Course description and objectives.

This course is an examination of the feminist thought of women of African descent in the United States and Latin America. Distinct historical conditions, shaped in part by colonization processes, and determining languages and culture, will emerge in our analysis of the intellectual history of women of the African Diaspora. Textbooks, articles, and films will assist us to understand the political, cultural, social, and economic strategies developed to challenge racism and other relations of power in diverse regions of the American Continent. Our course will allow for a comparison of social/historical experiences and intellectual production across heterogeneous populations. Students will read a sample of texts to understand core concepts, view-supporting materials for weekly online assignments about key topics, and use related web sites for weekly online discussions, with specific deadlines.

The objectives of this course are:

• To critically analyze the social, cultural, and political development of women in the African Diaspora.
• To examine the thought of Black feminists and the historical contexts in which they developed their commitment to social change.
• To analyze primary and secondary sources for clear, accurate, and informed discussion (in online discussions and in your written reports);
• To identify the relation of history with other disciplines; and
• To learn in a cooperative environment the relationship and significance of historical persons, events, ideas, and concepts.

At the end of this course I would like my students to be able to:

• Read critically primary and secondary sources, and properly incorporate them into their research.
• Identify interlocking relations of power.
• Evaluate past events and social processes as factors that shape our present.
• Assess the validity of theories that explain the origin of current social behaviors.
• Develop strategies to improve independent study skills.
• Developing learning skills valued in graduate school and by potential employers.
• Become familiar with social science terminology.
• Ponder the possibility of contributing to the solution of social issues affecting their communities.

This course is taught under the departments and sections listed above. Students can take this course only one time, for a total of three credits. If you are enrolled twice in this course, under two
different departments, or if you have taken this course under a different department, it is your responsibility to drop one section.

If you can’t acquire your textbooks through our UTEP library, please, access an internet provider such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble. You can also buy the printed editions at our UTEP bookstore, Amazon, or other stores. Other articles and films will be available through, Kanopy, JSTOR or EBSCO sources, accessible through our on-line library. If you are not able to locate a documentary or a text included in UTEP collections, contact the reference desk at the library by e-mail or phone.

**Submission of assignments and participation in group discussions via Blackboard** are compulsory to pass this course.

**Your textbooks are available in electronic format, accessible in any device with internet access. These required manuscripts are also available in printed format.**

Bay, Mia, Griffin, Farah J., Jones, Martha S., *Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women*, The University of South Carolina Press, 2015. It may be available through our UTEP library with certain limitations. There is a download option offered by the UTEP library that may allow you to use it for one day at a time. Consult your librarian.


All other texts and resources are accessible through our library electronic resources section (JSTOR, EBSCO or Kanopy) or posted on Blackboard. When having problems accessing a documentary or e-text call or e-mail your librarian (ask@utep.libanswers.com)

**Grades will be determined by students’ performance in the following areas:**

**Grading Policy:**

Course requirements are:

- Journal 50%
- Quizzes (assessments) 15%
- Participation in forums 15%
- Final Exam 15%
- Chicago/Turabian Style Format quiz 5%

Total 100%
Final grades will be based on the total number of points earned in the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>69% and under</td>
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</table>

It is highly recommended to visit Blackboard on daily basis until the end of our course. You can find your grades, post messages, form discussion groups and be reminded of tests, assignments, events, etc.

**How to start:** 1) Click on the tab titled “Week 1.” 2) Click on the texts tab and read your assigned chapters or articles. 3) Click on each assignment for the day to see the instructions and other helpful files, submitting your homework by midnight.

**Late work policy:**

- This is not a self-paced course. Daily assignments must be posted through Blackboard on or before the assigned dates.

**Students’ responsibilities**

Your instructor will provide structure, content, guidance, and assessment. Most learning, however, will occur through students’ active participation in their own acquisition of knowledge.

- Students will submit journal entries and complete assessments on weekly basis.
- Students will participate in weekly class discussion forums.
- Students will complete all procedures required to drop the course when failing this course if they desire to obtain a “W.”
- Students will be responsible for obtaining a syllabus, access to Blackboard, acquiring the reading material and following the course schedule.
- Students will reach their professor when in doubt before datelines.
- Students will be active in their own learning process.
- Students are expected to show respect for the instructor and one another regardless of opinion, cultural values and other group differences. When students show disrespect, use demeaning adjectives, make malicious comments, and “ad hominem” arguments (made personally against an opponent, instead of against the opponent’s argument), points will be deducted from assignment. If behavior is repeated, students may be dropped from the course.
- Students must notify instructor of behavior they consider disrespectful immediately, meeting with instructor to address corrective measures.
- Students will correct terminology and concepts that have been learned in other contexts but are not acceptable in academia.
- Students will consider perspectives that originate in disfranchised social sectors, recognizing that this course intents to provide the views and knowledge of communities largely excluded from main stream narratives.
- Students will establish connections among all readings in this class, to increase their ability to examine Black feminism and the historical context producing it from non-Eurocentric perspectives.
- Communications with your peers and your professor must follow the protocol you will read at [http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor](http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor). Assignment points will be deducted when your messages do not follow the conventions listed in the site referenced. Assignments sent through UTEP e-mail will not be read or graded without a proper polite message, with salutation, the reason for
sending it the assignment through e-mail. All homework will be submitted as in-box text, not as attachments.

