

# KEY ISSUES IN AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BLACK ATLANTIC THOUGHT

FALL 2019

**Professor: Manoucheka Celeste, Ph.D.**

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**TA:**

**COURSE #: AFA 3110**

**Time/Location:** T: 1:55-2:45; Th 1:55-3:50 PM; FAC 0120

Click here for campus map: <http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index>

**Office hours:** (Link): Tuesday: 12:30-1:30 & 3:00-4:00 by appointment on Tuesdays/Thursdays—please email me 24 hours in advance

Office location: Ustler 206 (near Buckman Hall)

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## **Required Textbooks & Course Materials**

- Manning Marable and Leith Mullings, eds. *Let Nobody Turn Us Around: An African American Anthology* (Second Edition): (in schedule as “MM”)
- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- All other readings will be provided as pdf or hard copy

## **Description and Objectives**

This course examines key themes in the intellectual history of African American and African diasporic experiences as they intersected both in the United States and other national contexts in the transatlantic world. We will focus on prevailing trends in social and political thought and the arts, especially related to questions of racism, slavery, freedom, citizenship, cultural identity, gender and sexual politics, economic justice, politics, crime and criminalization, diaspora, and international affairs. Also, we will discuss the interventions of leading voices of resistance and social change and their influence on black public consciousness, social and political action, and artistic and intellectual activities.

## **Objectives:**

In this course, students will:

- Expand their understanding of African Americans’ and the African diaspora’s contribution to theorization and social analysis of Black experiences.
- Deepen their knowledge and articulate the significance of this body of knowledge particularly as it relates to racialization and other forms of difference and social inequality that operate in conjunction with processes of race making
- Demonstrate ability to think critically and communicate effectively (oral and written)

The course fulfills the **General Education** requirements for the **humanities (H)** and **diversity (D)**. It also fulfills the **Gordon Rule E6** requirement. This means that writing assignments (beyond the exams) will amount to a total of 6000 words, and that students will receive feedback and guidance on those assignments toward the goal of improving their writing skills.

## **Class Structure:**

Class sessions include a combination of lectures, discussions, and activities. Our class meetings are designed to be active and participatory. Your willingness to share your stories, perspectives, or questions is essential to a lively, fun course!

\*\*Diversity of backgrounds, learning styles, gender, race, culture, sexuality, life circumstances, etc. is *deeply appreciated and celebrated* in this class.

## Course Requirements:

You will meet the course objectives by fulfilling the following requirements:

- Submit all work in standard format and adhere to assignment requirements: **Times New Roman, 12pt, 1-inch margins, double-space. Use appropriate citation style (APA is preferred). Points will be deducted otherwise.**
- Completing all assignments and projects on time
- Fully participating in class discussions and activities (including with unannounced graded in-class activities)
- Demonstrating your understanding of the material through a midterm exam and final exam/paper.
- Use appropriate sources and citations (academic books and journals, newspapers, magazines as discussed in class—not wiki, blogs, social networks, personal websites, etc.)

**\*\*See Canvas for description of announcements for details\*\***

**\*Limited extra credit opportunities will be announced.**

## Grading Requirements & Points

Category/Assignment	Points Possible	Date
Activities & Quizzes	400	Various
2 Exam (300 points each)	600	See schedule
Final Paper/Project (Proposal=50)	350	Proposal Due
Contemporary Social Issue Paper & Presentation	50	Sign up in class week 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1400</b>	

## GRADING SCALE

94-100A	90-93 A-
87-89 B+	84-86 B
80-83 B-	77-79 C+
74-76 C	70-73 C-
67-69 D+	64-66 D
60-63 D-	Below 60 E

