

**ETHN/CGS 165: Sex and Gender in African American Communities**  
**Winter 2017**  
**Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays, 12:00-12:50pm**  
**Solis Hall 109**

Instructor: Ashvin R. Kini, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30 am and Wednesdays 2-2:50 pm, 252 Social Science Building

This course examines the changing configurations of race, class, gender, and sexuality with respect to African American communities from slavery to the present. Throughout our study, we will consider the ways in which blackness—as a category of racial identity, experience, power and politics—intersects with and has been shaped by ideologies of gender and sexuality. One of our primary goals will be to consider how ideological and institutional systems of race, gender and sexuality operate together, and that in order to fully understand these processes, one must develop a critical analysis that attends to their intersections. To this end, we will employ analytical frameworks developed and practiced by Black feminist and queer scholars, activists, and cultural producers to critically consider a number of issues, including slavery and reproduction, racial and sexual violence, political organizing, and popular culture.

**Required Texts**

All readings will be available for download through our course TritonEd website and/or library course reserves.

**Assignments and Grading**

- Attendance and Participation 15%  
More than two absences from class will result in a zero for attendance.
- Pop Quizzes 10%  
Short, in-class quizzes will be based on assigned materials and discussion. There will be no makeups for missed quizzes.
- Take-Home Midterm 20%
- Critical Essay (6-7 pages) 25%
- Final Exam 30%

Late work will be subject to penalty except in the case of verifiable emergencies or if arranged with me *prior* to the due date.

Please familiarize yourself with the UCSD Policy of Integrity of Scholarship, if you have not done so already: <http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html>.

**Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies**

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a college general education requirement. Students often have taken many ETHN courses out of interest, yet do not 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, education, medicine,

public health, social work, counseling, public policy, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact Daisy Rodríguez, the Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor (858-534-3277 or [d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu](mailto:d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu)), or visit [www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu](http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu).

### **Course Schedule (subject to change)**

All readings should be completed *before* the first class session of each week. Please bring copies of the assigned readings with you to class (reading off your phone is not acceptable).

#### Week 1: Introductions and Foundations

- Ann duCille, “The Occult of True Black Womanhood: Critical Demeanor and Black Feminist Studies”

#### Week 2: Gender, Slavery, and Reproduction

No Class Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- Dorothy Roberts, “Reproduction in Bondage”

#### Week 3: Gender, Slavery, and Reproduction, cont.

- Angela Davis, “Reflections on the Black Woman’s Role in the Community of Slaves”
- Dorothy Sterling, excerpts from *We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century*

#### Week 4: Anti-lynching Campaigns and the Politics of Sexuality

- Ida B. Wells, excerpts from *The Red Record*
- Billie Holiday, “Strange Fruit”
- Angela Davis, “‘Strange Fruit’: Music and Social Consciousness”

#### Week 5: Queering Urban Space

##### **Take-Home Midterm due Wednesday, February 8**

- Hazel V. Carby, “It Jus Be’s Dat Way Sometime: The Sexual Politics of Women’s Blues”
- Songs by Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith
- Thaddeus Russell, “The Color of Discipline: Civil Rights and Black Sexuality”

#### Week 6: Black Feminisms

- Frances Beale, “Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female”
- Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement”
- Kimberlé Crenshaw, “Intersectionality and Identity Politics: Learning from Violence Against Women”

#### Week 7: Black Feminisms, cont.

No class Monday, February 20: President’s Day

- Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”
- Roderick Ferguson, “On the Specificities of Racial Formation: Gender and Sexuality in Historiographies of Race”

Week 8: Black Queerness/Queering Blackness

**Critical Essay due Monday, February 27**

- Film: *Pariah* (Dir. Dee Rees, 2011)
- Aneeka A. Henderson, “The Rebirth of Queer: Exile, Kinship, and Metamorphosis in Dee Rees’s *Pariah*”
- Audre Lorde, “Poetry is Not a Luxury”

Week 9: Black Queerness/Queering Blackness, cont.

- E. Patrick Johnson, excerpts from *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*
- Film: *It Gets Messy in Here* (Dir. Kai M. Green, 2011)
- Kai M. Green, “The Essential I/Eye in We: A Black TransFeminist Approach to Ethnographic Film”

Week 10: Black Queerness/Queering Blackness, cont.

- Cathy Cohen, “Punks, Bulldaggers and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?”

**Final exam: Wednesday, March 22, 11:30am-2:30pm, Location TBA**