- All students should be supportive of a cooperative learning environment in the classrooms.

**To get an “A” in this course:**

Complete all assignments on time and follow instructions.

**Blackboard Journal Entries (50%):**

Journal entries are the backbone of our course. They will be submitted daily. Late submissions will carry 10% deduction per day. Journal entries consist of one summary per text (at least 300 words per summary of text or film analyzed, if that covers the main points and argument. A maximum of 1,000 words per summary will be accepted). In addition to the two or three summaries (depending on the number of texts and films assigned), students will add one paragraph with comments about the texts (which does not count towards the 300 words required for the summaries).

Submit your journal entries using the “write submission” tab, not the comments section, as an in-box text, not as an attachment. All summaries assigned for one specific day must be submitted at once, not in separate submissions.

Your professor will provide feedback to improve your future submissions. Students are required to read such comments and to write subsequent journal entries according to the feedback submitted. The opportunity to resubmit journal entries is earned through adherence to her instructions to improve journal entries and responses to her comments.

Summaries are the "objective part of the journal entry." Comments are the "subjective" area in which you can critique, evaluate, or express other thoughts in relation to the material analyzed.

Your summary will start by the name of the author, the title of the text, and the author’s argument or objective. This information will be followed (in the same paragraph) by the sources used to support the argument, and the main points or concepts. Summaries must be clearly separated from the paragraph containing your comments.

Plagiarism will be reported to the office of Dean of Students and journal entries with patchwork (pasting sentences which are directly copied from the texts) will earn zero points. When students substitute terms, using synonyms without processing the ideas in their own terms and words, their texts will submitted to the Dean of Students for review and possible disciplinary measures. Journal entries must be coherent and demonstrate understanding of the text as a whole. Each journal entry must have footnotes and bibliography (Chicago style). Five instances of late submission or omission will produce a failing grade. Journal entries will be submitted through the “write submission” tab, not the “comments” section. It is recommended to use SafeAssign report before submitting your homework.

**Blackboard Quizzes/assessments (15%):**

Students will complete quizzes through Blackboard by the datelines listed in our schedule. Assessments submitted late carry a penalty of 10% per day, deducted at the end of the course. They will be based on the texts and films assigned for our course and may be comprehensive, including questions from previously visited topics.
Chicago/Turabian Style Format Assessment (5%)

It will evaluate the students’ ability to use the Chicago citation format, used to write papers in the field of History and other related areas. Such practice will help you develop a skill that can be transferred to other citation formats and academic disciplines. It is programmed during the last week of class. There are multiple sites where you can find the guidelines, including manuals edited by professional organizations, which you may find at UTEP library. A simple guide on this citation format is here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Blackboard forums (15%):

Forums are sites where the entire group meets for conversations on topics related to our readings. Read the instructions and prompt for each forum discussion before posting your reflection. The original posting must indicate (through footnotes) the sources of the information that supports your perspective. Write your posting in a word document before pasting it into the forum. After posting a reflection in at least 300 words, students will reply to two peers (preferably they will not answer to students who have already two responses, so we can distribute the conversation) in at least 150 words. Students must submit their original text before reading their peers’ assignments. Opening the forum before posting your first entry will result in a cancellation of your grade.

“Good point” or “I agree” type answers will not earn points. Repeating your answer, or that of other students will reduce your score. All answers must integrate the knowledge acquired through our readings. Read the feedback received so you can improve future journal entries and forum reflections. Make sure you follow the guidelines for discussions: they are basically a request to respect all opinions, use academic language, and keep in mind that ours is a scholarly forum, distant from facebook, tweeter and other media in scope and purpose. Late postings carry a 10% deduction per day, recorded at the end of the course. Failure to participate in the forums five times, or recurrent late submissions, will result in an F in this course.

Final Exam: 15%
Students will present an on-line final exam, It will be comprehensive and a combination of multiple choice, multiple answer, fill in, fish bowl, and brief essay. Exam date: August 7th. Submit by 11 pm.

Graduate students will submit journal entries with a minimum extension of 300 words per summary, instead of 200. They will submit a mandatory final paper of 15 pages integrating five sources not included in our reading list (not counting the bibliography section) individually.

Follow these rules for an enjoyable class:

1. Do not be afraid to respectfuley challenge one another by asking questions but refrain from personal attacks -- focus on ideas. Labeling an idea as “silly,” stupid,” “ridiculous,” or applying it to imaginary situations in an attempt to elicit the same derogatory labeling to other persons’ ideas, counts as a personal attack.
2. Participate to the fullest of your ability -- community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
3. The goal is not to agree -- it is about considering and exploring divergent perspectives.
4. Submit your assignments on time, participate in our forums and complete your assessments before the dateline, following all instructions.
Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Your journal entries and assignments must be your own. Always cite your sources and use quotation marks if you are integrating a segment from any other text (even your own if written for a different assignment). Be conscious of patchwork plagiarism, which is the process of selecting certain phrases from different parts of the text and add them to your journal entry or paper as if they were yours (that is an unacceptable practice in this class). Another plagiarism practice consists of looking for synonyms and replace the main words with similar terms in a copied sentence. Do not copy text from the assigned texts or other source. Students must demonstrate a complete understanding of the text through original writing and extraction of the most important points in their own words. Should you need information on how to avoid plagiarism you may consult the following source \url{http://www.plagiarism.org/}. I recommend to use as often as possible SafeAssign (in Blackboard/Course tools) to verify that your text is complying with our academic standards; however, results in SafeAssign are not always an accurate reflection of the level of plagiarism.

