

Pat Washington, PhD, Instructor  
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Social Science Building, Room 249  
Office Hrs: Mon. 12:30-1:30pm, Wed. 11:30-1:30pm or by appointment  
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Fall Quarter 2006  
MWF 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm

**ETHN 189/C00 – Section ID: 581474 Room: CSB 004**  
**Special Topic - The Black Press and Social Change**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the role of the black press as an agent for social change. It explores the cultural and countercultural political and economic functions of the black press, with a focus on the work of influential journalists, artists, social commentators, and intellectuals. Emphasis is on key people and issues during critical eras in the Black experience in the U.S.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*The African American Press: A History of News Coverage During National Crises.*  
Charles A. Simmons

*Raising Her Voice: African-American Women Journalists Who Changed History.* Rodger Streitmatter

*Ain't I a Beauty Queen: Black Women, Beauty and the Politics of Race.* Maxine Leeds Craig

Other Readings as Assigned

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Regular preparation for and participation in class discussions is essential. You are expected to come to class having completed all assigned readings, and you are expected to come to class prepared to make substantive contributions to class discussions. Lectures are designed to supplement assigned readings, rather than summarize or replicate them. You are responsible for assigned readings, even if they are not discussed in class. If you have questions regarding readings, please raise them during class or during office hours.

**GRADING POLICY**

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). Late completion of required work will likely result in grade reduction.

**GRADES:** Total 100 points

Midterm (multiple choice, short answer and essay)	30 points
Research paper (15 pages)	30 points
Final (multiple choice, short answer, take home essay)	30 points
Class participation	10 points

## COURSE OUTLINE

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

### **WEEK I COURSE INTRODUCTION**

**Sept. 22:** Review of Syllabus and Course Overview

### **WEEK II The Early Black Press (1827-1865)**

**Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 1-13; Streitmatter: Maria Stewart; Mary Ann Shadd Cary**

**Sept. 25:** Claiming the Power to Self-Articulate: the History, Roles and Philosophies of the Early Black Press

**Sept. 27:** Video Clip from “Ethnic Notions”

**Sept. 29:** Noteworthy Men and Women of the Early Black Press

### **WEEK III Reconstruction, Post-Reconstruction, and the Resurgence of White Racism: Advocacy Journalism and Black Activism**

**Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 13-24; Streitmatter: Ida B. Wells**

**Oct. 2:** The Short Shelf Life of Racial Justice: The Response of the Black Press to the end of Reconstruction and the Onslaught of Jim Crow

**Oct. 4:** Video Clip from “Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice”

**Oct. 6:** Black Counterpoints to White (Re)Constructions of Race

### **WEEK IV Black Migration, Black Nationalism, and Black Community-Building (1866-1919)**

**Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 25-67; Streitmatter: Gertrude Bustill Mossell, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Delilah Beasley**

**Oct. 9:** Black Migration and the Emergence of the Modern Black Press

**Oct 11:** The Washington/DuBois “Debates”

**Oct. 13:** Assimilation/Integration vs. Colonization

### **\*Research paper topic due**

### **WEEK V The Black Press Between the Wars (1920-1940)**

**Assigned Reading: TBA**

**Oct. 16:** The Black Press as Agent of Economic Survival and Social Uplift

**Oct. 18:** First half of video: “Soldiers without Swords”

**Oct. 20:** **Midterm**

### **WEEK VI The Black Press and World War II (1941-1945)**

**Assigned Reading: Simmons, pp. 69-90**

**Oct. 23:** The “Double V” Campaign

**Oct: 25:** Second half of video: “Soldiers without Swords”

**Oct. 27:** Government Suppression of the Black Press

### **\*Annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources for research paper due**

### **WEEK VII The Black Press after WW II (1946-1953)**

**Assigned Reading: Streitmatter: Charlotta Bass, Alice Dunnigan, Marvel Cooke, Ethel Payne**

**Oct. 30:** The Cold War, the Red Scare, and the Impact of McCarthyism on the Black Press

**Nov. 1:** Continuing the Tradition of the Early Black Press

**Nov. 3:** Laying the Groundwork for the Modern Civil Rights Movement

**WEEK VIII** The Black Press and the Modern Civil Rights Era (1950-1965)

**Assigned Reading:** Simmons, pp. 91-165; Streitmatter: Charlayne Hunter-Gault

**Nov. 6:** The Black Press Addresses a Changed Political Environment

**Nov. 8:** The Paradox of Success: Advertisers' Influence on the Black Press

**Nov. 10:** Veterans Day Holiday (no class)

**WEEK IX** The Black Press, Nationalism and Conservatism (1965-1970s)

**Assigned Reading:** Craig, pp. 1-64

**Nov. 13:** The Role of the Black Press in Shaping New Politics of Race, Gender, and Identity

**Nov. 15:** Re-articulations of Racial Pride in the Sixties and Seventies

**Nov. 17:** Collaborating with the Enemy: The Suppression of Black Progress within Black Ranks

**\*Research paper due**

**WEEK X** Attempts to Overcome the Colorline in Mainstream Journalism

**Assigned Reading:** Craig, pp. 65-128

**Nov. 20:** Employment Disparities and Related Dilemmas Facing Contemporary Black Journalists

**Nov. 22:** Bittersweet Victory: Integrating the Mainstream Press

**Nov. 24:** Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov. 23-24, 2006)

**WEEK XI** The Future of the Black Press

**Assigned Reading:** Craig, pp. 129-170

**Nov. 27:** The Role of the Black Press in Contemporary Struggles for Social Justice

**Nov. 29:** Reclaiming the Vision and the Power of Black Journalism

**Dec. 1:** The Call for a Revitalized Black Press

**Final Exam: Friday, December 8, 2006 3-6pm**