ICS 10: Introduction to African American Studies

Summer 2023

Required Text

****This course does not have a required text. All necessary course materials will be available in the Canvas system. ***

Instructor Information

Dr. Julie Keiffer-Lewis (she/her/herself; or Doc)

keifferlewisjulie@fhda.edu

Office Hour: Summer Office Hour on Tuesdays 11a-1p by appointment only. Please see Canvas to schedule an appointment.

General Information

Course Description

Introduction to African American Studies is an Ethnic Studies course. It's an interdisciplinary, multi-perspective, critical analysis, and comparative study of the broad-based survey of African American life and culture. Through a variety of cross-disciplinary perspectives, including history, literature, philosophy, politics, socioeconomics, and the arts, students gain insights into African American experiences in the United States. This class utilizes collaborative learning strategies, which require that students thoroughly analyze material and actively participate in classroom discussions, projects, and presentations.

Expectations and Goals

Welcome and thank you for enrolling **in Introduction to African American Studies**. This is the **course syllabus.** It is an extremely important tool for your success in the course. It is imperative that you read the syllabus, completely. This syllabus contains course information, guidelines on assignments, due dates, the grading policy, and overall expectations. If you have any questions regarding the course, please consult the syllabus first; it is more than likely that the answer will be found here.

Please understand that the **class is set up for an online learner**. Since you enrolled in this class, it is my expectation that you are interested in the material and want to be here. Therefore, I anticipate you will take responsibility for your education. This means, **I expect that you will be**

personally responsible to handle all aspects of the course or **communicate to me** that you need further support in the course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- *Examine the intersections of social constructions like race, class, gender, and sexual orientation as it relates to the Black American experience.*
- *Analyze the impact of institutionalized racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression and discrimination on the economic and social conditions of Black and/or African Americans in the United States*
- *Examine and evaluate the historical forces and issues that gave rise to African American Studies*
- *Identify and analyze contemporary issues impacting people who identify as Black and/or African American within United States society.*

Student Accommodations

Students who require accommodations are encouraged to inform the instructor immediately. The Disability Programs and Resource Center is available to facilitate the accommodation process.

Active Participation

*To get the most out of the class, it is helpful to be an active learner in the process. **Active participation** in the course means the following:*

- *Accessing all materials, links, readings, Power Points, videos, and discussions in the system.*
- *Engaging with fellow classmates.* **You must respond to at least two fellow classmate's discussion post per week.**

Community Agreements

Because we are in community over the next few weeks, it is important for us to establish some agreements to guide us. Here are some:

- I will work cooperatively with others.
- I will actively participate in class discussions and stay engaged in the dialogue.
- I will listen without judgment and be intellectually open to perspectives that may conflict with my own.
- I will assume positive intentions on behalf of my fellow students.
- I will maintain confidentiality and keep the virtual classroom a safe place for everyone's thoughts.
- I will use the preferred pronouns of my classmates

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	*Introductions & Community Building*	*Discussion #1; Content Reflection #1 Profile Picture & Pronouns*
Week 2	*Foundations of African American Studies*	*Discussion #2; Content Reflection #2*
Week 3	*Becoming African American*	*Discussion #3; Content Reflection #3*
Week 4	*Foundations: Black Religion*	*Discussion #4; Content Reflection #4*
Week 5	*Foundations: The Black Family*	*Discussion #5; Content Reflection #5; Personal Reflection Paper*
Week 6	*Foundations: Political Activism*	*Discussion #6; Content Reflection #6; Final*

Course Grade Distribution

Discussions (6)	*120 points*
Weekly Content Reflection (6)	*180 points*
Personal Reflection Paper	*100 points*
Final	*100 points*
Total points	**500**

Grading Scale

Grading Scale:	
90-100	*A Range*
80-89	*B Range*
70-79	*C Range*
60-69	*D Range*
59-Below	*F Range*

Academic Integrity

Please don't cheat. It's not worth it. The official campus policy is: De Anza College is committed to excellence in the pursuit of learning and academic achievement by its students. To further this goal, the college is committed to providing academic standards that are fair and equitable to all students in an atmosphere that fosters integrity on the part of student, staff and faculty alike. The student's responsibility is to perform to the best of his or her potential in all academic endeavors. This responsibility also includes abiding by the rules and regulations set forth by individual faculty members related to preparation and completion of assignments and examinations.

Assignment Guidelines

All assignment guidelines are found on the Assignment Page in Canvas.

Student Success Center

Need help with this course? Student Success Center peer tutors are ready for you!

- **SSC tutoring links and schedules:** *go to the* **SSC tutoring links and schedules:** *go to the* **SSC**
- **SSChomepage** (*https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/*) *to check hours for each area, then "Click to Join" to go to the Zoom room.*
- **Need after-hours or weekend tutoring?** *See the* **Online Tutoring** *page (http://deanza.edu/studentsuccess/onlinetutoring/)*