

Course Portfolio For:
African American Studies 002:

The African American in Contemporary Urban Society

Revised On: 02.02.2013

Dr. Michael Carter

African American Studies 002: The African American in Contemporary Urban Society

Course Perspective:

African American Studies 002: The African American in Contemporary Urban Society; this course is a survey of the urbanization of African-Americans with emphasis on social and political contemporary problems, proposed solutions to civil rights, and equality of opportunity.

Heuristic Objectives of the Course:

It is anticipated that the student will be able to:

- I. Explain and critique current events in the African American community.
- II. Analyze and critique solutions to social problems in the African American community.
- III. Analyze the ideas of current scholars in the discipline of African American studies.

Theoretical Orientation:

The analysis of the course materials and discussions will be framed by Dr. Ronald Takaki's the "Master Narrative" and the existential efforts of African Americans to reduce social differentiation.

Textbook:

Nell Irvin Painter, *Creating Black Americans*, (2007), New York: Oxford University Press, ISBN: 13-978-0-19-513756-9

Grades and Grading Criteria:

There are two examinations: Midterm and Final

The students are graded on an absolute scale relative to their midterm (40%) and the final (40%) examination in the determination of their final course grade. And, class participation is (20%) of your grade and it is determined by several factors: class conduct, this includes your participation in class discussions in a germane and constructive manner and your professional/collegial comportment in class. Attendance is expected and is vital to your grade. No penalty for up to 3 hours of absent. Absences of more than 3 hours will begin to lower your overall course grade. Absences that exceed 9 hours make it impossible to pass the course. Tardiness will count as 1/3 of an absence. Contact me if a problem arises.

The Midterm Examination will be administered on March 22nd, 2013.

The examination will have true and false and one required essay question (and two optional/bonus essay questions). The in-class required essay and the two optional bonus essay questions are to be 2-3 pages in length. The critical essay(s) must demonstrate your apprehension of the theoretical orientation of the question and its socio-cultural and political permutations.

The Final Examination will be administered at the end of the semester. The Final examination will have true and false and one required essay question and two optional/bonus essay questions are to be 2-3 pages in length. The critical essay(s) must demonstrate your apprehension of the theoretical orientation of the question and its socio-cultural and political permutations.

Attendance Policy:

All absences must be reported to the professor. More than one unexcused absence may result in the dismissal from the class. A pattern of consistent tardiness will result in the lowering of the grade at the end of the semester

Student comportment and potential sanctions related to behavior in the classroom:

All students are expected to conduct themselves in an intellectual, constructive, and appropriate manner in the classroom. A student that engages in unprofessional, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior is subject to being removed from the classroom by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department. Their unprofessional behavior will be reported to the administrative authorities of this institution, and it may result in the suspension of the student and become a permanent part of their academic record. In addition, no eating, no cell phones, no reading of newspapers, no video games, no audio devices, etc., taping of lectures, etc. are not permitted.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic Dishonesty Policy: The LACCD student code of conduct that pertains to student dishonesty (Board Rule 9803.28) is as follows: "Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade.

Reasonable Accommodations:

If you are student with a disability who qualifies for accommodations through DSP&S, please contact me privately. The sooner that I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students with disabilities, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized touring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community

referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring me a letter indicating what accommodations are needed.

Medical Conditions: if you have and conditions that I need to know about, please notify me immediately by email.

Emergencies: please program the Campus Sheriff's phone number in your cell: 818 364-7843.

Student Portal: update your email address, and view your schedule and grades from past semesters through the portal. www.lamission.edu-students- My "Mission student portal access." If you have not yet changed your pin it's your birth date (MMDD).

Instructional Itinerary:

First Week:

- I. Introduction on the purview of the course
- II. Lecture on the social construction and the absurdity concept of “race” referencing Albert Camu and Chester Himes
- III. Video: The Biological Origins of Humankind ~ Part I.
- IV. Assignment:

Second Week:

- I. Discussion of the: Biological Origins of Humankind
- II. Video: The Biological Origin of Humankind ~ Part II.
- III. Discussion of the videos

Third Week:

- I. Video: Socio-historical, Cultural, and Scientific Contributions of Africans and African Americans ~ Part I.
- II. Discussion of the videos

Fourth Week:

- I. Video: Socio-historical, Cultural, and Scientific Contributions of Africans and African Americans ~ Part II.
- II. Discussion of the video
- III. Video: Discrimination Against Various Ethnic groups in the United States
- IV. Assignments: Hand Out on the Social Origins of the concept of “Race”. Text: Chapters one and two

Fifth Week: I. In class essay: (topic) ~ Explain and critique current events in the African American Community

Sixth Week:

- I. Discussion of the “Handout: The Social Origins of the Concept of ‘race’, and Chapters one and two
- II. Video: “Mendez vs., Westminster”
- III. Video: “Blacks in California”
- IV. Assignment: Chapter three

Seventh Week:

- I. Discussion of Chapter three

- II. Review for Midterm Examination
- III. Assignment: Chapter four (not on the Midterm, but on the Final Examination)

Eight Week:

- I. Midterm Examination

Ninth Week:

- I. Discussion of the Midterm Examination
- II. Video: "Albert Einstein's Involvement in Civil Rights"
- III. Discussion of the video
- IV. Assignment: Chapter five

Tenth Week:

- I. In class essay: (topic): Analyze and critique the solutions to the social problems in the African American community

Eleventh Week:

- I. Discussion of Chapter five
- II. Video: "Medical Experimentation on African Americans"
- III. Assignment: Chapter six

Twelfth Week:

- I. Discussion of Chapter six
- II. Video: Django
- III. Assignment: Chapter seven

Thirteenth Week:

- I. Discussion of Chapter seven and the video: Django
- II. Marlon Brando: "Burn" (Colonialism, Cameroon, and Self Determination)
- III. Discussion of the video: "Burn"
- IV. Assignment: Chapter eight

Fourteenth Week:

- I. Discussion of Chapter eight
- II. Socio-linguistic and Socio-cultural meme: "Interview of Snoop Dogg"
- III. Discussion of the Snoop interview and socio-linguistics
- IV. Assignment: Chapter nine

Fifteenth Week:

- I. Discussion of Chapter nine, video: Snoop
- II. The Historical Nexus between African Americans and the Second Amendment

- III. The Eugenics Movement
- IV. Review for the Final Examination

Note

The syllabus represents an itinerary that is subject to revision. That is, the instructor reserves the right and prerogative to change points and/or the dates that assignments are due for submission.

Logistical Information:

Location of the classroom: IST: 2004

Time: Friday: 8:50 ~ 12:00pm

Office Hours: Friday ~ 8:30 ~ 8:50am / 12:00 ~ 12: 20pm

Location: F.O. 41

Final Examination Information:

Date: May 13, 2013

Time: 11:00 ~ 1:00pm

Location: IST: 2004

Contact Information:

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