **Quizzes** are short paragraph responses to particular readings assignments in the Course Packet; four (5) quizzes will count for **30- percent** of the final grade.
4. **Attendance** will count for **five (5) percent** of the final grade. **Regular attendance** is one of the 545 requirements. Students who miss **more than two** classes, for any reason, will place themselves in jeopardy of failing five percent of their final grade. If a student cannot attend class, for any reason, he or she must contact the professor on or before the day of that absence; leave a telephone message on any of the numbers that follow: 292-1127; 252-3348; 292-3700. Give your name, class, a particular reason for not attending class and a telephone number where you may be reached. **Class Participation** will count for **five (5) percent** of the final grade.

Procedures for Classroom Instruction

- ✓ **Lecture** -- an overall outline and discussion of concepts for the course and for writing rhetorical and critical analyses.
- ✓ **Discussion**—oral responses (entire class or small groups) to the reading assignments
- ✓ **Oral Presentations**-group or individual presentations about assigned reading from the course packet.
- ✓ **Movies, videos, documentaries**-selected as enhancement for topics and concepts outlined in lecture and discussion.
- ✓ **Conferences**—scheduled one on one appointments with instructor

LETTER GRADE AND NUMERICAL CONVERSION

Graded assignments will correspond to the numbers and letters in the chart below.

A = 100 to 95=A	A- = 94 TO 90	B+ = 89 TO 85	B = 84 TO 80
C+ = 79 TO 75	C = 74 TO 70	D = 69 TO 65	E = 64 TO 0

OTHER FORMS OF GRADING: Students may use **up to 300** of the points listed below as credit for **three** assignments (not including the Term paper)

EXTRA CREDIT--- These are points (from 5 to 25) given in addition to the regular grade for proficiency in responding to questions or topics on various written assignments.

POINTS FOR READING IN CLASS--- These are points (5 to 20) for **voluntary** reading of class materials from the syllabus, weekly guide, students' papers, or Course Packet.

CLASS CONTRIBUTIONS--- These are points given (10 to 25) for **voluntary** participation in helping with the class production in various ways.

Page Three

SUBMITTING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

On page one (1) of every assignment, write your name, AAAS 367.03, and the name of the assignment in the upper right hand corner; on all other pages (After page number one) write only the page number and your name. Staple or paper clip your papers before you submit them to the professor. Hand written response assignments must be done in blue or black ink only, and written only on white ruled paper. Write only on one side of the paper and skip lines. Typed assignments must be done only in 10 or 12 size fonts, double-spaced and printed only on one side of the paper. The Term Paper must be typed. All assignments must be brought to class and placed in class folders. **DO NOT SEND ASSIGNMENTS BY E-MAIL.**

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM A discussion of plagiarism in A Guide to Writing Papers indicates that plagiarism is taking other people's **WORKS** including facts, ideas, opinions, or organizational structures and using them as your own. According to the GUIDE, "Conscious plagiarism results from the same reason people cheat at anything else in life: laziness, indifference, a desire to beat the system or competition for grades at any price." Whatever the reason, it is unacceptable behavior, which defeats the reason for going to college—gaining skills for learning on your own. In AAAS545, a student who plagiarizes (**especially copying other students' papers**) will receive a **letter grade of E for the class.**

What I Expect From You

- that you will read and complete all assignments before class time and you will do your own work and will not copy other students' papers.**
- that you will attend class regularly and be on time**
- that you will meet with me for conferences on the day and at the time of your appointment**
- that you will participate in class discussions and challenge materials presented to the best of your ability**
- that you will discuss with me any problems you have understanding the materials or assignments**
- that you will help to create a sense of classroom community and engage freely in collaborative activities**

What You May Expect From Me

- ❖ **that I will come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments with you**
- ❖ **that I will give assignments based on the materials appropriated for the class**
- ❖ **that I will encourage your questions, respond appropriately, and challenge you to think critically**
- ❖ **that I will have effective conferences with you**
- ❖ **that I will make AAAS545 interesting and enjoyable so that the class will remain a memorable and fulfilling experience in African American Studies**

DAILY PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN AAAS 545

Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed only **two** excused absences. Coming to class on time is important. A student will be considered late if he or she misses 15 minutes of class time.

