

WST6935/4930 - Fem/Black Queer Studies

Instructor: Dr. Tanya L. Saunders

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T | Period 8 - 10 (3:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

Room: UST 108

Office Hours: Weds 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and by appointment

Office: 368 Grinter

This graduate level course is a survey course of the scholarship and key debates in the emerging fields of Black Queer/Queer of Color Studies, which have their origins in Black, Chicana and Latina Feminist Studies. We will take a sociological approach to understanding how race, sexuality, gender and coloniality affects our understanding of ourselves, and how we experience social life through placing non-heteronormative Black and Latinx Queer subjects (not mutually exclusive) at the center of our analyses. We will engage the social implications of the scientific study on sexuality, engage key theoretical perspectives in the area of queer/sexuality studies, and review empirical studies concerning Black and Latinx queer identities and cultural politics within Africa and the Diaspora in the Americas. Sexuality studies is a large and broad field of inquiry, therefore this course is not exhaustive. The goal of the course is to give you a strong theoretical and empirical base from which you can think about Diaspora, race, gender, “sexuality” and society.

Required Text

¡Venceremos? The Erotics of Black Self-making in Cuba by Jafari S. Allen

ISBN:9780822349501

Out in Africa by Ashley Currier

ISBN-13: 978-0816678013

Ezili's Mirrors: Imagining Black Queer Genders by Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley

ISBN: 9780822370383

Flaming Souls: Homosexuality, Homophobia by David A.B. Murray

ISBN-13: 978-1442613003

Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity by C. Riley Snorton

ISBN:9781517901738

The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture by Gloria Wekker

ISBN-13: 978-0231131636

Course Objectives

The objectives for this course are:

- Introduction to Black Queer and Latinx Studies
- Critically analyze the racial foundations of queerness and queer subject formation
- Introducing students to queer, gender and sexuality studies from an interdisciplinary prospective
- Strengthening theoretical framework for students whose research interests lay in the areas of queer, African Diaspora, Latinx, gender and sexuality studies from a global perspective

I. Attendance & Participation	20%
II. Weekly Reaction Papers	20%
III. In-Class Discussions	20%
IV. Exams (20% Each)	40%

I. Attendance & Participation

Attendance and participation is very important for this class: class discussion is very important. Twenty percent (20%) of your total grade has been allocated to your presence in the classroom throughout the whole class period. Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of every class meeting. It is your responsibility to make sure you come to class prepared to participate in class discussions. Active participation includes asking and answering questions, participating in group exercises, and doing the reading before class. Attendance is an important requirement of the class. If you constantly arrive to class late, you will be marked absent – I will give you notice. More than two unexcused absences will result in a zero for the attendance requirement. More than five unexcused absences will result in an automatic “F” for the course.

If you need to be absent due to a medical situation, your absence will only be excused if you present a doctor's note. Notes from doctors will be initially accepted, but subject to verification- so be sure that they have specific contact information. University documentation is required for special situations such as ‘field-trips’ to participate in competitive sports representing University of Florida, and other professional, educational events or other official University events. Please talk to me if you have any questions about your particular situation. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation.

II. Weekly Reaction Essays (20%)

Weekly reaction essays are due every week. Students who are leading discussions are required to post a question in the Chat section addressing the upcoming week's reading assignments and themes by Friday, 5 pm the week before. Classmates are to respond to the online posts by 12 pm on Tuesday (before the class discussion). The

question should address the upcoming week's reading assignments and themes. Students are upload their responses in the Assignment's section. If you do not directly engage the reading and the conversation that is happening in your response, you will not get credit for your online post.

The post should read: "Discussion Question Due on [Date] ex: August 27th," then post your question.

Follow the MLA, APA or Chicago Style format. 500 - 1000 words.

No late assignments will be accepted.