## EXPECTATIONS

- Come to class prepared, fully participate and be respectful of the learning community we will build.
  - Being prepared involves: completing readings or assignments in advanced, and having necessary supplies.
  - Fully participating involves being a part of the discussions, actively listening and/or taking notes and contributing to the general experience.
- We are all here to learn, myself included. Together we will discuss and critically engage with the course material. In order to be successful, we need to respect each other's opinions, practice active listening and avoid any behavior that disrupts the learning of others.
- Leave your technology in your bag. Checking cell phones, text messages, Facebook, Twitter, etc., is **NEVER** okay in this class. Limit your computer use to note taking (see me re: computers).
- Please refrain from disruptive activities. I reserve the right to ask you to leave if your behavior is disruptive.
- Complete and submit assignments on time or ahead of time. Come to class on time. "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unacceptable," -C. Berry.
- Manage crisis by planning ahead and asking for help when appropriate.
- Ask questions when you have them. This is a great way to learn.
- Trust that you have something to offer the class (your perspective and experience are important)

- Be responsible for your own learning and grades. Do not count on others to take notes or to send you reminders.
- Communicate with me: email, come to my office.
- Have fun!!

**You can expect me to:**

- Be on time and prepared for class.
- Be structured, but flexible when needed.
- Prioritize fairness to ALL students. I will not do for one person what I cannot do for ALL.
- Respond to your questions in a timely manner. Please allow 24-48 hours during the week. I do not check work emails during the weekend, so plan ahead. Emails sent on the weekend will be answered the next Monday or Tuesday. Again, manage your crisis by being prepared—do not email the night before a deadline as you probably will not get an answer. If you email me the morning of class, you will not get a reply until later that day or the next day.
- Be committed to your learning and available outside of class to assist you.
- \*Not be attached to your grades or points. I don't get a bonus for lower or higher grades, so trust that I will be as fair as possible.
- Actively engage in class and have fun!!

**COURSE POLICIES:** *In addition to Expectations (see above) here are some more specifics:*

**Statement regarding oppression:**

The classroom is a place for learning and only works when everyone is respected and treated justly. Language and gestures that are oppressive (ex: hate speech, shutting people down, 'name-calling') will not be tolerated in this space. Additionally, due to the nature of this course, we may encounter texts and examples that are oppressive in nature or that you do not agree with. In order to have this be a meaningful learning experience, it is necessary to not only to acknowledge, but also to respect difference in identities, points of view, life experiences, etc. Further, since we are all in this space, we are ALL responsible to address behavior that is oppressive in nature in a respectful, non-judgmental manner. If you cannot adhere to this, please make arrangements to be in a different class.

*Attendance, Assignments, Tardiness, and Make-up assignments*

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- Only you can determine your success in this class. You will get out of it only what you put into it—this requires attending class.
- Attendance is required and is taken in a few ways including: roll call, sign-up sheets, quizzes, and in class activities. You are responsible for making sure your presence is counted, especially with quizzes, and in class assignments—and if you are tardy. In the rare instance that you attend late, see me after class to make sure you are not marked as absent. Once grades are submitted, attendance issues will not be considered, so please check this regularly.
- You are responsible for getting the information and material you miss in class from a classmate. “What did I miss” questions will not be answered.
- A sizeable percentage of the points for this class come from in-class participation activities. Due to the nature of these activities, make-ups will not be available.
- This course lasts 16 ½ weeks. A student with 5 unexcused absences will be dropped a letter grade. **More than 8 absences will result in automatic failure of the course.** Arriving at class late or leaving early (tardies) count ½ (half) of an absence each.
- Class will begin and end on time each day. Please be considerate of your classmates and avoid disrupting their learning. In the rare occasion that you are late, sit in the back as to not disturb class in progress. You are responsible for verifying that you are not marked as absent
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class in class on the due date, turned in by you. To be fair to all students who meet the expectations of this course, late assignments are not usually accepted without losing considerable points, unless there is proper documentation for the absence or tardiness.

