

**Black Women's Activism**  
AFA 3930 – Spring 2021  
African American Studies Program – The University of Florida  
Dr. Ashley Robertson Preston- Lecturer

Class Times & Location: Asynchronous

Office Hours & Location: Virtual Office Hours Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:30 pm  
(Zoom/Also available by appointment)

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"I'd rather go down in history as one lone Negro who dared to tell the government that it had done a dastardly thing than to save my skin by taking back what I said."  
-Mrs. Ida B. Wells

Facing both sexism and racism upon their arrival into America, Black women have always resisted the confines of their enslavement. Not once did they accept their status as permanent and this is evident in their continued struggle for freedom. With emancipation came new challenges yet they organized themselves to take on issues such as disenfranchisement, lynchings and inequalities in education. Though often overlooked, Black women's activism has played a critical part in the Black Liberation Movement. This course will examine the activism of Black women from the period of enslavement to the rise of the Black Power Movement.

Requirements & Evaluation:

**REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION AT A GLANCE:**

**Discussion Board 40%**

**Reflection Papers 35%**

**Final Project 25%**

**Discussion Board (40%)**

Students will be expected to watch the weekly online video lectures and develop a critical analysis to the weekly discussion board question. You are expected to thoroughly respond using reading assignments, videos and of course your opinions based on the readings. Use examples from the reading to support your response without simply reposting quotes from the readings. ANALYZE what you read and heard in the discussion posts. In order to receive full credit, in addition to answering students must also respond to two other student posts with responses other than "I agree" or "great point." The discussion posts are a way to engage with each other, while also digging deeper into the content in a similar way in which we would do so in class. It is ok to disagree (in a respectful manner) but be thorough in your answering of questions and responding to each other. Initial responses to the questions should be at least 250 words minimum. No editing, you must answer the question before responding, no emailed discussion posts and no late posts.

## **Final Project (35%)**

Students will create short 3-5 minute videos on Black women activists that were profiled throughout the course. Each person will select one activist and will be responsible for researching the person's life, finding graphics and creating the short video which will be used to create a Youtube page for the course. Guidelines will be sent.

## **Critical Reflections (25%)**

*Students* are required to write three essays (1000 words for each essay), 12 point font (Times New Roman) These *reaction papers* are to critically reflect on some aspect of the readings done usually over a few week's period. Essays should examine issues that run across more than one text. Students are free to express their personal reactions and to write autobiographically; however, personal opinions and experiences should be informed by the conceptual and empirical substance of the assigned and recommended readings. Please refrain from using any more than 2-3 sentences (of the entire paper) to discuss the weekly videos.

### Due Dates

#### Discussion Board Questions

1/17  
1/24  
1/31  
2/7  
2/14  
2/21  
2/28  
3/7  
3/14  
3/21  
3/28  
4/4  
4/11

#### Reflection Papers

2/17  
3/24  
4/19

#### Final Project

4/26

## **Presentation of Work**

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 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.

### **Makeup Policies/Late Work**

**No late assignments will be accepted. No emailed assignments will be accepted.**

Please take note of the due dates at the beginning of the semester! When submitting work online please be sure to double check that the assignment has been properly submitted. Any corrupted files that are submitted will automatically receive a 0% It is your responsibility to make sure that assignments are on time. Please do not send anything to me by email. Canvas is the only acceptable submission portal. Also, please try to keep your similarity scores below 20%

### **Communication**

Allow 24 hours for replies to emails. This may be extended to 72 hours if the email is left over a weekend or holiday. Be sure to read the syllabus and the instructions again before sending an email. Lastly, be as descriptive as possible in the subject line of the email.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **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>

**\*Reusing papers, portions of papers or any prior work that you have submitted to any courses is considered plagiarism in this class.\***

## Required Texts:

Paula Giddings *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*

Deborah Gray White *Too Heavy a Load, Black Women in Defense of Themselves, 1894-1994)*

Tiffany M. Gill *Beauty Shop Politics African American Women's Activism in the Beauty Industry*

## Supplemental Text:

Bettye Collier-Thomas & V.P. Franklin *Sisters in the Struggle: African American Women in the Civil Rights-Black Power Movement*

**\*\*This text does not need to be purchased. Articles will be accessed via the UF Library E-Book\*\***

## Schedule:

Week 1-January 11-17

*When and Where I Enter* Chapter 2

*When and Where I Enter* Chapter 3

**\*\* Discussion Board**

Week 2-January 19-24 (Dr. Martin Luther King Day Observance 1.18)

*When and Where I Enter* Chapters 1&4

*When and Where I Enter* Chapter 6

**\*\*Discussion Board**

Week 3-January 25-31

*Too Heavy a Load* Chapter 4

**\*Discussion Board**

Week 4-February 1-7

*When and Where I Enter* Chapter 7

*Too Heavy a Load* Chapter 5

**\*Discussion Board**

Week 5 February 8-14

*When and Where I Enter* Chapter 8

*Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 1

Week 6 February 15-21

The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai3/protest/text5/robinsonbusboycott.pdf>

Rey Taylor, Rosa Parks, and the Struggle for Racial Justice

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/recy-taylor-rosa-parks-and-struggle-racial-justice>

*Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 3

“The Rape of Recy Taylor”: How Rosa Parks Helped a Sharecropper Report Her Assault & Seek Justice” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BJgNUrS38c>

**\*Discussion Board/Reflection Paper**

Week 7-February 22-28

*Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 9

*When and Where I Enter* Chapter 16

Eyes On The Prize (Part 4): No Easy Walk (1962-1966) America's Civil Rights

Movement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YYaaEffMFk>

**\* Discussion Board**

Week 8- March 1-7

*Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 6

*Too Heavy A Load* Chapter 6 (pg. 189-211)

**\*Discussion Board**

Week 9 March 8-14

Women in the Black Panther Party: A roundtable

By Ashley Farmer, Mary Phillips, Robyn C. Spencer and Leela Yellesetty

<https://isreview.org/issue/111/women-black-panther-party>

Read “Beyond Berets: The Black Panthers as Health Activists”

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5024403/>

Read “Children can’t learn on an empty stomach”: The Black Panther Party’s Free Breakfast Program By Husain Lateef & David Androff

W: Kathleen Cleaver Interview

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/race/interviews/kcleaver.html>

Vanguard of the Revolution- The Real Story of the Black Panther Party

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6qb27VJzDY>

**\*Discussion Board**

Week 10 March 15-21

“To Make That Someday Come: Shirley Chisholm’s Radical Politics of Possibility  
(*Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*)

“Framing the Panther: Assata Shakur and Black Female Agency

(*Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*)

**\*Discussion Board**

Week 11 March 22-28

*Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 14

“We Do Whatever Becomes Necessary” (*Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*)

**\*Discussion Board/Reflection Paper**

Week 12 March 29-April 4

*Beauty Shop Politics* Intro & Chapter 1

*Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 2

**\*Discussion Board**

Week 13 April 5-11

*Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 3

*Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 4

**\*Discussion Board**

Week 14 April 12-18

*Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 5

*Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 6

**Reflection Paper**

Week 15 April 19-21

Women and Black Lives Matter: An Interview with Marcia Chatelain

One Year of #MeToo: The Legacy of Black Women's Testimonies

*Final Project Due: 4/26*

**\*\*Dr. Preston reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time.\*\***