



AFR 303: Introduction to Black Studies

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

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Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Skills and Experience Flags: Cultural Diversity, Ethics, Global Cultures

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview

This course provides students with an introduction to Black Studies. In the first section of the course we consider the history of Black Studies in the U.S. using the integration and development of Black Studies here at The University of Texas at Austin as a case study. We then turn to considerations of the historical construction of Africa, the Black Diaspora, and the idea of Blackness. Building on this foundation the course provides students with the analytical tools to critically explore canonical Black Studies literature, themes, and theories. This section of the course interrogates race, gender, class, sexuality, and their

intersections. The second section of the course focuses on Black cultures, power, and politics. It utilizes the analytical tools provided by the course to forge an understanding of Black gendered cultural forms. The third section of the course focuses in on the expression and use of Black Studies and the ethical questions raised by applying this perspective to everyday concerns in critical areas of social inequity.

Required Materials

There is no required textbook for this class. Course readings will be made available online.

Technical Requirements

All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Computer Hardware and Software Requirements:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- 2GB memory/RAM
- Modern (last 2-3 years) and updated operating system (MacOS or Windows)
- Chrome (highly recommended), Safari or Firefox
- 5Mbps internet connection speed

Course Organization

The course is organized into modules, which are units of course material that cover specific topics. Most modules contain reading assignments, lecture videos, instapoll questions embedded in lecture videos, a quiz, and an essay. The course concludes with a final exam. The following groups of assignments will constitute the graded work of the course. Final grades will be calculated based on the total number of points earned.

Reading Annotations

Using the Perusall app linked from Canvas, students will engage course concepts by making substantive comments on course readings. All annotation assignments are completion based; full credit will be given if the annotations are completed according to instructions.

Instapolls

In this course, you will watch several on-demand videos comprised of content pulled from lectures that were previously recorded. During these videos, you will see pop-ups called instapolls. Lecture video segments will usually contain 1-3 of these pop-up on screen quiz questions. These are designed to monitor your engagement and test your comprehension of the material as you view the lecture videos.

Review Quizzes

Each module contains a computer-graded review quiz focused on the lecture segments and readings within that module. These review quizzes contain multiple-choice questions that cover lecture and reading content and are designed to reinforce your understanding of the course material.

Short Essays

In four of the modules, students will be asked to write short essays that address a topic in Black Studies specific to the content of that module. Your lowest essay grade will be dropped. Essays will require students to engage the core concepts presented in that module in their analysis. These open-ended questions are designed to test your understanding of the material and your ability to apply the concepts to current or real-world situations.

Ethics Case Study Essay

In the final module students will be presented with a case-study and will write an essay to examine and analyze the presented ethical dilemma.

Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative and tests students on all course content. The exam will consist entirely of multiple-choice questions much like your review quizzes. **You must pass the final exam to pass the course.**

Course Outline

Module	Topic	Assessments
1	Black Studies and Black UT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 1▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 2▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 3
2	Africa, the Black Diaspora and Blackness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 4▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 5▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 6▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 7
3	The Conceptual Toolkit I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 8▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 9▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 10▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 11
4	The Conceptual Toolkit II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 12▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 13▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 14▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 15
5	Culture and Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 16▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 17▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 18▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 19
6	Race, Gender, Class and Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 20▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 21▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 22▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 23
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Reading Annotations	4%
Instapolls	6%
Review Quizzes	10%
Short Essays	30%
Ethics Case Study Essay	20%
Final Exam	30%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A	100-94%	B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%	F	59-0%
A-	93-90%	B	86-84%	C	76-74%	D	66-64%		
		B-	83-80%	C-	73-70%	D-	63-60%		

Getting Help

- Technical Support: gatewaytechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of *F* on the exam and an *F* in the course.

University Extension Contact Information

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