SOME IMPORTANT FACTORS ABOUT ATTENDANCE:

1. **Movies or videos**— The dates when movies or videos are shown in class are printed one week in advance on the weekly guide. If students are absent on those days they are responsible for obtaining a copy of the movie or video other than from the professor. Students will be responsible for the assignment given for that movie or video even if they are absent from class.
2. **Oral Presentations:** Students will receive a grade of Zero (0) for missing an oral presentation.
3. **Assignments:** When they are absent from class, students should designate another student to pick up a weekly guide and to inform them about what was taught in class that day. Students must not telephone the instructor to ask for that information.

Telephone Calls may be made to my office at any time 292-1127; telephone calls may be placed to my home 252-3348 Monday through Friday **only** from 7:00p.m. to 11:00p.m. Do **NOT** call My home on Saturday or Sunday at any time. **Cell Phones** must be turned off inside the classroom.

Reading Anthologies must be purchased by the second day of class; each student must purchase his or her own Reading Packet. Sharing of Reading Packets is not permitted in class. **ATHLETES AND OTHER STUDENTS ON SCHOLARSHIPS** must buy their books from the publisher's representative, obtain a receipt and take that receipt to the athletic or scholarship program for reimbursement. **Students must bring the Course Packet and Weekly Guide to class every day.**

Class folders may not be taken home. At the beginning of class, Students pick up their class folder and record attendance and grades. Students **Do not** pick up folders for classmates and do not take or place any materials in any one else's folder. When class is adjourned, students must place their class folders on professor's desk.

Eating sandwiches, box lunches and plates of foods is not permitted in this class. Do not bring open containers into the classroom. Drinking Beverages is permitted if they are within a container that has a lid. **Do not chew tobacco in the classroom and do not spit tobacco juice in containers in the classroom.**

Leaving the classroom is permitted for emergency situations; however, walking back and forth, going inside and outside the room, consistently, during class lectures or discussions is not accepted. Students should plan to use the restrooms before class or during five-minute breaks given during the class time. A Student should inform the instructor before class begins if he or she plans to leave early before class is dismissed.

Visitors are not permitted in this class without the knowledge or permission of the professor. Students must inform the professor at least 15 minutes before class begins about a special guest(s). Children, including toddlers, adolescents, and teenagers are especially not allowed in this class.

Personal problems-- If students are experiencing difficulties, they may advise the professor about their intentions for continuing the course. Ask to speak with the professor after class or make an appointment to discuss priorities with the professor at a convenient time. **Students with disabilities** must speak with the professor concerning assignments, seating arrangements, and for distributing materials to Disability Services.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course outline presented here **is subject to change without notice**; it lists only the general reading assignments organized by weeks. The details for each Response Assignment will be presented on a weekly guide each student will receive on the first day of each week. Quizzes and term paper assignments will also be written in depth on the weekly guide. If students are absent from class on the day the weekly guide is distributed, they may do the following: have someone pick them up a weekly guide, or they may ask the instructor to place the weekly guide in the class folder.

PART ONE Intersections: Ethnicity and Racial Identity

WEEK ONE, WEDNESDAY--- (1) Introduction to the class, syllabus, weekly guide, and the course materials. (2) READING AND DISCUSSION ---NOTES from the weekly guide. "Identity-Related Racism, An organized structure and an ideological foundation; (3) DVD clip from Dave Chappelle's Season One.

WEEK TWO, MONDAY--- (1) READING AND DISCUSSION from Course Packet "Experiencing Race, Class, and Gender in the United States"; "Ethnic and Racial Identity";

READING ASSIGNMENT

(from Weekly guide) Biography of John Hope Franklin

(From Course Packet) "Ethnicity in American Life: The Historical Perspective" by John Hope Franklin

WEEK TWO, WEDNESDAY---- (1) READING AND DISCUSSION "Rosa Wakefield" by John Langston Gwaltney; "More Minarets Among the Steeples" by Stephen Goode; "To Be Black, Gifted, And Alone" by Bebe Moore Campbell; "There is No Hierarchy of Oppressions" by Audre Lorde; "A Very Basic Decision" by Mary Mebane

