

African American Studies Senior Integrative Seminar (AFA 4936)

Dr. Sharon Austin

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University of Florida**

Contact Information:

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Office Hours and Class Meeting Times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:45pm-2:45pm

Tuesdays 10:40-11:30am; Thursdays 10:40am-12:35pm in TUR 2334

Course Description: This class is the African American Studies capstone that fulfills partial requirements for the African American Studies minor and/or major. This is a research intensive course that allows students to apply the knowledge gained from years of coursework in African American Studies to complete a major research project. The course is interdisciplinary and seeks to develop in students an ability to apply methodology, theory, and language from more than one discipline in examining central themes, issues, problems, topics, or experiences of people of African descent in the Americas.

The Reserve Articles:

These readings are on reserve on the www.uflib.ufl.edu web site. To read or print these articles, click on the course reserves link, type in my last name, and click on the article's title.

Your Grade will be Based on:

1)	Attendance	5%
2)	Participation or Optional Paper	20%
3)	Discussion Leader	10%
4)	First Short Paper	10%
5)	Second Short Paper	10%
6)	Third Short Paper	10%
7)	Research Paper	30%
8)	Defense of Paper	5%

Descriptions:

1) Attendance Policy and Missed Work:

After three unexcused classes are missed, you will not receive the percentage points for class participation (and will not have the option of submitting an optional paper). It is your responsibility to sign the attendance roster that will be given out at the beginning of each class session. If you forget to, sign it during the next class. Also, try to get to class on time. The policy for missed work in this class is consistent with the university's policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

2) **Class Participation and the Optional Paper Assignment:**

We will discuss a number of issues pertaining to African Americans and the discipline of African American Studies during the course of the semester. I understand that some students are more comfortable participating in class discussions than others. Therefore, I am giving you the option of either participating in our class discussions on a regular basis or writing a paper.

If you participate verbally (or attempt to and I don't call on you for some reason), email me on the day that you've participated so that I can keep a record of it. Throughout the semester, I will email the class listserv to let each of you know if you have participated regularly. If you participate in our discussions, you will not have to write a paper. If not, a 5-8 page typed, double-spaced paper is due on the last day of class. You can write an analysis which gives your opinion on any topic(s) we've discussed in class.

3) **Discussion Leader:**

Each student will lead discussions of **one** article of their choice. Summarize three main points about the article, the significance of the research, the clarity of the writing, and the overall quality of the article – i.e., did the author(s) prove his point in a way that others can understand it?

- 4) **Short Papers:** Write a four page paper on **one** of the two topics below. In the paper summarize the main points of three articles on the topic. Your paper will be graded on the basis of your knowledge of the articles (proof that you read them). Also, did the author(s) support his/her arguments well? Upload your papers to canvas on the dates below.

The first paper is due September 13th.

- 1) The Origin of African American Studies
- 2) The Academy

The second paper is due October 11th

- 1) The Search for a Paradigm
- 2) African American film and popular culture

The third is due November 17th.

- 1) African American political activism
- 2) Black Public Intellectuals

5) 10-15 page research paper (Due on December 6th)

Your paper is due on the last day of class. It must examine the same topic as the proposal you completed in Senior Seminar 1. The paper should be a minimum of 10-15 pages of text (not including an endnote page), an endnote page that lists citations, and a bibliography page.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced using Times Roman 12 point font in MS Word. You must use a standard **one-inch** margin - no boldfaced fonts. Use the style APA, MLA or Chicago. All pages should be numbered and stapled. Also, use a title page that includes your name, the title of your paper, the due date, and the name of this class. *UF has an online writing for students. Visit their site at <http://web.cwoc.ufl.edu/owl>.*

The paper should include: 1) an introduction that gives a description of the paper, the research question(s), and a thesis statement; 2) a theoretical framework/literature review that includes a summary of the literature you applied in your research; 3) a data and methods section; 4) a bibliography page(s); and 5) survey questions (if applicable). Your paper will be graded on the basis of the clarity of the analysis and the overall writing style (lack of grammatical, punctuation, and other errors).

6) Presentations will be given on November 29th, December 1st, and December 6th

Each student must give an approximately 10 minute power-point presentation. In the presentation, describe your research topic, explain its significance to the discipline of African American Studies, provide a description of literature on this topic, and explain the data and methods you used to analyze this topic.

Grading Scale:

94-100	A	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

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

Optional Extra Credit Assignments: If you complete a two page, typed, double-spaced paper on any of these, five points will be added to your lowest scores.

- 1) On **September 7th**, there will be a **“Tupac Shakur” Forum** from 7-9pm in the Rion Ballroom featuring **Professors Tanya Saunders, UF Associate Professor of Women’s**

Studies and Latin American Studies, and Vincent Adejumo, UF Lecturer of African American Studies. The movie “Juice” will air continuously on September 8th in the Rion Ballroom from 6pm-1:30am.

