

The Wire

AFA 3930 – Section 2D05 – Spring 2016
African American Studies Program – The University of Florida
Dr. Vincent Adejumo- Lecturer

Class Meeting Days: Tue/Thurs	Office: Walker Hall
Class Meeting Period: Tue (5-6) Thurs (6)	Building: LAR 0239
Class Time: Tues (11:45 AM – 1:40 PM) Thurs (12:50 PM – 1:40 PM)	Phone: 352-392-0936
Office Hours: (T) (Th) 9 AM – 11 AM	Email: vadejumo3@ufl.edu
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Catalog Description

An integrated interdisciplinary exploration of selected themes and resources that are represented in the critically acclaimed and award winning HBO series, *The Wire*. Major themes and theories that will be explored include education, politics, sexuality, race, and criminality.

Course Description

In America today, there are many large urban municipalities that have experienced substantial transformation over time which in turn has affected different populations and institutions within their communities. *The Wire* is an American drama produced by HBO that chronicles the after effects of such transformation in the city of Baltimore. This course will critically examine various themes that are presented in the show as well as academic research and theories that correlates with those themes. Major topics that will be examined in both the show and correlating academic research include the illegal drug trade, race and ethnicity, sexuality, public policy and politics, K-12 education, and the news media. Each reading that is assigned throughout the course will contain theories from multiple disciplines which includes political science, sociology, African American studies, gender studies, and education.

Course Objectives

Students will 1) obtain a general introduction to various institutions in an urban setting 2) Identify theories and theorists that address various themes presented in the show and academic research 3) demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts common in discourse about urban education, politics, crime, and sexuality 4) be able to summarize a general overview of themes related to the academic research presented in the course within the context of African American culture 5) Explain some of the contemporary socio-cultural issues that are present in the show from a social science perspective.

Requirements and Evaluation

Discussion responses

25%

In each 2 week module, students will be expected to develop a critical analysis to the weekly discussion board question. Each discussion question will be a topic developed from the selected readings/videos in the module. In answering the question in an initial response, students will identify theories and concepts that are in the selected readings/episodes and explain why those theories and concepts answer the question.

In the first 5 modules, which focuses on the selected articles and *The Wire* episodes, students will be expected to develop a critical analysis to the weekly discussion board question. Each discussion question will be a topic developed from the selected chapters in the module. In answering the question in an initial response, students will identify theories and concepts that are in the selected readings/episodes and explain why those theories and concepts answer the question. Each initial response to the question will be 2 pages (500 words) in length, double spaced, 12 point font and includes at least **2 CITATIONS FROM THE SELETED READINGS and 2 CITATIONS FROM THE SELECTED EPISODES!!!** After the initial response to the question is posted, students will respond to at least 2 different initial responses of their classmates in at least 350 or more words using materials (readings and episodes) for that week and weeks prior and will be due the Friday of the Second Week of Each Module!! Initial responses will be due on Fridays at 11:59 PM of the 1st week and response to peers will be due Fridays at 11:59 PM of the 2nd week.

Each initial response to the question in **modules 6 and 7** will be 3 pages 750 words in length, double spaced, 12 point font and includes at least **3 CITATIONS FROM THE SELETED READINGS!!!** Initial 3 page 750 word responses will be due on **Friday 11 PM OF THE FIRST WEEK OF EACH MODULE** and will be graded on a 100 point scale. See the grading rubric for the discussion question on Canvas. After the initial response to the question is posted, students will respond to at least **2 different initial responses of their classmates in at least 500 or more words using readings for that week and will be due the Friday of the Second Week of Each Module!!**. Failure to post initial 3 page double spaced response by 11:59 PM 1st week Friday will result in a half grade deduction for the assignment. **Failure to post 2 rebuttal statements by 11:59 PM of the 2nd Week Friday will also result in a half grade deduction for the assignment.** Failure to complete both tasks in the allotted time frame will result in a ZERO for the assignment.