III. In-Class Discussions (20%)

Given that this is a seminar course, this semester we take turns leading class discussions. Each Tuesday students will be responsible for leading in-class discussion for the first 30 minutes of class (15 minutes each student). Outside of class you should contact your partner for the week and determine which part of the reading you will focus on in class. Come to class prepared give a brief summary of what you read, name three key points you think we should take away from what we have read, and prepare questions to ask your classmates.

IV. Exams

Exam I: Midterm Exam (20%)

The Midterm Exam is an opportunity to use some of the concepts we have discussed in class to critically engage the theoretical content of the course. Always support your answers with citations from the course texts - no outside materials. The prompt for the first Exam will be given during the Week of October 7th. The exam is due by Friday, 5 pm of Feb 18th.

Be sure to follow the following format:

Typed,

1 inch margins.

Double-spaced

Use 12 point Times New Roman font.

Follow the MLA, APA or Chicago Style format.

5 pages (undergraduates)/6 pages (graduate students (sources cited should be listed on and additional page)

The Final Exam (20%)

The Final Exam is cumulative in the sense that the questions for the exam will be drawn from the topics covered over the entire semester. Again, always support your answers with citations from the texts covered in class. The exam is due date is due December 6th at 5 pm. The prompt for the final will be given on November 25th.

The Final Exam Is Due December 6th at 5 pm - uploaded on Canvas

No Late Exams Will Be Accepted

1. Grading Policy

93.4-100	A	4.00
90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
83.4-86.6	B	3.00
80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
73.4-76.6	C	2.00
70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
69.9-66.6	D+	1.33
64.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	.67
0-59	E	.00

Additional Information

Make-ups will only be given with a documented, valid excuse as per University of Florida's guidelines (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Lecture will begin promptly. Please allow sufficient time to settle in and review the previous day's lecture notes before lecture begins. Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Persons whose electronic devices sound off in class will be asked to leave. Do not talk with others during lectures or while others are speaking. Express disagreement respectfully and be reflexive about your conduct and opinions. No reading, sleeping, or working on other materials during lectures or section. Students engaged in such activities will be asked to leave class. Do not pack up your belongings before the end of class, as this makes it difficult for others to hear, think, and concentrate.

Disruptive behavior in lecture will be reflected in participation grades.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Alternative Learning Accommodations

Students who have documented request for alternative learning accommodations must meet with me and present their official University documentation before the end of the second week of class. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565,

www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) 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.

Academic Honesty

Do not cut and paste summaries found online or copy each other's work. All work must be your own. A case of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. More than one case of plagiarism will result in an F for the course. 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 Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Materials and Supplies

There are no additional fees for this course.

Writing Studio

Make sure to take advantage of the University's writing center before turning in your assignments. Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Final Thoughts: Please come see me during my office hours with any questions. The progress of a course varies semester to semester, because every semester there is a new group of people with different experiences. So, depending on how the class progresses, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus – of course, with notice. Also, if I see that people are coming to class unprepared to participate, or are turning in papers that do not directly engage course materials, I will change the essay portion of the grading to "pop-quizzes," and change the exams to in-class exams. There is nothing more frustrating than to receive a paper that shows that the student did not even try to engage the materials, and it is even more frustrating for all of us in class when that student comes to class unprepared.

Remember that this course does not provide clear-cut answers to social problems or issues. What it does offer, however, is a framework in which to analyze various social phenomena and understand their interrelationship with each other. You should be prepared to grapple with some issues about race, gender, sexuality and culture that you may have never thought about before, or have very strong opinions about. Be prepared to deal with value judgments and some conceptual ambiguity.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

*****Important recommendation for reading for this course*****

Please remember that we do not have "one class" per week, but we have two classes that meet one after another. The syllabus is organized around what we will discuss during the two classes that we will have together on Tuesday. I highly suggest that you break the readings up into two settings per week. Do not sit down and try to read it all at once. This is especially the case for some of the we will have during September, at the beginning of the semester. There are some weeks where things are going to be heavily theoretical - I promise after that, things will get easier, way more interesting and you'll see why it was important to engage these materials first. So divide up the texts and read them on different days during the week. You have the reading schedule ahead of time. Feel free to read ahead if you have to plan around a work schedule.