- 2) On **October 4th**, the documentary, “**Agents of Change,**” will be shown at 2pm. Location tba. After the documentary, a question and answer session will take place with the filmmaker **Abby Ginzburg and Professor Ibram Kendi, UF Assistant Professor of African American Studies and History.**
- 3) On **October 20th**, **Professor Kathleen Cleaver**, of Emory University and former member of Black Panther Party, will give a lecture at 6pm in the University Auditorium.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating on examinations. The penalty for cheating is a grade of 0 on the assignment. In addition, the Dean of Student's office may choose to administer a harsher punishment such as a temporary suspension from this class or a permanent expulsion from the university.

Classroom Behavior (Cell Phones and Laptops):

In the past, several of my students have forgotten to turn off their cell phones in class. I am asking you to please turn off your phones before our class begins. Remember, a student who takes his/her work seriously will make sure that his/her phone is off during class meetings.

Also, if you engage in behavior such as texting, browsing the internet, sleeping, loud yawning, or any other behavior that I consider to be disrespectful to me or to your classmates, you may not receive all of the percentage points for class participation. I expect you to pay attention at all times in class especially when films are shown. You do not have my permission to do the work in your other classes when films are shown. If I find out that you're doing this, I have the right to deduct points from your participation grade.

Disabilities Statement:

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student's office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Student's office will provide documentation, which the student will then give to the instructor. For more information, see [HTTP://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)

The Internship and Fellowship Information:

I receive a lot of information about internships, undergraduate scholarships, and law and graduate school fellowships. At the beginning of most of our classes, I will share this information with you because I strongly encourage you to apply for these things. In the past, several of my students have received a variety of internships and fellowships. You can also look at the careers or scholarships links on the afam.clas.ufl.edu site for internship and scholarship information.

Class Schedule: (Films will be shown at the end of classes.)

The Origins of African American Studies

8-23 Introduction

Film: African American Studies at UF (35 minutes) was created by Professor Patricia Hilliard-Nunn and includes interviews with students in her Senior Seminar course, former directors of the African American Studies Program, and others.

8-25 Film: Black Student Revolt Against Racism Ousts Two Top Officials (23 minutes) presents a discussion of the events from the fall 2015 semester which led to the resignation of the president of the University of Missouri System, the president of the University of Missouri-Columbia, and other university administrators. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBw1V1u-bYA>

Reserve Readings: Each are chapters in Martha Biondi. *The Black Revolution on Campus.*

“Introduction. The Black Revolution on Campus”

“Moving toward Blackness: The Rise of Black Power on Campus”

8-30 Reserve Readings:

Critical Race Theory, Racial Microaggressions, and Campus Racial Climate: The Experiences of African American College Students

The Color of Success: African-American College Student Outcomes at Predominantly White and Historically Black Public Colleges and Universities

9-1 Guest lecture by doctoral students from the Samuel C. Proctor Oral History Program.

The Academy

9-6 Click on the links provided:

Black Male Student Success in Higher Education: A Report from the National Black Male College Achievement Study <http://works.bepress.com/sharper/43/>

They (Don't) Care about Education: A Counternarrative on Black Male Students' Responses to Inequitable Schooling <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ968820>

9-8 NO CLASS

The Current State of African American Studies and Activism

9-13 **First Paper Is Due Tonight.**

Reserve Reading:

Ethnic, Women's, and African American Studies Majors in U.S. Institutions of Higher Education

9-15 We will watch:

A Short History of Black Lives Matter (11 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp-RswgpD8>

Marc Lamont Hill w/Sheriff David Clarke; #BlackLivesMatter; CNN; 8-31-2015 (10 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBS8YIDTApA>

Bill O'Reilly vs Two Black Lives Matter Supporters (9 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5HsBVmGKB8>

Reserve Readings:

#Ferguson: Digital protest, hashtag ethnography, and the racial politics of social media in the United States

The Class Politics of Black Lives Matter

The Search for a Paradigm

9-20 **First Short Paper is due tonight.**

Click on the links provided:

Molefi Asante, Afrocentricity. Can be found at <http://www.asante.net/articles/1/afrocentricity/>.

Asa Hilliard III, Behavioral Style, Culture, and Teaching and Learning. Can be found at www.schoolreforminitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/.../Hilliard+1992.pdf

Patricia Hill-Collins, Toward an Afrocentric Feminist Epistemology.

http://www.woldww.net/classes/Principles_of_Inquiry/Collins-AfrocFemEpistemology+.htm

Reserve Reading:

Maulana Karenga, Black Studies and the Problematic of Paradigm: The Philosophical Dimension

African American Film and Popular Culture

9-22 Film: Black Hollywood: Blaxploitation and Advancing an Independent Black Cinema explores the Blaxploitation era and the challenges for black filmmakers in Hollywood. This film contains profanity.