Module Quizzes

25%

In the first 5 modules, students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of the material for the module via a multiple choice quiz during the third week of the Module. The allotted time for the quiz is 30 minutes and can be started at anytime from noon Monday of the second week of the module until Sunday Night 11 PM. Failure to complete the quiz by 11:00 PM Sunday Night will result in a zero with no chance for make-up.

The final project will require students to choose 1 exercise from the following list below:

1. Interview at least 5 students about their perceptions/experiences of politics, sexuality, education, and the media based on the plot lines in the show themes in the readings.
2. Create a musical/spoken word album of at least 13 tracks that focuses on the contemporary issues of politics, education, sexuality, and the media based on plot lines in the show and themes in the readings.
3. Create a Wordpress blog or Facebook profile with at least 10 separate entries spanning 10 weeks that highlight 10 episodes from the show and focus on specific theme that is present not only in the show but also in the academic research. Include a picture or screen cap from a specific moment in the show, a brief background summary, and a lengthy entry as to how the theme is presented in the show, in the academic research, and how it relates to society today. Each entry should be at least 700 words.
4. Create a professional poster board with a dimension of at least 42X63 using visual and textual content presented in the show and selected readings. The content should be presented in story form to effectively chronical the information. You must also write a 5-6 page research paper that coincides with the board.
5. Create a 15 minute movie loosely based on the figures and themes that are presented in the show and academic readings.
6. Create an alternative ending for one of the main characters of The Wire. The story must be atleast 8 pages and include atleast 6 references from the academic material (Articles/Books) that are presented in the course.

Create and present a PowerPoint to the class based on the themes in the show that relate to current events today. So for example, the death of Freddie Gray may relate to the theme of police brutality in the show so that presentation will encompass facts from the case as well as examples of police brutality in the show. You can also use material from a reputable news organization or academic website to bolster your presentation. The PowerPoint must be clear, concise, and at least 10 slides containing a brief introduction and at least two main points from a combination of material that is presented in the course. Presentations are to be between 10 and 15 minutes.

Requirements and Evaluation at a Glance

1. Module Quizzes	25%
2. Module Discussions	25%
3. Research Paper	25%
4. Lead Discussion	25%

Grading Scale

94-100=A, 90-93=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80- 82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 70-72=C-, 67-69=D+, 63-66=D, 60-62=D-, 57-59=F+, 57 and below = F

Presentation of Work

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced using Times Roman 12 point font in MS Word with 250 WORDS PER PAGE. You must use a standard **one-inch** margin – no **Bold-faced** or large fonts. Use the style APA, MLA or Chicago that is used in your academic discipline. All pages should be numbered. Do not include a cover sheet. Put identifying information in the top, right corner, single spaced. The assignment title or paper title may be centered.

University of Florida Honor Code

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Florida's Student Honor Code and Code of Conduct. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit **will be the student's own work. Do not plagiarize.** All work must be cited. Students suspected of academic dishonesty or of violating the Honor Code **will be reported** to the Dean of Students Office. To learn more about the UF policy regarding Academic Honesty, please visit:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

Evaluation of all Assignments Criteria

1) Quality, scope and organization of documentation; 2) Clarity and coherence of expression; 3) Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation; 4) Quality of critical analysis; 5) Demonstration of an understanding of information and concepts addressed in the readings and/or discussed in class; 6) Following directions and completing assignments on time. See Grading rubric for specified distribution of points. *UF has an online writing for students Visit their site at*

<http://web.cwoc.ufl.edu/owl>

Required Books and Materials

The Wire and Philosophy: This America, Man (Popular Culture and Philosophy)
ISBN-10: 0812698231 ISBN-13: 978-0812698237

The Wire: The Complete Series: Can order the complete DVD boxset or stream via Amazon Prime or HBO GO.

