

WST 6935: Foundations and Futures of Black Feminist Theory Spring 2024

Course and Contact Information

Course Meetings: Tuesdays, 12:50-3:50 pm

Course Location: Ustler Hall

Professor: Dr. Cinnamon Williams

Email: ci.williams@ufl.edu

Office: Ustler Hall

Please visit Canvas for more detail about my office hours and how to schedule meetings with me.

Course Description

Interdisciplinary introduction to the origins of Black feminist theory and recent developments in the field. Emphasis is placed on U.S.-based thinkers. Possible topics include motherhood, labor, and representation.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Describe how and why Black feminist theory emerged as a field of study.
- Analyze Black feminist responses to various systems of power.
- Explain the significance of at least one key issue in the field in depth.

Course Materials

Required Texts to Purchase:

Alexander Weheliye, *Feenin: R&B Music and the Materiality of Blackfem Voices and Technology*—regular price from [Duke University Press](https://www.dukeupress.edu/feenin/): \$28.95

Required Texts Available Through UF Libraries (either online or via Course Reserves):

Kemi Adeyemi, *Feels Right: Black Queer Women and the Politics of Partying in Chicago*

Jafari S. Allen, *There's a Disco Ball Between Us: A Theory of Black Gay Life*

Octavia Butler, *Damn*

bell hooks, *Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood*

Assata Shakur, *Assata: An Autobiography*

Ntozake Shange, *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*

Christina Sharpe, *Ordinary Notes*

All other texts, including audio and visual texts, are either linked in the syllabus or available on Canvas.

Assessments and Grades

Reflection papers (20%) — 1-2 pages: due weekly before class starts.

Participating in seminar (10%) — Weekly.

Facilitating discussion (5%) — Once during the semester.

Final paper (65%) — 10-15 pages: due May 2, 2024, 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted. You will have three options for the final paper. Please see Canvas for more detail about your options.

Course Calendar

Week	Theme
1	Introductions and The Stakes
2	Institutionality
3	The Archive
4	Motherhood
5	Girlhood
6	Difference
7	Life/Living
8	Labor
9	Reproduction
10	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>
11	Representation
12	Sexuality
13	Pleasure
14	Violence
15	Loss
16	Care

University Policies

Attendance and Make-up Work: Attendance is required for every class meeting. If you need to miss a session for any reason, please let me know that you will not be in attendance via email. Be mindful that excessive absences can cause your grade to suffer or result in you failing the course.

All assignments should be submitted by the stated deadlines. The deadline for the final paper is inflexible. The requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with [university policies](#).

Accommodations: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first [register with the Disability Resource Center](#) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Grading: Final grades for this course are distributed as follows.

Assignment	Frequency	Percentage
Reflection Papers	Weekly (15)	20
Seminar Participation	Weekly (15)	10
Seminar Co-facilitation	Once (1)	5
Final Paper	Once (1)	65
Total		100

Final grades correlate to the following scale. This policy aligns with [current UF policies for assigning grade points](#).

Grade	Grade Points
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.0
D-	.67

Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals; in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals; or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Conduct Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

In-class Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit the [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608. You may also visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit [the GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Campus Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Visit the [Career Connections Center website](#), or call 352-392-1601 for career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Visit the [UF Libraries homepage](#) to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Visit the [Teaching Center website](#), or call 352-392-2010 for help with general study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: Visit the [Writing Studio website](#), or call 352-846-1138 for help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](#) for more information.

Consider Adding a Graduate Certificate!

Adding a Certificate in (a) Women's Studies or (b) Gender and Development can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in understanding women, gender, race, class, and sexuality in society and culture. The 12 credits Certificate will appear on your transcript and can be listed on your CV. The Certificate in Women's Studies (WST) is designed for graduate students from any discipline who wish to become acquainted with theoretical approaches and methodologies for examining the roles of gender, race/ethnicity, sexualities and other sociocultural systems.

The Certificate in Gender and Development (GAD) applies this lens to the analysis of labor/economic development processes at micro and macro levels and in international contexts.

Graduate students from all colleges at UF are eligible to enroll in these certificates.

To add a Graduate Certificate, visit [here](#). You may contact Graduate Coordinator Dr. Jillian Hernandez (jillianhernandez@ufl.edu) with any questions.