[http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/black_hollywood_blaxploitation_and_advancing_a
n_independent_black_cinema](http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/black_hollywood_blaxploitation_and_advancing_an_independent_black_cinema)

Reserve Reading: The Rise and Fall of Blaxploitation

9-27 Click on the link below:

ASPIRational: Black Cable Television and the Ideology of Uplift

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15295036.2015.1023328>

Reserve Reading:

Documenting Social Issues

9-29 Reserve Readings:

Conversations with Ava DuVernay—"A Call to Action": Organizing Principles of an Activist Cinematic Practice

Spike Lee and the Fever in the Racial Jungle

Tyler Perry and the Weight of Misrepresentation

Jim Crow Studies

10-4 **The Agents of Change documentary will be shown at 2pm today.**

Click on the link provided:

Rose, Ananda. "What's Behind the New 'Juan Crow' Laws?" In *Real Clear Books*. Can be found at:http://www.realclearbooks.com/articles/2011/10/25/whats_behind_the_new_juan_crow_laws_4.html.

Reserve Reading:

We Are in the Hands of the Devil

10-6 NO CLASS (Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History)

10-11 **Second Short Paper is due tonight.**

Reserve Reading:

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

10-13 We will watch:

The Tawana Brawley Story (14 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T78DwdFUq0c>

Presumed Guilty: Due Process Lessons of the Duke Lacrosse Case (12 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqt9OX-oAtU>

Reserve Readings:

The Racial Hoax as Crime

Innocent Until Proven Innocent: In Defense of Duke Lacrosse and White Power (and Against Menacing Black Student-Athletes, a Black Stripper, Activists, and the Jewish Media)

Black Women's Studies

10-18 Click on the Link:

Evans, Stephanie. "I was one of the first to see daylight: Black Women at Predominantly White Colleges and Universities in Florida since 1959." *Florida Historical Quarterly*, 85 (2006): 42–63. Can be found at plaza.ufl.edu/drevans/Evans%20-%20First%20to%20See%20Daylight.pdf.

Behar-Horenstein, Linda, Cirecie West-Olatunji, Thomas Moore, Diedre Houchen and Kellie Roberts, "Resilience post-tenure: The experience of an African American Woman in a PWI." *Florida Journal of Educational Administration and Policy* 5 (January 2013): 68-84.

<http://education.ufl.edu/fjeap/spring-2012-volume-5-issue-2/>

10-20 Film: 1968 Olympics Black Power Salute (55 minutes) includes a discussion of the backlash toward Tommie Smith and John Carlos after they exhibited the black power salute after winning Olympic medals. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnvCiKUILAw>

Reserve Readings:

The Black Church: What's the Word

Discontented Black Feminists: Prelude and Postscript to the Passage of the Nineteenth Amendment

Rape and the Inner Lives of Black Women in the Middle West

African American Political Activism

10-25 Reserve Readings:

Black Fists and Fool's Gold: The 1960s Black Athletic Revolt Reconsidered. The LeBron James Decision and Self-Determination in Post-Racial America

Click on the link:

United States of America v. Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/403/698>

10-27 At the end of class we will watch Kathleen Cleaver: Evolution of a Black Panther (13 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHujst3NZCg>

Reserve Readings:

Higher Education and the Plight of the Black Male Athlete

African American Football Athletes' Perspectives on Institutional Integrity in College Sport

Listening to the Voices: The Experiences of African American Female Student Athletes

Gender and Racial Analysis in Sport: Are All the Women White and All the Blacks Men?

Afro Caribbeans

11-1 Reserve Readings:

The Effect of Racial Group Consciousness on the Political Participation of African Americans and Black Ethnics in Miami-Dade County, Florida

Framing Haitians and Cubans in *The New York Times*: Enduring Imprints of Political History

A Love Story: Media and an (New) Exceptional Haitian-American Political Subject Conclusion

11-3 NO CLASS Lecture by Professor Kathleen Cleaver is at 6pm tonight at the University Auditorium.

The Post-Racial Political Era

11-8 Reserve Readings:

Race and Politics in the Age of Obama

When Whites Love a Black Leader: Race Matters in Obamerica

11-10 We will watch: The Choice 2016 provides a description of the backgrounds of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/the-choice-2016/>
Discussion of Election Results

The Research of Multiracial Scholars

11-15 Reserve Readings:

I Didn't Get that Job Because of a Black Man. Color Blind Racism's Racial Stories

Reflections on Racial Patterns in America

The Style of Color-Blindness: How to Talk Nasty About Minorities Without Sounding Racist

UF Faculty Research

11-17 **Third Short Paper is due tonight. Presentations begin**

Reserve Readings:

Race, Crime and the Pool of Surplus Criminality: Or Why the War on Drugs Was a War on Blacks

Malcolm X and the Black Campus Movement: Shaping Academic Communities

Representing African American Women in Hollywood Movies: An African Conscious Analysis

11-22 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

11-24 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

11-29 Presentations

12-1 Presentations

12-6 **Research Paper is due tonight;** Presentations