Attendance Policy

Attendance for *The Wire* Course is **MANDATORY!!** Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by Dr. Adejumo. Absences count from the first class meeting. In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Two or more unexcused absences in the course can result in a drop in grade at the discretion of Dr. Adejumo.

The Wire Course Outline

Module 1- I got that work (January 5th – January 17th)

Date	Lecture	Readings Due	Assignment Due	Episodes due
January 5th	Syllabus			Season 1: Episode 1
January 7th	Inequality	Systematic Urban Inequality and the Wire		Season 1: Episode 2 -4
January 8th			<i>Initial Discussion</i>	Season 1: Episode 5 - 8
January 12th	Put in Work	Putting in Work: Black Male Youth Joblessness, Violence, Crime, and the Code of the Street		Season 1: Episode 9 -11
January 14th				Season 1: Episode 12 - 13
January 15th			<i>Rebuttal Discussion</i>	
January 17th			<i>Quiz 1</i>	

Module 2- The Jolly Roger (January 19th – January 31st)

Date	Lecture	Readings Due	Assignment Due	Episodes due
<i>January 19th</i>	Baltimore	The Economic Devastation Fueling The Anger In Baltimore		Season 2: Episode 1-3
<i>January 21st</i>				Season 2: Episode 4-6
<i>January 22nd</i>			<i>Initial Discussion</i>	<i>Season 2: Episode 7-8</i>
<i>January 26th</i>	Agreements	Trade Agreements and U.S. Hegemony		Season 2: Episode 9-10
<i>January 28th</i>				<i>Season 2: Episode 11- 12</i>
<i>January 29th</i>			<i>Rebuttal Discussion</i>	
<i>January 31st</i>			<i>Quiz 2</i>	

Module 3- Politics as Usual (February 2nd – February 14th)

Date	Lecture	Readings Due	Assignment Due	Episodes due
<i>February 2nd</i>	Bodymore, Murderland	Baltimore Decline		Season 3: Episode 1-3
<i>February 4th</i>				Season 3: Episode 4-5
<i>February 5th</i>			<i>Initial Discussion</i>	Season 3: Episode 6-8
<i>February 9th</i>	Cookie Crumble	Washington Abandons the Cities		Season 3: Episode 9-10
<i>February 11th</i>				Season 3: Episode 11-12
<i>February 12th</i>			<i>Rebuttal</i>	
<i>February 14th</i>			<i>Quiz 3</i>	

Module 4- No Child Left Behind (February 16th – February 28th)

Date	Lecture	Readings Due	Assignment Due	Episodes due
<i>February 16th</i>	Oreo	Black Students' School Success: Coping with the "Burden of 'Acting White'"		Season 4: Episode 1 - 2
<i>February 18th</i>				Season 4: Episode 3 - 4
<i>February 19th</i>			<i>Initial Discussion</i>	Season 4: Episode 5 - 6
<i>February 23rd</i>	The 'hood	The Obama Administration's Proposals to Address Concentrated Urban Poverty		Season 4: Episode 7 - 9
<i>February 25th</i>				Season 4: Episode 10 - 13
<i>February 26th</i>			<i>Rebuttal Discussion</i>	
<i>February 28th</i>			<i>Quiz 4</i>	

Module 5- Breaking News (March 8th – March 20th)

Date	Lecture	Readings Due	Assignment Due	Episodes due
<i>March 8th</i>	Views from the 6	Viewer Ethnicity Matters: Black Crime in TV News and Its Impact on Decisions Regarding Public Policy		Season 5: Episode 1-2
<i>March 10th</i>				Season 5: Episode 3-5
<i>March 11th</i>			<i>Initial Discussion</i>	Season 5: Episode 6-7
<i>March 15th</i>		Baltimore Mom		Season 5: Episode 8-10
<i>March 17th</i>				
<i>March 18th</i>			<i>Rebuttal Discussion</i>	
<i>March 20th</i>			<i>Quiz 5</i>	