WEEK THREE, MONDAY---- (1) READING AND DISCUSSION "My First Conk" Malcolm X; "Graduation" Maya Angelou; "Black and White" by Leona Thomas; "Straightening Our Hair" by Bell Hooks;; From Chapter One Forty Million Dollar Slaves (Printed on the Weekly Guide) From Hidden Name and Complex Fate by Ralph Ellison (2) VIDEO : The Sellout Diaries

WEEK THREE, WEDNESDAY-- (1) READING AND DISCUSSION ---NOTES from the weekly guide "AN INTERPRETATIVE HISTORY OF BLACKS IN AMERICAN FILMS"; "Stepin Fetchit"; "Black Academy Award Winners" (2) DVD It's Black Entertainment

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATION NUMBER ONE DUE IN WEEK NUMBER FOUR

"The Black Statue of Liberty"

"Five Black Presidents"

"Yolanda King: First Daughter of The Civil Rights Movement"

"Black Americans Still Linked To Black Africa"

"A Historic First: Five Black Actors Up for 2007 Oscars" and "Phylicia Rashad"

WEEK FOUR, MONDAY--- (1) READING AND DISCUSSION NOTES from the Weekly Guide "Black Women White Men, White Women Black Men---Interracial Relations". (2) Oral Presentations; (3) "Slave Children of Thomas Jefferson" (4) MOVIE A PATCH OF BLUE

WEEK FOUR, WEDNESDAY---- (1) READING AND DISCUSSION NOTES from the Weekly Guide "BLACK ROBBERS"; (2) Oral Presentation; (3) MOVIE: A PATCH OF BLUE

QUIZ NUMBER ONE ----- From "One Friday Morning" By Langston Hughes; POEM "Dinner Guest Me" by Langston Hughes (Printed on the Weekly Guide); Response to A PATCH OF BLUE

PAGE SIX

PART TWO: RACISM: Stereotypes, Prejudice, Class and Sexuality

WEEK FIVE, MONDAY --- (1) Introduction to the main concepts to be developed in for PART TWO from NOTES from the weekly guide. (2) DVD clips from THE BOONDOCKS (3) READING AND DISCUSSION from the Course Packet:

"Stereotypes and Prejudice"; "Power and Racism"; "Racism in the English Language" by Robert B. Moore "Legal Discrimination". MOVIE: The Defiant Ones

WEEK FIVE WEDNESDAY--- (1) Reading and Discussion "A Day In April" Marita Golden "The Lesson" Toni Cade Bambara; "After Imus: Blacks Champion Women, Civility and Decency"; "Hardway Axed by NBA For Anti-Gay Comments In Wake of Amaechi's Revelation That He's Gay"; "Allstate Settles Racial Discrimination Lawsuit"; "Connecticut Man Awarded \$5 Million For Wrongful Imprisonment"; "Study On Foul Calls Points to Racial Bias Among NBA REFs"; "HBO Documentary Chronicles 20 -Year Courtroom Battle Of Wrongfully Imprisoned North Carolina Man"; "Blacks Less Likely Than Whites To Become Living Kidney Donors"; Study Finds "Black Males' Rampant Joblessness, High Drop-Out Rate, Incarceration Dooming Black Community Study" ; "Historic Super Bowl Is Latest Victory in Blacks' Long Struggle In The NFL"

READING ASSIGNMENT for Quiz Number Two "Memorabilia That Have Perpetuated Stereotypes About African Americans" by Kenneth W. Goings; (**GUEST SPEAKER**) "Sex, Class and Race Intersections Visions of Women of Color" by Carol Lee Sanchez; "A White Man's Word" by Debra Swallow; "Racism and Nationality" by Oscar Handlin; "Strong Women and Strutting Men": "The Moynihan Report" by Paula Giddings; "Dry September" by William Faulkner; "I'm Black, You're White, Who's Innocent?" Shelby Steele

Part Three Violence: Racial violence and Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Murder, and Interracial violence—Rap Music

WEEK SIX MONDAY ---- (1) Introduction: Racial Violence and Racial Segregation: The Jim Crow Era NOTES FROM THE WEEKLY GUIDE. "Jim Crow Law" by Benjamin Quarles; (2) READING AND DISCUSSION: Plessy vs Ferguson; "Lynching/ Ida B. Wells"; "The Klu Klux Klan"; "The Murder of Emmett Till" (PRINTED ON THE WEEKLY GUIDE); "Emmett Louis Till. 1941 to 1955" (From Course Packet); (3) MOVIE: ALWAYS OUTNUMBERED, ALWAYS OUTGUNNED

