

ETH 165: SEX AND GENDER IN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES
Fall Quarter 2007 ♦ MWF, 2:00pm-2:50pm ♦ Solis Hall, Room 110

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UCSD Ethnic Studies Department
Ofc. Hrs: Mondays, 3:00pm-5:00pm, Wednesdays, 11:00- 1:30pm in Social Science Bldg. Room 247
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ETHN 165. SEX AND GENDER IN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES.

Course Description: This course will examine the raced, sexualized and gendered identities and experiences 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 people of African descent and will attend to the ways static and/or changing definitions of blackness (imposed by Blacks themselves or by the larger society) have shaped and continue to shape Black masculinities, femininities and sexualities.

Required Texts:

Collins, Patricia Hill (2005). *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender and the New Racism*. NY: Routledge.
Cole, Johnnetta B. and Beverly Guy-Sheftall (2003). *Gendertalk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities*. NY: Ballentine Books.

Other Readings as Assigned and Disseminated by Instructor (Noted as "TBD")

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Regular Attendance, Timely Completion of Readings, Informed Class Participation. Students are expected to attend class regularly. Students are also expected to have completed reading assignments by the day they are listed in the syllabus and to come to class prepared to make substantive contributions to class discussions that are based on critical analyses of course readings and any relevant outside materials. Lectures are designed to supplement assigned readings, rather than summarize or replicate them. Students are responsible for assigned readings, even if they are not discussed in class. Questions concerning assigned readings should be raised during class or during office hours.

Writing Assignments and Final Exam. Students will be required to complete (1) a library class research assignment that identifies and uses one scholarly journal article and one newspaper article from two different library databases; (2) a 6-8 pp. mid-term research paper; (3) a 10-12 pp. final research paper that addresses a contemporary issue regarding sex and gender in Black families and communities in California, preferably an issue pertinent to the San Diego region; and (4) a final exam.

Email Communications. Students are required to be accessible by, and responsive to, email communications throughout the quarter. Students should check email frequently during the week for course information or updates. Students should acknowledge receipt of emails from instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the instructor has a viable email contact for her or him.

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

You may be closer to a major, minor or a double major in Ethnic Studies than you realize. Being an Ethnic Studies major or minor is excellent preparation for a career in education, public policy, law, government and politics, journalism, public health, international relations, and many other careers. Please contact the Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor for more information, Yolanda Escamilla, Phone: (858) 534-3277 or Email: yescamilla@ucsd.edu.

Grading Criteria: Each writing assignment will be graded based on the following:

- Organization and development of ideas;
- Writing quality, including, but not limited to, grammar and spelling;
- Appropriate and effective use of scholarly resources and materials available in UCSD Library;
- Soundness (reasonableness, logic) of analysis;
- Originality of thought, meaning the writing expands upon, challenges, and otherwise adds to insights gained from course materials and outside readings;
- Consistency/appropriateness/correctness of formatting/citations (use Turabian style manual as model)

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) to avoid grade reduction for late submission.

Late Assignments: Unauthorized late completion of required work **will** result in a minimum of 5 points deducted for each day late.

GRADES: Total 100 points

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| Library Research Assignment (maximum 3 pp.) | 10 points |
| Midterm Research Paper (6-8 pp.) | 20 points |
| Final Research Paper (10-12 pp.) | 30 points |
| Final Exam (short answer, take home essay) | 40 points |

Format of Out of Class Writing Assignments: All out-of-class writing assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, in 12 point font. All papers must follow the citation and bibliographic format found in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (6th edition).

Extra Credit Opportunity (ECO): There will be only **one** ECO per quarter per enrolled student, for a maximum of 3 extra credit points. ECO events must be relevant to the course, pre-approved by instructor, and announced to all enrolled students in a timely fashion. To receive extra credit, each student attending or participating in an ECO event must submit a short paper (no more than 2 typewritten pages, double-spaced, etc.) summarizing key issues and concerns covered during the event that are pertinent to our course objectives, materials and/or discussions. Course materials must be appropriately documented in the paper and cited in a bibliography (bibliography does not count toward the 2 page maximum). The ECO paper must be submitted no later than one week following the ECO event, **or** by the date specified by the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE

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

(Sept. 28)

Introduction

Reading Due October 1st. TBD:

Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body*, Introduction;

F. James Davis, "Who is Black?: The Nation's Rule," in *Who is Black?: One Nation's Definition*, pp. 1-16;

Cathy J. Cohen, "Marginalization: Power, Identity and Membership," in *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics*, pp. 33-77.