Week of August 27th: Queering the Black Body

[Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body.pdf](#)

[Cohen PBWQ GLQ.pdf](#)

[TEXTBOOK] Black on Both Sides: Introduction and Chapter 1

Week of September 3rd: Introduction to Black Sexuality and Queer Studies From a Black Feminist Perspective

[One-Dimensional Queer ---- \(Introduction\).pdf](#)

[One-Dimensional Queer ---- \(One The multidimensional beginnings of gay liberation\).pdf](#)

[One-Dimensional Queer ---- \(Four The multidimensional character of violence\).pdf](#)

[Homophobia why bring it up.pdf](#)

[A Black Feminist Statement.pdf](#)

[Hearts of Darkness.pdf](#)

Week of September 10th: Engaging the Theory

[Aberrations in Black Rod Ferguson.pdf](#)

[munoz-jose-esteban-disidentifications-introduction.pdf](#)

[TEXTBOOK] Black on Both Sides: Chapter 2

Week of September 17: Thinking Diaspora

[TEXTBOOK] Black on Both Sides: Chapter 3

[Black Atlantic Queer Atlantic.pdf](#)

[What the sands remember.pdf](#)

Week of September 24: Thinking Diaspora Continued

[Black queer diaspora jafari.pdf](#)

Selection from Island Bodies: Introduction

[Textbook] Politics of Passion Chapter 1

Week October 1: Thinking About the Caribbean

[Textbook] Politics of Passion Chapter 2, 4, 6

Week October 8: Queering Latinidad

[negron-muntaner-jennifers-butt.pdf](#)

[TEXTBOOK] *¡Venceremos?* Chapters: Introduction, Chapter 1

[TEXTBOOK] Black on Both Sides Chapter 4

Week October 15: Queering Latinidad and Other Colonial Arrangements

[TEXTBOOK] *¡Venceremos?* Chapters: 2, 3, 4

Week October 22: Considering the State, Global Economies and Geographies of Power

(Exam Prompt Given)

[TEXTBOO] Read Flaming Souls From Introduction - Conclusion

Week October 29: Rethinking the Geographies of Normative Sex/Gender Arrangements

[TEXTBOOK] Out in Africa: Introduction

[TEXTBOOK] Black on Both Sides Chapter 5

[TEXTBOOK] Politics of Passion Chapter 5 Mati Work

Week November 5: Social Movements/Queer Considerations on the African Continent

[Chapter 4 Transgender Studies Reader.pdf](#)

[Chapter 6 Transgender Studies Reader.pdf](#)

Selections from: Queer African Reader read: Introduction 5,6, 18

Week November 12: Social Movements/Queer Considerations on the African Continent

[TEXTBOOK] Out in Africa: Chapters 4 and Conclusion

Week November 19th Caribbean continued/Religious Considerations

[TEXTBOOK] Ezili's Mirrors Bridge then Introduction

[Pedagogies of the Sacred.pdf](#)

[TEXTBOOK] Politics of Passion Chapter 3

Week November 26: Religious Considerations Continued:

[Vidal-Ortiz - Sexuality and Gender in Santería.pdf](#)

[Vidal-Ortiz - Puerto Rican way is more tolerant....pdf](#)

[OyewumiOyeronke_2016_2ReCastingTheYorubaWo_WhatGenderIsMotherhoo.pdf](#)

Read Excerpt from Sex and the Empire that Is No More

Week of December 3: Trans and Intersex Considerations

[TEXTBOOK] Ezili's Mirrors Bridge (A black Cisfemme Is a Beautiful Thing), Chapter One, Bridge (Sissy Werk) and Chapter two

[TEXTBOOK] Out in Africa: Chapters 1,2,3

[Chapter 46 Transgender Studies Reader.pdf](#)

[Chapter 49 Transgender Studies Reader.pdf](#)

[Chapter 50 Transgender Studies Reader.pdf](#)

Final Papers due on December 6th at 5 pm EST