WEEK SIX WEDNESDAY (1) READING and DISCUSSION: Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas Controversy; "Sexual Harassment: "A Hidden Issue" by Bernice Resnick Sandler; "Neighbors" by Diane Oliver; "The Hammer Man" by Toni Cade Bambara; "A Brother's Murder" By Brent Staples; "Hustler" by Malcolm X; "The Brother" by John Edgar Wideman (2) MOVIE: ALWAYS OUTNUMBERED, ALWAYS OUTGUNNED

READING ASSIGNMENT FOR QUIZ NUMBER THREE Inter-Racial Violence: Conflicts of Class and Culture by Michael Laslett; "Terror in Our Neighborhood" from Southern Poverty Law Center

WEEK SEVEN MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY (1) INTRODUCTION: DVD CLIP FROM The BOONDOCKS; READING and DISCUSSION "The Rap Attitude" Jerry Adler ; "Hate, Rape and Rap" by Tipper Gore; MOVIE: VIDEO TUPAC RESURRECTION : IN HIS OWN WORDS

TERM PAPER --- "The O.J. Simpson Murder"; "Kobe Bryant and the Price of Freedom"; "His last night as a free man, Maurice Clarett"; The Trials of Los Angeles Police Officers' in Connection with the Beating of Rodney King"; from BOONDOCKS "The Trial of Robert Kelly."

Page Eight

PART FOUR: EDUCATION, HEALTH, SPORTS, POLITICS, AND POP CULTURE

WEEK NUMBER EIGHT MONDAY (1) READING AND DISCUSSION: "Edwilda Isaac" (PRINTED ON THE WEEKLY GUIDE); "Learning to Read" by Malcolm X "Discovering Books" by Richard Wright;; "If Black English Isn't A Language, Then Tell Me, What Is?" by James Baldwin; "Keeping Close to Home Class and Education" by bell hooks; "The Re-Coloring of Campus Life" BY Shelby Steele; (2) MOVIE: HIGHER LEARNING

WEEK NUMBER EIGHT WEDNESDAY (1) READING AND DISCUSSION "WHITES UNDERESTIMATE THE COSTS OF BEING BLACK" By Philip Mazzocco; (2) "Barack Obama Outlines 'Urban Agenda' as He takes First Step Toward Presidency"; MOVIE HIGHER LEARNING

WEEK NUMBER NINE MONDAY (HOLIDAY)

WEEK NUMBER NINE WEDNESDAY(1) READING AND DISCUSSION "Fun On The Fairway—Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods" (2) ORAL PRESENTATION "Friends, Lovie Smith and Tony Dungy Make History Together As first Black Coaches In Super Bowl"; "Remembering The Legacy Of A Baseball Pioneer"; "Leroy Satchel Paige"; "Single Sports Dads Show They Can Be Star Parents Too"

WEEK NUMBER TEN MONDAY 1) READING AND DISCUSSION (2) Minister Louis Farrakhan: talks About Miraculous Recovery"; B.B. King Combats Health Scare To Thrill Fans Another Day "Maybe someone's saying a prayer for me; (3) MOVIE: ONE DAY

WEEK NUMBER TEN WEDNESDAY: (1) READING AND DISCUSSION "Remembering TV News Giant Ed Bradley"; "Arthur Ashe" (2) MOVIE: ONE DAY

WEEK NUMBER ELEVEN MONDAY (FINAL WEEK OF CLASSES, WRAP UP)

READINGS FOR QUIZ NUMBER FOUR and QUIZ NUMBER FIVE
"Has Hip Hop Taken a Beatdown Or Is It Just Growing UP?"
"Grandmaster Flash And The Furious Five Inducted Into The Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame"
"The James Brown Story"
DVD: CNN Presents "The James Brown Story"

- I. Instructions for submitting final, quizzes will be printed on the weekly guide for weeks number Eleven.
- II. FINAL QUIZZES WILL BE DUE ON DATES ASSIGNED FOR FINAL EXAMS BY THE UNIVERSITY
- III. FINAL QUIZZES not submitted on the due dates will not be graded.
- IV. No Incompletes are given for this class. See the professor if you have questions or concerns