

AML 4311 SEC 37CF – Major Figures: bell hooks

Professor Tace Hedrick, Ph.D

Class Hours: W 7:20-10:10 p.m.

Room: TUR 2354

Office Hours: W 2:00-3:00 pm and by appointment

Office: TUR 4326

Email: Please email me through Canvas

Attention! Important Notes:

- I will be holding class face-to-face. As with classes before Covid, if you are sick, or have another valid excuse, stay home and notify me; please don't ask to be online.
- As well, I often notify the class about a change in the syllabus or an assignment through **Canvas Announcements**. For you as students to get notifications right away from Canvas, go to Canvas-Account-Notifications-Announcements and set it to "Notify Immediately."

Another Important Note: In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
 - You are **expected** to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you're sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

- If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Course Description:

In this class, we'll be reading the works of feminist, public intellectual, race theorist and cultural worker bell hooks. I envision this course as one which looks not only at the many concerns which hooks addresses (race, feminism, love, writing, teaching, cultural criticism) but also investigates certain ideas and roles: how a black intellectual career is shaped over time; how a reader balances, and/or values, the varied moments of an intellectual career; the presumed split between the intellectual and the public ("mind" and "body"); what it means to be a public feminist black woman; and others. We will be seeing a couple of films and may watch some videos. We will also be doing some of what I call "reading around/with hooks": looking at other writers who have influenced her work in one way or another.

Course Requirements: Three in-class essay exams (75% of final grade) and reading quizzes (25% of final grade; I will erase the lowest score of your reading quiz).

Required Texts:

bell hooks:

Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood

Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics

Black Looks: Race and Representation

Where We Stand: Class Matters

Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics

The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and Love

All About Love: New Visions

August

Week 1

W 24 Introduction to Course and Syllabus
Course Reserves bell hooks, "Black Women Intellectuals"

Week 2

W 31 *Bone Black* Epilogue-p. 90

September

Week 3

W 7 *Bone Black* p. 91-End **Reading Quiz**
Course Reserves Rainer Maria Rilke, "Letters to a Young Poet" (Introduction, Letters 1 and 4)

Week 4

W 14 *Feminism is for Everybody* **Reading Quiz**
Course Reserves bell hooks, "Feminism as a Persistent Critique of History"

Week 5

T 21 **Exam #1**

Week 6

W 28 *Black Looks* Introduction-p. 86
Course Reserves James Cone, "The Human Being in Black Theology"

October

Week 7

W 5 *Black Looks* p. 87-End **Reading Quiz**
To watch in class: *Paris is Burning*.

Week 8

W 12 *Yearning* Chapters 1-2, 4-11

Week 9

W 19 *Yearning* Chapters 13, 15, 20, 22-23 **Reading Quiz**
To watch in class: *Looking for Langston* -or- *Illusions*

Week 10

W 26 **Exam #2**

November

Week 11

W 2 *Where We Stand* **Reading Quiz**
Course Reserves bell hooks, "Confronting Class in the Classroom"

Week 12

W 9 *The Will to Change* Preface-p. 90

Week 13

W 16 *The Will to Change* p. 91-End **Reading Quiz**
To watch in class: *She's Gotta Have It*

Week 14

W 23 *All About Love* Preface-p. 101
Course Reserves Erich Fromm, "The Practice of Love" from *The Art of Loving*

Week 15

W 30 *All About Love* p. 105-p. 237 **Reading Quiz**

December

Week 16

W 7 **Exam #3**

GRADING:

Grading is done on a point scale. Each Exam will be worth a possible 12 points (an A). Each quiz will be worth a possible 5 points. Always make sure that you check the grading scale below; a 7 or 8, for example, does NOT mean a failing grade.

A= excellent; unusually outstanding; good writing (**one or less writing errors per page**) and original thinking: that is, thinking critically beyond what you have read and discussed in class. You use reading and class discussion, as well as other sources if needed, to back up your ideas so that you are not just giving an opinion but an informed argument. You think of yourself as a writer interested in her ideas and interested in sharing them.

B= above average; only a few (**on average, two or so per page**) writing errors, a standard (not original) argument for the subject, though you should work harder on contributing your own ideas about the subject.

C= average based on general class performance; several writing errors (**on average, 3-4 per page**); you understand the subject, but you tend to repeat and/or merely summarize what has already been said in the readings or in class discussion.

D= below average; you have not paid attention to the subject and/or you have enough writing errors that your argument cannot be followed.

E= failing to meet the requirements of the assignment

GRADING SCALE:

Three exams @ 12 points each, 75% of the grade; reading quizzes @5 points each (five true/false questions), 25% of the grade.

Exams: Each exam will be in-class (on Thursdays, our long day), open book, open notes. I will give you 5-8 long exam questions, on **one** of which you will choose to write. You will have the entire class time to write the exam.

These exams should constitute **at least** five to six **well-written** paragraphs: an introduction, three or more paragraphs of analysis, and a conclusion.

I will have a space on Canvas for you to upload your typewritten exam. If you don't wish to write your exam on your laptop, you can bring 2-3 Blue Books to class in which to write. However, if you choose this option you need to be careful that your handwriting is legible.

Reading Quizzes: Each quiz will have 5 questions, true/false.

CLASS POLICIES

Students with disabilities: Please consult with me as soon as possible so that I can make appropriate accommodations for you.

Class Deportment: You are now adults and must be expected to behave as such. However, to remind everyone:

- If you are more than 15 minutes late, do not come to class. Coming in this late is disruptive.
- If you are too tired or sick to pay attention in class, please do not come.
- Please do not read other material in class—such as anything on your phone on anything else on your laptop.
- If you cannot come prepared for class discussion, please do not come.

Absences: I allow three unexcused absences. **Each unexcused absence** after the first three will result in the **loss of one point** from your total end-of-semester score.

Special Needs Accommodations: If you need academic accommodations for special needs, you must first contact the Disability Resource Center at 392-8565 (accessuf@dso.ufl.edu; 0001 Building 0020 [Reid Hall]) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. You should schedule an appointment with me within the first two weeks of the semester to make appropriate arrangements.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recordings:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040.

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

On-Line Students' Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>