

Black Feminisms , Past and Present
ETHN 147/CGS 147, Spring 2020

Instructor: Boke Saisi, PhD Candidate,
Ethnic Studies, Graduate Specialization in Critical Gender Studies

Class: MWF 2pm-2:50pm

Location: Remote/Asynchronous

Office Hours: by appointment

E-mail: bsaisi@ucsd.edu

Course Description:

This course is an advanced introduction to historical, contemporary, and transnational Black feminisms in the US. Students will explore the theory and practice of Black feminists, and analyze the significance of Black feminism to contemporary understandings of race, class, gender, and sexuality. As such, this course covers the contributions made by Black women to contemporary feminist debates. We will read scholarship that addresses the variety of Black women's experiences and theorizations. Critiques and conceptualizations surrounding the nature of Black women's oppression on the basis of gender and race, as well as other structures of power such as sexuality, nationality, and class, will be examined. The intersectional ways in which Black women experience variant forms of oppression, most notably through racist colonial rule, will be illustrated whilst critiquing Eurocentric forms of feminist thought and action that reproduce anti-black racism and static categorizations of race, class, gender, sexuality, and nation.

Required Texts:

All texts will either be linked in the course syllabus or uploaded as PDF files to the university's Canvas/BlackBoard website which can be found in the url placed below

canvas.ucsd.edu

Accommodations:

If you need any accommodations for the course, please feel free to let me know as early as possible, so we can make the classroom space as accessible as possible. If you have or are considering getting formal accommodations for a disability, please contact me during my office hours to discuss how to best meet your needs whether in conjunction or not with the Office for Students with Disabilities .They can be reached at (858) 534-4382 or via email at osd@ucsd.edu. If there is a preferred name and/or gender pronoun that you would like to be addressed by, please let me know as well.

Community Guidelines:

- Be respectful. Harsh, abusive, and derogatory language will not be tolerated.
- Be an active listener. As people will be coming from different perspectives and backgrounds, listening to one another will allow for varying standpoints to be expressed.
- Engage with the texts. When discussing weekly topics, bring the discussion back to the reading and lecture material whenever possible.

Email Policy:

I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours. Emails sent between the hours of 9am-5pm Mon-Fri will most likely be answered within the day. Emails are a good way to get short, logistical questions answered. However, be sure to look at the course syllabus for information that is already provided. For longer inquiries please schedule an office hours appointment with me. Be sure to use your UCSD email account to reach me and put CGS 147 or ETHN 147 in the subject line of the email.

Office Hours:

Please email me to set up a virtual office hours meeting.

Additional Resources:

- Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) - <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu/osdresources/>
- Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) - <http://caps.ucsd.edu/>
- Writing Center - <http://commons.ucsd.edu/students/writing/index.html>

Course Assignments and Requirements:

Assignments:

Class engagement 20%
 Reflection Journals 40%
 Final Project 40%

Grading Scale

94-100	A	73-75	C
90-93	A-	70-72	C-
86-89	B+	66-69	D+
83-85	B	63-65	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
76-79	C+	0-60	F

Class Engagement:

This can look like active/vocal participation (that is relevant and generative), asking critical questions, making strong analytical connections to outside material, and coming prepared to class with completed readings and lecture notes. As folks may have varying levels of comfort speaking out in class, varying styles of class activities will be utilized in order to showcase your engagement with the material as well as any conversations you may have with myself during office hours.

Mid-term Reflection Journals:

You will be asked to write 3 journal entries that link the course themes from week 2, 3, 4 and 5. Some guiding questions are: How do week 2 and week 3 readings relate (or any combination of weeks)? How are their arguments similar/different? How are the arguments building on one another? Each entry will be comparing two weeks of your choice. The entries should be 1-2 pages double spaced each, 12pt font and will be due by Friday, May 8th by 5pm.

Final Project:

You will be asked to select one reading from the first half of the quarter and one from the last half of the quarter, outline the main arguments in the readings and apply the arguments to a contemporary event (i.e. news story, political occurrence, or a media example such as a television show, movie, or song/music video). The contemporary example cannot be something previously brought up in lectures.

This can be in the format of a research paper (6-7 pgs double spaced) or a creative project that amounts to a similar work amount. Creative projects will need to be completed in a virtual manner.

Grading Policy:

Students must hand in **all** assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.

Course Schedule

*I will be uploading my lectures to Canvas and we will be meeting via Zoom once a week to discuss the course readings and lecture material. We will collectively pick a day/time that works best.

