Overview:
This course will examine the raced, sexualized and gendered experiences and identities of people of African descent in the United States. In particular, the course will examine the intersectionality of social, political and cultural constructions of race, gender, class and sexuality of African Americans from a historical perspective, and will attend to the ways static and or changing definitions of blackness have shaped and continue to shape Black masculinities, femininities, and sexualities drawing upon examples from media and popular culture.

Required Texts

Selected Articles (available on UCSD library E-reserves) (reserves.ucsd.edu)

Books (available at Groundworks):


Grading:
Final grades are based on the successful completion of class requirements as weighted below. Students must complete all assignments to pass the course. No late assignments or make up exams will be acceptable without documentation of a serious emergency. Paper requirements (more details to be presented throughout course): a critical reflection essay on a topic relevant to the course (8-10 type written pages). Paper must include at least 4 references from class, 2 additional academic sources, and 1-2 primary sources. Paper must also include a bibliography and proper citation of sources. Exam format: Short answer and essay questions. Class Participation: is based on student’s contributions and engagement with the class which may include completing short in-class assignments. Absenteeism will be reflected in the final grade. Readings are to be completed prior to class in order to aid discussion.

Midterm Exam 30%
Final Exam 35%
Final Paper 25%
Participation 10%

100%
Cheating and Plagiarism:
Cheating and Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Plagiarism includes copying or paraphrasing any work (such as information from the internet, your own written work from other classes, papers written by other students, and information from books, magazines, articles, etc.) without full attribution. Sources must be indicated with footnotes or other citation formats. Use quote marks around any text directly copied from another source.

UCSD Rule of Community and Code of Conduct:
This course is designed to promote intellectual engagement and discussion of sensitive and sometimes controversial topics. Rude, disrespectful conduct or speech directed towards the Instructor or other students will not be tolerated. Varying viewpoints are encouraged, therefore we may not always agree. UCSD Principles of Community will guide our discussions, especially: “We affirm the right to freedom of expression at UCSD. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, confidentiality and respect.”

Class Schedule
(subject to change)

Week 1
Jan. 5-9  Introduction: Constructing race and gender
- Cole & Guy-Sheftall, Chapter 2
- Hill Collins chapter 1
- E-reserves: Lipsitz; Hall

Week 2
Jan. 12-16  Constructing Black women and men
- E-reserves: Ferguson; Goings
- Hill Collins chapter 2

Week 3
Jan. 19-23  Gender/sex, slavery, and slave communities

Jan 19  No class: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- E-reserves: White; Yarborough; Pasco

Week 4
Jan. 26-30  Gender/sex, and struggles for Black dignity
- E-reserves: Gaines; Estes; Bobo
- Cole & Guy-Sheftall, Chapter 4

Week 5
Feb. 2-6  Black feminist voices and intersectionality
- E-reserves: The Combahee River Collective; Crenshaw; Springer
Midterm: Friday Feb. 6

Week 6
Feb. 9-13  Motherhood, family, and reproduction
  - E-reserves: Roberts; Collins; Hirsch; Moynihan

Week 7
Feb. 16-20  Sexualities and love
Feb. 16  No class: Presidents’ Day Holiday
  - Cole & Guy-Sheftall, Chapter 6
  - Hill Collins chapter 3 and 9
  - E-reserves: Davis, Mance

Week 8
Feb. 23-27  Femininity, masculinity, and dating hot topics
  - Hill Collins chapter 8
  - Cole & Guy-Sheftall, Chapter 5
  - E-reserves: Hill

Week 9
Mar. 2-6  On beauty and “buffness”
  - Hill Collins chapter 4, 5 and 6
  - E-reserves: DuCille; Peiss; Davis; Rooks; Childs

Final Paper due: Monday Mar. 2

Week 10
Mar. 9-13  Sex/Gender and Hip Hop
  - E-reserves: Kelley; Rose; Quinn
  - Cole & Guy-Sheftall, Chapter 7

Final Exam: Mar 18, 11:30 - 2:29
Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of "interest" yet have no information about the major or minor and don't realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.

Selections on E-reserve (reserves.ucsd.edu)