WEEK I (Oct. 1-5)

Realities and Social Constructions of Blackness: Race, Gender, Class and Sexuality

1 Oct. Discussion of Assigned Reading

3 Oct. Manning Marable, "Structural Racism," in *The Great Wells of Democracy: The Meaning of Race in American Life*, pp.22-64

5 Oct. **Library Class (Meet in Giesel Library, Alanna Moore, Library Instructor)**

WEEK II (Oct. 8-12)

8 Oct. Reading TBD: Dorothy Roberts, "Reproduction in Bondage," in *Killing the Black Body*, pp. 22-55;

David A. McBride, "Can the Queen Speak? Racial Essentialism, Sexuality, and the Problem of Authority," *Callaloo*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Spring 1998), pp. 363-379

10 Oct. Reading TBD: Naomi Pabst, "Blackness/Mixedness: Contestations over Crossing Signs," *Cultural Critique*, No. 54. (Spring, 2003), pp. 178-212

12 Oct. Reading TBD: Beverly Guy-Sheftall, "The Body Politics: Black Female Sexuality and the Nineteenth-Century Euro-American Imagination," in *Skin Deep, Spirit Strong: The Black Female Body in American Culture*, pp. 13-35

Library Research Assignment Due

WEEK III (Oct. 15-19)

15 Oct. Reading TBD: Erica Childs, Images of the Black Athlete: Intersections of Race, Sexuality, and Sports," *Journal of African American Men* 4:2 [Fall 1999], pp. 19-38

17 Oct. Reading TBD: Gail Collins, "The Women Behind the Men," email posted to NWSA Anti White Supremacy Task Force Listserv, September 22, 2007

19 Oct. Film Clip: *Black Is/Black Ain't*

WEEK IV (Oct. 22-26)

Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender and the New Racism

22 Oct. Patricia H. Collins, Introduction & Chapter One (pp.1-52), *Black Sexual Politics*.

24 Oct. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Two, *Black Sexual Politics*.

26 Oct. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Three, *Black Sexual Politics*.

WEEK V (Oct. 29-Nov. 2)

Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender and the New Racism

29 Oct. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Four, *Black Sexual Politics*.

31 Oct. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Five, *Black Sexual Politics*.

02 Nov. Film Clip

Mid-term Research Paper Due

WEEK VI (Nov. 5-9)

Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender and the New Racism

05 Nov. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Six, *Black Sexual Politics*.

07 Nov. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Seven, *Black Sexual Politics*.

09 Nov. Reading TBD: Manning Marable, "When the Spirit Moves: The Politics of Black Faith, in *The Great Wells of Democracy...*, pp. 271-292

WEEK VII (Nov. 12-16)

Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender and the New Racism

12 Nov. Veteran's Day Holiday... No Class

14 Nov. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Eight, *Black Sexual Politics*.

16 Nov. Patricia H. Collins, Chapter Nine, *Black Sexual Politics*.

WEEK VIII (Nov. 19-23)

GenderTalk: the Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities

19 Nov. Cole & Sheftall, Introduction & pp. 1-70

21 Nov. Reading TBD: Robert C. Smith, "Racism in the Emergence and Persistence of the Black 'Underclass': A Critique of the Wilson Paradigm," in *Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era: Now You See It, Now You Don't*, pp. 105-139

23 Nov. Thanksgiving Holiday Continues... No Class

WEEK IX (Nov. 26-30)

GenderTalk: the Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities

26 Nov. Cole & Sheftall, pp. 71-153

28 Nov. Film

30 Nov. Library/Writing Final Research Paper

WEEK X (Dec. 3-7)

GenderTalk: the Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities

3 Dec. Cole & Sheftall, pp. 154-215

Final Research Paper Due

5 Dec. Cole & Sheftall, pp. 216-223

7 Dec. Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM:

Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 3pm-6pm

Library Research Assignment

In preparation for the midterm and final research papers, students are required to attend a library research class with Sociology Librarian Alanna Moore on October 5th. During the library research class, Ms. Moore will explain the differences between scholarly and non-scholarly resources and will provide information on accessing print and electronic databases for conducting research using both types of resources. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the information provided in the library research class by submitting a writing assignment on October 12th that contains the following information: (1) a topic regarding a significant contemporary issue for African American families in San Diego County, specifically, and/or California, generally; (2) the name of the database used to locate one scholarly article on the topic, the complete bibliographic entry for the scholarly article, and a summary of the key arguments made in the scholarly article, and (3) the name of the database used to locate one non-scholarly or "popular" (e.g., newspaper or magazine) article on the same topic, the complete bibliographic entry for the "popular" article, and a summary of the key arguments made in the popular article. Students may elect to provide this information in essay form or in list form, using appropriate headings (i.e.,

“Topic,” “Database for Scholarly Article,” etc.). The library research assignment should not exceed 3 typewritten pages.

Midterm and Final Research Papers. Students will be exposed to a variety of topics regarding the ways in which Black masculinities, femininities and sexualities have been, and continue to be, shaped by ongoing, as well as shifting, social, political and cultural forces in the United States. For the **Midterm** research paper (due November 2nd), students are required to (1) select one of these topics, or another topic relevant to the course, (2) search for, select, and read a minimum of six scholarly articles (no more than ten years old) regarding the topic by using the research techniques and materials described in the library research class, and (3) write a 6-8 page essay that expands upon, challenges, or otherwise adds to insights gained from course materials and the scholarly outside readings. Students must appropriately cite sources within the text and in a bibliography at the end of the paper (bibliography does not count toward the 8 page maximum). Based on instructor feedback, students will use the remainder of the quarter to augment and develop the research and writing done for midterm research paper; students will submit the final product as the **Final** research paper, due December 3rd. The mid-term research paper is worth 20 points and the final research paper is worth 30 points.