ETHN 189/C00 – Section ID: 581474  Room: CSB 004
Special Topic - The Black Press and Social Change

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the role of the black press as an agent for social change. It explores the cultural and countercultural political and economic functions of the black press, with a focus on the work of influential journalists, artists, social commentators, and intellectuals. Emphasis is on key people and issues during critical eras in the Black experience in the U.S.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Ain’t I a Beauty Queen: Black Women, Beauty and the Politics of Race. Maxine Leeds Craig

Other Readings as Assigned

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Regular preparation for and participation in class discussions is essential. You are expected to come to class having completed all assigned readings, and you are expected to come to class prepared to make substantive contributions to class discussions. Lectures are designed to supplement assigned readings, rather than summarize or replicate them. You are responsible for assigned readings, even if they are not discussed in class. If you have questions regarding readings, please raise them during class or during office hours.

GRADING POLICY
Incomplete grades and opportunities to make up assignments will be given only in exceptional cases. Late submission of assigned written work requires officially documented reasons (e.g., authorized medical excuse for day missed work is due). Late completion of required work will likely result in grade reduction.

GRADES: Total 100 points

Midterm (multiple choice, short answer and essay) 30 points
Research paper (15 pages) 30 points
Final (multiple choice, short answer, take home essay) 30 points
Class participation 10 points
COURSE OUTLINE

**Instructor reserves the right to make changes in course schedule as warranted**

WEEK I  COURSE INTRODUCTION  
Sept. 22:  Review of Syllabus and Course Overview

WEEK II  The Early Black Press (1827-1865)  
Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 1-13; Streitmatter: Maria Stewart; Mary Ann Shadd Cary  
Sept. 27:  Video Clip from “Ethnic Notions”  
Sept. 29:  Noteworthy Men and Women of the Early Black Press

WEEK III  Reconstruction, Post-Reconstruction, and the Resurgence of White Racism: Advocacy Journalism and Black Activism  
Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 13-24; Streitmatter: Ida B. Wells  
Oct. 4:  Video Clip from “Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice”  
Oct. 6:  Black Counterpoints to White (Re)Constructions of Race

WEEK IV  Black Migration, Black Nationalism, and Black Community-Building (1866-1919)  
Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 25-67; Streitmatter: Gertrude Bustill Mossell, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Delilah Beasley  
Oct. 9:  Black Migration and the Emergence of the Modern Black Press  

*Research paper topic due*

WEEK V  The Black Press Between the Wars (1920-1940)  
Assigned Reading: TBA  
Oct. 16:  The Black Press as Agent of Economic Survival and Social Uplift  
Oct. 18:  First half of video: “Soldiers without Swords”  
Oct. 20:  Midterm

WEEK VI  The Black Press and World War II (1941-1945)  
Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 69-90  
Oct. 23:  The “Double V” Campaign  
Oct. 25:  Second half of video: “Soldiers without Swords”  

*Annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources for research paper due*

WEEK VII  The Black Press after WW II (1946-1953)  
Assigned Reading: Streitmatter: Charlotta Bass, Alice Dunnigan, Marvel Cooke, Ethel Payne  
Oct. 30:  The Cold War, the Red Scare, and the Impact of McCarthyism on the Black Press  
Nov. 1:  Continuing the Tradition of the Early Black Press  
Nov. 3:  Laying the Groundwork for the Modern Civil Rights Movement
WEEK VIII  The Black Press and the Modern Civil Rights Era (1950-1965)
Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 91-165; Streitmatter: Charlayne Hunter-Gault
Nov. 6:  The Black Press Addresses a Changed Political Environment
Nov. 8:  The Paradox of Success: Advertisers’ Influence on the Black Press
Nov. 10:  Veterans Day Holiday (no class)

WEEK IX  The Black Press, Nationalism and Conservatism (1965-1970s)
Assigned Reading: Craig, pp. 1-64
Nov. 13:  The Role of the Black Press in Shaping New Politics of Race, Gender, and Identity
Nov. 15:  Re-articulations of Racial Pride in the Sixties and Seventies
Nov. 17:  Collaborating with the Enemy: The Suppression of Black Progress within Black Ranks

*Research paper due

WEEK X  Attempts to Overcome the Colorline in Mainstream Journalism
Assigned Reading: Craig, pp. 65-128
Nov. 20:  Employment Disparities and Related Dilemmas Facing Contemporary Black Journalists
Nov. 22:  Bittersweet Victory: Integrating the Mainstream Press
Nov. 24:  Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov. 23-24, 2006)

WEEK XI  The Future of the Black Press
Assigned Reading: Craig, pp. 129-170
Nov. 27:  The Role of the Black Press in Contemporary Struggles for Social Justice
Nov. 29:  Reclaiming the Vision and the Power of Black Journalism
Dec. 1:  The Call for a Revitalized Black Press

Final Exam:  Friday, December 8, 2006 3-6pm