Week 1: Introduction

March 30th-April 3rd

Course introduction and Online Learning

In class discussion - Trigger Warnings

[Suggested Reading]

Angela Carter. "Teaching with Trauma: Trigger Warnings, Feminism, and Disability Pedagogy," *Disability Studies Quarterly* vol. 35, no. 2, 2015.

<https://dsq-sds.org/article/view/4652/3935>

Week 2: What are Black Feminisms? History, Politics, and Epistemologies

April 6th-10th

M: E. Frances White. "Black Feminist Interventions." *Dark Continent of Our Bodies: Black Feminism and the Politics of Respectability*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2001. 25-80.

W: Marable, Manning. "Grounding with My Sisters: Patriarchy and the Exploitation of Black Women" in *How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America: Problems in Race, Political Economy, and Society*. Chicago, Illinois: Hayward Books, 2015.

F: Hill Collins, Patricia. "Defining Black Feminist Thought" *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Week 3: Intersectionality

April 13th-17th

M: Sojourner Truth: *Ain't I a Woman?* New York: Scholastic, 1992

Combahee River Collective. *The Combahee River Collective Statement: Black Feminist Organizing in the Seventies and Eighties*. Albany, NY: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, 1986.

W: Crenshaw, Kimberle. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics," *University of Chicago Legal Forum*: Vol. 1989, 8.

F: Alicia Garza. "A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement" *TheFeministWire.com* Oct. 7th 2014. <https://www.thefeministwire.com/2014/10/blacklivesmatter-2/>

Week 4: Representation

April 20th-24th

M: Cooper, Brittney C., Susana M. Morris, and Robin M. Boylorn. "Introduction" **AND** "Refereeing Serena: Racism, Anger, and US (Women's) Tennis. In *The Crunk Feminist Collection*. 2017.

Lorde, Audre. "The Uses of Anger." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 9, no. 3 (1981): 7-10.

W: hooks, bell. "Loving Blackness" *Black Looks: Race and Representation*. New York: Routledge, 2015.

F: Watch - "Legacies Inherited: Miss Major and Tourmaline"
<https://www.tourmalineproductions.com/watch/legacies/>

Week 5: Reproductive Justice

April 27th - May 1st

M: Washington, Harriet A. "The Black Stork: The Eugenic Control of African American Reproduction" in *Medical Apartheid The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*. Paw Prints, 2010.

W: Dorothy Roberts. "The Dark Side of Birth Control." in *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Vintage, 1998.

F: Eesha Pandit. "Reproductive Injustice and the 'War on Women,' or An Ode to the Intersections" In eds. Cooper, Brittney C., Susana M. Morris, and Robin M. Boylorn. *The Crunk Feminist Collection*. 2017.

Watch:

Loretta Jones on Reproductive Justice, Part 1 and 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRcT_NMa6aI&feature=youtu.be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNIWbvdeJas>

Week 6: Reflection Week

May 4th - 8th

*Mid-Quarter reflection journals due by Friday May 8th at 5pm

Week 7: Gendered Violence

May 11th - 15th

M: Angela Davis. "We Do Not Consent: Violence Against Women in a Racist Society" in *Women. Culture, Politics*, 35-52. New York: Random House, 1989.

W: CeCe McDonald "Violence Against (Trans) Women Today. May 5th 2013.
<https://supportcece.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/violence-against-transwomen-today/>

Watch: *Out in the Night* (2014)
Find at: reserves.ucsd.edu

F: Andrea J. Ritchie. "Police Sexual Violence" in *Invisible No More: Police Violence against Black Women and Women of Color*. Boston: Beacons Press, 2017.

Week 8: Anti-Carceral Feminisms

May 18th - 22nd

M: Watch: Free CeCe! (2018) [Trailer]
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/freecece>

Angela Davis, "The Color of Violence Against Women" *Colorlines*, Fall 2000.

W: Critical Resistance and Incite! Women of Colour against Violence. "Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex" in *Colour of Violence: the Incite! Anthology* edited by Incite! Women of Color of Violence. Oakland: South End Press, 2006.

F: Mariame Kaba and Ann Russo. "Racialized Gender-Based Violence & Criminalization: U.S.-Focused Historical Timeline," *Survived and Punished Curriculum* (p. 173-204)

Week 9: Coalitional Politics

May 25th - 29th

M: Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House." *Sister/Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. New York: Crossing Press, 1984.

W: Cathy Cohen. "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: the radical potential of queer politics?" *GLQ*, Vol. 3 (1997): 437-465

F: Watch: Black Feminism Panel 2016, Speakers: Barbara Smith, Reina Gossett and Charlene Carruthers moderated by Stacy Long Simmons
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1322&v=jdlkcEkWTJE&feature=emb_logo

Week 10:

June 1st - 5th

_____ ***Final Projects**