Module 6- Gamecube (March 22nd – April 2nd)

Date	Lecture	Readings Due	Assignment Due	Episodes due
<i>March 22nd</i>		Line 2: All in the Game		
<i>March 24th</i>		Line 15: The Wire as American Tragedy		
<i>March 25th</i>			<i>Initial Response Due</i>	
<i>March 29th</i>		Line 6: Came to Do Good, Stayed to do Well		
<i>March 31st</i>		Line 18: Class Projects and the Project Class		
<i>April 1st</i>			<i>Rebuttals Due</i>	

Module 7- Discretion (April 5th – April 16th)

Date	Lecture	Readings Due	Assignment Due	Episodes due
<i>April 5th</i>		Line 13: Capital Noir		
<i>April 7th</i>		Line 21: Stop Snitching, Screw the system		
<i>April 8th</i>			<i>Initial Response Due</i>	
<i>April 12th</i>		Line 10: The Best of Boys and Lads		
<i>April 14th</i>		Line 12: Women Up in the Game		
<i>April 15th</i>			<i>Rebuttals Due</i>	

Final Project Presentations

April 18th and April 20th

Selected Websites

<http://www.black-collegian.com/african/aaprofil.shtml>

http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/bhm/bio/index.htm

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/reference/articles.html>

http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline.htm

www.blackpast.org

www.census.gov

<http://eblackstudies.org/intro/journals.html> - Links to Selected African American Journal databases

Access JSTOR Database

1. Go to <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/>
2. If off campus, click on Off-Campus Access link under *Services*
3. Under option 1: UF proxy service, click **Follow this link to login with the UF proxy server.**
4. Input your username and password or library card information on left
5. After successful logging in, click UF Smathers Library
6. Click on the database & Journals tab
7. Under find online databases, click databases A-Z, then type in JSTOR in the search box
8. Click on JSTOR-ALL.. Website will reroute to the JSTOR website
9. Use the general or advance search option to research journal articles

Netiquette Guide for Online Courses

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as netiquette.

Security

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Don't share your password with anyone
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it
- Always logout when you are finished using the system

General Guidelines

When communicating online, you should always:

- Treat instructor with respect, even in email or in any other online communication
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to them by first name.
- Use clear and concise language
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you"
- Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 pt. font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or ☺
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or offensive
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's)
- Do not send confidential patient information via e-mail

Email Netiquette

When you send an email to your instructor, teaching assistant, or classmates, you should:

- Use a descriptive subject line
- Be brief
- Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them
- Avoid HTML in favor of plain text
- Sign your message with your name and return e-mail address
- Think before you send the e-mail to more than one person. Does everyone really need to see your message?
- Be sure you REALLY want everyone to receive your response when you click, “reply all”
- Be sure that the message author intended for the information to be passed along before you click the “forward” button

Message Board Netiquette and Guidelines

When posting on the Discussion Board in your online class, you should:

- Make posts that are on topic and within the scope of the course material
- Take your posts seriously and review and edit your posts before sending
- Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source
- Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying
- Don't repeat someone else's post without adding something of your own to it
- Avoid short, generic replies such as, “I agree.” You should include why you agree or add to the previous point
- Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own
- When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way
- Do not make personal or insulting remarks
- Be open-minded

Course Do's and Don't's

- Do check the announcements page every Monday and Tuesday for assignment updates
- Do check syllabus page on CANVAS for due dates of assignments
- Do email if you have any questions or concerns regarding an assignment
- Do complete every assignment in full and on-time to increase your chance to receive maximum points on an assignment
- Don't assume if you are unsure about an assignment
- Don't request extra credit, especially if you missed or made an unsatisfactory grade on an assignment

***Explicit content is presented in the course and Dr. Adejumo will set the parameters of profane language during the first week classes. Course assignment requirements, dates, and times are subject to change at anytime at the discretion of Dr. Adejumo.