

# Psychology of the African American Experience Fall 2012

## EDP 362

**Instructor:** Dr. Keisha Bentley-Edwards  
**Class Dates:** Tues/Thurs 11:00am-12:30pm  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:00-2:30pm and/or by appointment

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**Office:** SZB-506-J **Phone:** 471-2755

**Teaching Assistant:** Olufunke R. Awosogba  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

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**Email is the fastest and most efficient way to contact Funke & Dr. Bentley!!!**

### ***Required Texts:***

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Textbook: Neville, H. A., Tynes, B. M., & Utsey, S. O. (2009). *Handbook of African American Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA US: Sage Publications, Inc.  
Additional Readings are on Blackboard.

### ***Course Description:***

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Using a worldview that utilizes Africentrism, racial/ethnic socialization and ecological frameworks, this course will focus on the psychological and social issues that promote and impede the optimal lifespan development of Black women, men and children in the US and the Diaspora. This course promotes relevant community empowerment and action.

### ***Accommodations:***

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The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

### ***Course Objectives:***

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To foster an in-depth, critical discussion of African American development, this course will investigate multiple dimensions of philosophical, historical, theoretical, empirical and application matters in the following areas: the importance of African worldviews within African-American cultures, the impact of racism and sexism upon psychological adjustment, the socialization and intersection of racial, gender and sexual identities. A range of contemporary issues will be actively discussed including socioeconomic status, political climate, social norms, gender/ethnic identity, mental health, family dynamics, academic achievement and social adjustment into a unifying, comprehensive framework. *Active student participation is not only encouraged but also expected.*

### ***Course Ground Rules:***

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It is expected that each student will:

- Be courteous and allow speakers to complete her/his thought(s) before speaking
- Be respectful of the opinions of others, even if there is a disagreement
- Be involved by participating in discussions and activities, but not dominating either
- Be an active participant and learner who is interested in increasing her/his knowledge base
- Come to class having completed the readings and prepared to participate in discussions & activities
- Maintain academic integrity – more simply, you will not cheat on an assignment or plagiarize a paper. Doing so will result in immediate failure of this course.

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**Please read the syllabus carefully. The content of this syllabus is subject to revision at anytime. Students will be given notice of any changes in advance. You are responsible for knowing about changes whether or not you are present in class at the time of the announcement.**

***Grading Scale:***

<b>Grade Percentage:</b>	
10%	Attendance & Participation
15%	Reading Discussions
25%	Mid-Term Exam
25%	Cultural Debate Forums
25%	Final Exam

93-100% A	90-92% A-	87-89% B+	83-86% B	80-82% B-
77-79% C+	73-76% C	70-72% C-	60-69% D	Below 60% F

**Attendance** is extremely important; class discussion is a critical component of this course. As previously stated, each student is expected to **participate** through the reading presentations, in class assignments and discussions.

**Reading Discussions & Reflections:** Students will choose 2 of the readings for which they will lead the class discussion and submit a **2-page double-spaced** reaction paper. The paper will include a brief summary of the reading, your interpretation or reaction and **2 discussion questions**. Student Led discussions will occur at the beginning of class on THURSDAYS (*except on 10/23*). **Each student will conduct/submit 2 discussions/reflections. 10 Points.**

***The Mid-Term Exam is cumulative on October 25<sup>th</sup>.***

***Cultural Debate Forums:***

Debates on current topics in Black Psychology, current events, politics and life in which students are required to demonstrate knowledge of theoretical and practical implications of the topics by taking a position in a particular direction. Assigned groups will be arguing their positions and will be graded according to established criteria.

- a. depth of knowledge in arguments posed; anticipation of opponent arguments
- b. application of theoretical frameworks discussed in class
- c. creativity in the presentation and arguments posed
- d. awareness of practical implications
- e. adherence to the time limits

Each group will have 10 minutes to pose their points and three minutes for rebuttal. The topics will be chosen by faculty and teaching assistants together based on lecture topics. Each person has to submit a 5 page summary of their debate and references. In the first 2 pages, summarize the debate position of the entire group (2 pts) and in the last three pages, each student's individual contribution to the debate topic should be referenced with supporting documents/evidence and articulated clearly (3 pts). The paper can elucidate aspects that were not presented in the debate due to time constraints. **After submitting your paper, you will complete a peer and self-assessment that will be included as 5% of your specific grade on the project.**

***The Final Exam is cumulative on Wednesday, December 12, 2012; 7:00-10:00 pm***

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***Note on All Assignments:***

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**All assignments will be collected at the BEGINNING of class.** Assignments submitted after the first five minutes of class will be reduced by half a letter grade and those submitted after class will be reduced a full letter grade for each calendar day it is late. *No rewriting of assignments will be allowed since there will be ample time and opportunity to ask questions about each assignment during class time and between classes.*

All written assignments should be written in 12-point (Arial or Times New Roman) font, double-spaced, with 1" margins on all sides and page numbers. Cover sheets, appendices and reference pages are not included in the page count. Assignments should meet the stated *minimum or maximum* page limit. All written assignments should make reference to the readings and theoretical frameworks in this course. The content of your papers and how you present your written thoughts are important. Therefore, students must carefully proofread and spell-check their written assignments. Writing assistance can be found at the Undergraduate Writing Center; <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>.

All papers will be submitted according to APA style (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). This style is of particular importance for in-text citation and the representation of sources in the reference section. A digestible APA resource can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01>.

***Academic Integrity:***

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Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.