This syllabus is subject to modifications. Each session contains a “Supplementary Material” folder that provides students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge on the subjects examined in this course. There is no limit to our learning and researching. Since knowledge is constantly created, modified, our task and enjoyment in this educational adventure is endless.

**Office Hours:** Stay in contact with your professor via e-mail or Blackboard. Read your forums and journal entries feedback and respond to them for continued personal conversations on your progress and areas to improve. Make sure you have all software needed in your computer to use the chat feature. If chat doesn’t work, contact your instructor by e-mail. All software related to UTEP sites for online courses will be provided by UTEP, contact the helpdesk/IT office if you have any problem using any Blackboard feature.

**UTEP Library Room 300** (Helpdesk/IT technicians can assist you during person-to-person meetings.)

Phone: 915.747.4357 (HELP)
Email: Helpdesk@utep.edu

Information on how to use Blackboard: \url{http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74327}

**Resources:**

*The Writing Center is an excellent resource to help you improve your writing skills. You can schedule a meeting with a tutor or arrange an on-line consultation. \url{http://uwc.utep.edu/}*

*LACIT is a computer lab available located at LART, 4th floor. \url{https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/lacit/} (Other computer labs are available at the library)*

*CASS: The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) aspires to provide students with disabilities, accommodations and support services to help them pursue their academic, graduation, and career goals. E-mail address: cass@utep.edu 915 747 5148 \url{https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/}*

**Schedule:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Text or documentary assigned</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Read your syllabus</td>
<td>Blackboard forums (meeting your peers, and topic discussions). Assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>July 13 Friday</td>
<td>&quot;Ar'n't I a Woman?&quot; Two different versions of Sojourner Truth’s speech. <a href="https://www.thesojournertruthproject.com/compare-the-speeches/">https://www.thesojournertruthproject.com/compare-the-speeches/</a></td>
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<td>Mandziuk, Roseann M. “‘Grotesque and Ludicrous, but Yet Inspiring’: Depictions of Sojourner Truth and Depictions of Domination.” <em>Quarterly Journal Of Speech</em> 100, no. 4: 467-487.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment.</td>
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<td>Nina Simone &amp; Me with Laura Mvula. BBC Documentary 2016 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL1m7SvoICw&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL1m7SvoICw&amp;feature=youtu.be</a>.</td>
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<td>Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 6</td>
<td>July 17 Tuesday</td>
<td>Ida B. Wells: <a href="https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/eras/civil-war-reconstruction/wells-barnett-ida-b/">https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/eras/civil-war-reconstruction/wells-barnett-ida-b/</a>.</td>
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<td>Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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| Session 12 | July 25 Wednesday | The Operation (La operacion) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3RPScdod6E
Chicago/Turabian quiz due | Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment. |
| Session 14 | July 27  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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</table>
| Documentary: *Shirley Chisholm: First African American Congresswoman*  
| Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment. |

| Session 15 | July 30  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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| The *Combahee River Collective Statement*.  
[http://circuitous.org/scrap/combahree.html](http://circuitous.org/scrap/combahree.html) |
| Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment. |

| Session 16 | July 31  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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| Documentary: *Audre Lorde - To be young, Lesbian and Black in the ‘50s*. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nS8_5Dmsg*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nS8_5Dmsg)  
Lorde, Audre. The Master’s Tools…  
Audre Lorde biography and selection of poems  
[https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/audre-lorde](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/audre-lorde) |
| Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment. |

| Session 17 | August 1  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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</table>
| Documentary: *Souls of Black Girls*:  
| Blackboard forum, journal entry, and assessment. |
Session 18  
August 2  
Thursday  

Summary: 1000 words, minimum. Comments: additional 300 words, minimum.


Summary: 300 words, minimum. Comments: 200 words, minimum.

Session 19  
August 3  
Friday  
*Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality against Black Women*. Pages 1 - 35

Summary: A minimum of 1000 words. Comments: additional 300 words.

Brief Texts on Afro-Colombian Women Feminism

Why Did 22 Afro-Colombian Women Occupy the Colombian Interior Ministry for Five Days? The Blog: 3/12/2014
https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/patrick-kane/colombia-women_b_6255064.html?guccounter=1

Meet Charo Mina Rojas: https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/meet-charo-mina- rojas/

Statement by Ms. Charo  

Final Exam day  
August 7. Submit on-line exam.

**Recommended Texts:**


**Recommended Films**
