

BST 426U / 526
Contemporary African American Cinema

Instructor: Dr. Darrell Millner Office: NH 311
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 3pm- 5pm Phone: 503-725-4008
Or by appointment (see instructor)

Description:

Examination of the treatment of Black themes, issues, and characterization in the contemporary cinema industry. Particular attention will be focused on the development of new Black actors, directors, and producers. The impact of these new factors in the industry will be analyzed for the influence they have on the traditions of cinema history relative to the Black experience.

Grading Policy:

Your performance in two (2) areas will determine your grade for the course: 1) Test scores on reading assignments and lectures (60%); 2) Exposure points (40%)

Tests Over Reading, Lectures & Films:

There will be 2 tests. They will cover all class material/information including reading assignments, lectures, handouts, and all films viewed in class. On the tests there will be a short answer section (fill-in, T or F, etc.) and an in-class essay. A sample test will be distributed before the 1st test is taken.

Mid-term: Tuesday, February 9th
Final: Tuesday, March 16th

THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2nd

Exposure Points:

You will be expected to maintain an “Exposure” sheet which will be stamped each class session. **One** “exposure” miss will be **“free”** (will not affect your grade). More than one will mean a loss of **5-pts** per exposure miss. Exposure checks may be taken at any time during the assigned hours of the class and multiple stamps to demonstrate exposure may be utilized. **Students must be present** at the time that stamps are issued to receive the stamp. **During classes when multiple stamps are given all stamps must be shown on the student exposure sheet for the day or it will be counted as a non exposure.** Should the sheet be lost, stolen, eaten by your pet, etc., before the end of the quarter, at the discretion of the instructor, you **may** receive up to 30 exposure points if a legitimate reason for the lost sheet can be explained and documented. **Under no circumstances however will a student receive more than 30 points for exposures if their sheet is not turned in.** Those who lose their exposure sheet will be required to take a **difficult** makeup test in addition to the regular tests for the course of the discretion of the instructor. Failure to pass the make-up exposure test will mean the student will receive zero (0) exposure points for the class.

(over)

Class Room Conduct:

In a large class, in the interest of courtesy and respect for fellow students, disruptive classroom conduct **will not** be tolerated. Since it is important in a film class to be able to hear the film, **students are expected to maintain quiet during class sessions.** (If communication with fellow students is necessary, try the old-fashion way: write a note!) To encourage appropriate conduct, **points will be deducted** for the first infraction. If subsequent infractions occur, the student will be dismissed from class and will not be allowed re-entry without instructor permission.

Grades:

Your grade will depend upon the total of points you are able to compile over the quarter. The following scale will determine your grade.

A = 90-100 points
B= 80-89 points
C= 70-79 points
D= 60-69 points
F, I, X= below 60 points

(STUDENTS SEEKING A “PASS” GRADE MUST COMPLETE AT LEAST 75 POINTS)

Keep all test and attendance material. Errors in grade tabulation will **not** be changed unless the student can document the error with returned materials.

BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL WITH YOUR EXPOSURE SHEET. DO NOT LEAVE IT IN YOUR CAR, THE LIBRARY, OR OTHER PLACES IT MAY BE STOLEN OR LOST. LOSE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE SHEET CAN AND WILL SERIOUSLY EFFECT YOUR GRADE.

Work hard during the quarter to earn the grade you desire. Adjustments and changes in grades will not occur after the term is over except for the most unusual of emergency circumstances.

The instructor retains the rights to include in classroom activities, unannounced tests and other activities through which the student may enhance their point total. To benefit from such opportunities a student must be present when conducted and meet all of the requirements included. Some opportunities may be random in nature.