- Anything turned in after class/outside of class on the due date will go down **1 letter grade per 24-hour** period after the deadline. For example, your grade is a B, but it is turned in after class the same day. Your final grade will be a C. You get the same grade for turning in an assignment late (middle of class, an hour after class, 23 hours after class).
- If you turn in an assignment and leave class ends, your assignment will be discarded and will be considered late once re-submitted.
- In order for assignments to be accepted without losing points, please contact me as soon as possible and provide documentation of illness or other university-approved absences. Dated documentation can include, but are not limited to: dated doctor's note, documentation of jury duty, obituary, etc. I reserve the right to contact the appropriate sources to confirm the documentation.
- **Assignments are NEVER accepted via email.**
- If your involvement in a university-sponsored activity requires that you miss a certain class period, you must provide me with documentation in advanced. Under some pre-approved circumstance (university-sponsored absence), assignments can be turned in early with advanced notice and proper documentation.
- Exam make ups will be discussed on a 1:1 basis for certifiable/documented medical and/or family emergencies, or university-sponsored activity.
- Students who wish to observe religious holidays that conflict with class dates should inform me in writing of their intention to do so in the **first two weeks of the semester.**

### **Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

UF is committed to providing reasonable support for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Disability Resource Center/Dean of Students Office in order to receive academic accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students are encouraged to contact *Disability Resource Center*:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students/accommodations>

I ask that students meet with me as soon as possible so that we can work together to ensure that accommodation requests are met.

*Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism* (adapted from syllabus of J.C. Hamm)

Academic dishonesty undermines the educational process and learning community. Using someone else's words or ideas as your own is dishonest and lazy. Cases of suspected plagiarism and/or cheating will be pursued diligently and rigorously. The range of possible penalties includes a failing grade and dismissal from the university. You are responsible for knowing the university's standards. See Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

**\*Only original work will receive a grade.** A zero will be assigned to any work with unoriginal work until the situation is resolved.

**Ongoing feedback:** I encourage you to share your feedback and concerns about this course as they arise. Please do not wait until the end of the semester. This includes grading errors or issues (within 2 weeks). I cannot fix what I do not know is broken. I am open and responsive to constructive feedback and questions. If I make a mistake (which will happen), I will fix it and so I encourage you to engage with me professionally, respectfully and regularly.

**Notification:** Periodically, I will make course announcements via email notification. You are responsible for this information, so check your email every 24 hours. If you do not use your UF email account, you must forward your UF account to one you check daily. If you ask questions that may benefit the class, I may send the notification to the entire class in lieu of only emailing you. Announcements will also be posted on Blackboard

### **Writing help:**

The University provides numerous opportunities for students to get work on their writing. We can all improve our writing. When you turn in papers for this course, I will assume that it has been thoroughly edited. Visit:

<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

**Additional Information:**

Use APA citation style. If you are not familiar with citation styles, please familiarize yourself.

<http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=350552&p=2458374>

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

“Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.”

Phone number and contact site for university counseling services and mental health services: 392-1575,

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Recording:**

\*Class sessions may not be recorded (unless arranged with instructor through Disabilities Resource Center). Class notes may not be sold.

Attire: Bow ties every Wednesday.

**Critical Reading of Texts (adapted from R. L. Joseph)**

You will soon find out that your reading materials for the class are a mixture of descriptive (i.e., easier reading) and densely theoretical (i.e., more challenging) pieces. Please give yourself sufficient time to read and digest the works for the week. Critical readers of the assigned texts should be able to provide the following: a summary of the primary and supplementary points of the author’s argument, a discussion of methodology, a mention of contribution of this work to its field(s), an analysis of strengths and weaknesses (of the style of the writing, the content provided, as well as the argument), and a link of the readings to the week’s and course’s concerns. For additional background, investigate the authors further, by, for example uncovering a short author biography and select bibliography. Critical readers have a conversation with the text. To do this, be sure to write a minimum of three questions for the class to discuss.

**Syllabus Acknowledgement and Acceptance**

I (type name) \_\_\_\_\_ have carefully read the syllabus in its entirety and agree with the requirements, policies, and all other terms. I have asked clarifying questions to ensure that I understand what I read.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_