

**ETHN 165**  
**Sex and Gender in African American Communities**  
**M/W/F 12:00 – 12:50 a.m. SEQUO 147**  
**Winter 2009**

Professor: Monika Gosin  
Office: Social Science Building (SSB) 249  
Office Hours: M 1:30 – 3:30, W 10:30 – 11:30  
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**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](http://reserves.ucsd.edu))**

**Books (available at Groundworks):**

Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Beverly Guy-Sheftall. Gender talk : the struggle for women's equality in African American communities. New York : One World/Ballantine Books, 2003.

Patricia Hill Collins. Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism. NY: Routledge, 2005.

**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	<u>10%</u>
	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*

- Cole & Guy-Sheftall, Chapter 3

**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**

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## **Majoring or Minor 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](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).

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### **Selections on E-reserve** **([reserves.ucsd.edu](http://reserves.ucsd.edu))**

Lipsitz, George. "White Fear: OJ Simpson and the Greatest Story Ever Sold," in George Lipsitz, *The possessive investment in whiteness : how white people profit from identity politics* Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 1998, p. 99-117

Hall, Stuart. What is This "Black" in Black Popular Culture? Representing Blackness: Issues in Film and Video edited by Valerie Smith, 123-133. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1997.

Ferguson, Roderick. The Nightmares of the Heteronormative. Cultural Values; Oct 2000, Vol. 4 Issue 4. p. 419-444.

Kenneth Goings, "The Birth and Adolescence of Aunt Jemima and Uncle Moses"(p. 1-18) and "Aunt Jemima and Uncle Moses as Domestic: The Kitchen as Slave Block" (p. 51-87) in Mammy and Uncle Moses : Black collectibles and American stereotyping. Bloomington : Indiana University Press, c1994.

White, Deborah Gray. Ar'n't I a Woman? New York, NY: Norton and Company, 1999.

Pasco, Peggy. Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of 'Race' in twentieth century America. *The Journal of American History*, (1996). Vol 83, no 1. p. 44-69.

Yarborough, Richard. "Race, Violence, and Manhood: The Masculine Ideal in Frederick Douglass's 'The Heroic Slave.'" *Frederick Douglass: New Literary and Historical Essays*. Ed. Eric J. Sundquist. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991.166-88.

Gaines, Kevin K. "Introduction" (p. 1-17) and "The Woman and Labor questions in Racial Uplift Ideology: Ana Julia Cooper's Voices from the South, (p. 128-151) in Uplifting the Race: Black Leadership, Politics, and Culture in the Twentieth Century. Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

Estes, Steven. "A Question of Honor" (p. 39-59) in *I am a man! : race, manhood, and the civil rights movement*. Chapel Hill : University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Bobo, Jacqueline. "The Color Purple: Black Women as Cultural Readers," in Say it loud!: African-American Audiences, Media, and Identity edited by Robin Means Coleman, 205-227. New York: Routledge, 2002.

“The Combahee River Collective Statement” (p. 272-282) and Linda C Powell, “Black Macho and Black Feminism” (p. 283-292) in *Home girls : a Black feminist anthology*, edited by Barbara Smith. New York : Kitchen Table--Women of Color Press, 1983.

Crenshaw. Kimberle 1991. “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence Against Women of Color.” *Stanford Law Review*, vol 43, no 6 (jul 1991) pp. 1241-1299.

Kimberly Springer. Third Wave Black Feminism? *Signs*, Vol. 27, No. 4 (Summer, 2002), pp. 1059-1082

“The Welfare Debate: Who pays for Procreation?” in Dorothy Roberts. Killing the black body : race, reproduction, and the meaning of liberty. New York : Pantheon Books, c1997, p. 202-245.

Collins, Patricia Hill, “Shifting the Center: Race, Class, and Feminist Theorizing about Motherhood.” in *Representations of Motherhood*, ed. Donna Bassin, Margaret Honey, Merle Mahrer Keplan. Yale University Press, 1994.

Marianne Hirsch, “Maternity and Rememory: Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*” (p. 92-110), in Representations of Motherhood, ed. Donna Bassin, Margaret Honey, Merle Mahrer Keplan. Yale University Press, 1994.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, “The Negro Family: The Case for National Action.”

Davis, Angela. “I used to be your sweet mama: Ideology, Sexuality, and Domesticity” (p. 249-264) in the Angela Y. Davis Reader, edited by Joy James. Malden, Mass. : Blackwell, 1998.

Relocating the Black Female Subject: The Landscape of the body in the poems of Lucille Clifton. Pgs 123-139 in Bennett, Michael and Vanessa Dickerson, Recovering the Black Female Body. New Jersey: Rutgers the State University, 2001.

Mark E. Hill. Skin Color and the Perception of Attractiveness among African Americans: Does Gender Make a Difference? *Social Psychology Quarterly*, Vol. 65, No. 1 (Mar., 2002), pp. 77-91

Ann DuCille. “Toy Theory: Black Barbie and the Deep Play of Difference.” In DuCille, Ann. Skin Trade. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1996, p. 8-59.

Peiss, Kathy. “On Beauty...the History of Business.” In Beauty and business: commerce, gender, and culture in modern America, edited by Philip Scranton, 7-20. New York: Routledge, 2001.

Angela Davis. “Afro Images: Politics, Fashion, and Nostalgia” (p. 273-278) in the Angela Y. Davis Reader, edited by Joy James. Malden, Mass. : Blackwell, 1998.

Rooks, Noliwe. “Wearing Your Race Wrong: Hair, Drama, and a Politics of Representation for African American Women at Play on a Battlefield.” (p. 279- 295) In Recovering the Black Female Body edited by Michael Bennett and Vanessa Dickerson, New Jersey: Rutgers the State University, 2001.

Childs, Erica. Images of the Black Athlete: Intersections of Race, Sexuality, and Sports. *Journal of African American Men*. 4:2 [fall 1999] p. 19-38.

Robin D. G. Kelley, “Confessions of a Nice Negro or Why I Shaved My Head” in *Race, class, gender, and sexuality : the big questions / edited by Naomi Zack, Laurie Shrage, Cripsin Sartwell*. Malden, Mass. : Blackwell Publishers, 1998.

Rose, Tricia. "Bad Sistas: Black Women Rappers and Sexual Politics in Rap Music," p. 146- 182 in Rose, Tricia. Black noise: rap music and black culture in contemporary America. Wesleyan University Press: England, 1994.

Quinn, Eithne. "The Nigga Ya Love to Hate: Badman Lore and Gangsta Rap" (p. 92- 115) and Who's the Mack? Rap Performance and Trickster Tales" (p 116-140) in Nuthin' but a "G" thang: the culture and commerce of gangsta rap. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005.