

Professor Thompson
AFR 372E, 81585
AMS F325, 81707
WGS F340, 88883
Flags: Cultural Diversity, Writing
M-F 11:30 am -1 pm
June 6- July 11

Black Film

Course Description

This course is primarily designed to introduce students to African American film produced both inside and outside the Hollywood mainstream. It will trace the history of African American film culture from Oscar Micheaux's groundbreaking silent films of the 1920s to Ava Duvernay's hopes for a prosperous independent black cinema led by AAFRM (African American Film Releasing Movement) in the present. During the term we will consider how these filmmakers engage with and refute dominant cultural images of African Americans as well as create a cinematic language specifically derived from African American culture. Other topics include the blaxploitation era of the 1970s, the black film renaissance of the 1990s, and the influence of Hip Hop culture on Black cinema. We will also examine how filmmakers who focus on issues of gender and sexuality broaden cinematic representations of Black life. Besides screening films, students are expected to read articles on film theory and black cultural criticism. Although the class does not require any prior knowledge of or experience with film studies, I expect participants to become active, skilled, critical viewers of African American cinema and astute readers of film scholarship.

Required Texts

Timothy Corrigan, *Short Guide to Writing About Film*, 8th Ed. (2011)

Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*, 6th Ed. (2011)

All of the book chapters and articles can be found on the class Blackboard site.

Course Requirements

Essays

Since this course has a writing flag students will write three essays during the term—a 2-3 page review of a suggested film, a 3-4 page film analysis and a 7-8 page critical essay or research paper. The topics for each essay will be distributed in class. You will have the opportunity to write drafts and receive feedback on your writing from peer-editing workshops and from me. Please note that written assignments must be turned in at the **BEGINNING** of class—late papers will be penalized. All work must be typed, stapled, doubled-spaced, with 12-point font and one-inch margins. Consult Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual*, the *MLA Style Manual* or *The Chicago Manual of Style* for appropriate citation and formatting. It is incumbent upon you to keep a personal copy of all work that you submit until final grades are posted.

Presentation

The presentation (5-minutes) is an opportunity for you to discuss the findings from your final research paper. I encourage you to be inventive! You can design a website, shoot a video, or fashion a poster, PowerPoint, or Prezi presentation. I advise you to and to rehearse your presentation beforehand so that it is coherent and adheres to the time limit.

Class Participation

Make sure to complete all reading before class and participate fully in discussions and exercises (presentations, quizzes and group projects). Remember to bring texts to class because you may be called upon to read an excerpt or analyze a passage. Each student is expected to speak during EVERY class. We will screen several films during the course of the term. You are to be an attentive, active audience. I expect you to take notes since our discussions rely on your critical observations of the films. Note that prompt and regular attendance is expected. Tardiness is disrespectful to me and to your classmates.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

<i>Essay 1 (Review)</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Essay 2 (Analysis)</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Essay 3 (Research)</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Presentation</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Participation</i>	<i>15%</i>

Important Dates

Thursday, June 6

Introduction: Black American Film

Wednesday, June 12

Due: Essay 1 Draft

Peer-Editing Workshop: Thesis

Friday, June 14

Due: Essay 1

Wednesday, June 19

Due: Essay 2 Draft

Peer-Editing Workshop: Evidence

Wednesday, June 26

Due: Essay 2

Friday, June 28

Due: Essay 3/Presentation Proposals Workshop

Friday, July 5

Due: Essay 3 Draft

Writing Workshop: Argument

Monday, July 8

Presentations

Tuesday, July 9

Presentations

Due: Essay 3

Wednesday, July 10

Presentations

Thursday, July 11

Presentations

Films for in-class Screen

1. Dir. Tom Thurman, *Movies of Color: Black Southern Cinema* (2002) [162 min] dvd 4751
2. Dir. Oscar Micheaux, *Body and Soul* (1925) [79 min]
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=839gxQsYAHA>
3. Dir. Otto Preminger, *Carmen Jones* (1954) [105 min] dvd 6646
4. Dir. Joseph Leo Mankiewicz, *No Way Out* (1950) [106 min]**
5. Dir. Stanley Kramer, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* (1967) [108 min] dvd 1755
6. Dir. Norman Jewison, *In the Heat of the Night* (1967) [110 min]
vidcas 3484
7. Dir. Isaac Julien, *Baadasssss Cinema: A Bold Look at 70's Blaxploitation Films* (2002) [56 min]*
8. Dir. Gordon Parks, *Shaft* (1971) [100 min]*
9. Dir. Jack Hill, *Foxy Brown* (1974) [91 min]*
10. Dir. Leslie Harris, *Just Another Girl on the IRT* (1993) [96 min]*
11. Dir. John Singleton, *Boys in the Hood* (1991) [lost at UT, use my vhs?]
12. Dir. Hype Williams, *Belly* (1998) [96 min]
13. Dir. Spike Lee, *Do the Right Thing* (1989) [120 min] *
14. Dir. Byron Hurt, *Beyond Beats and Rhymes* dvd 6237 [61 min]
15. Dir. Marlon Riggs, *Tongues Untied* (1989) [55 min]*
16. Dir. Isaac Julien, *Looking for Langston* (1989) [60 min] dvd 6162
17. Dir. Dee Rees, *Pariah* (2011) [87 min] dvd 11457
18. Yvonne Welbon, *Cinematic Jazz of Julie Dash* (1992) [27 min]
vidcas 11277
19. Dir. Julie Dash, *Illusions* (1983) [34 min] vidcas 3603
20. Dir. Julie Dash, *Daughters of the Dust* dvd 398*[113 min]
21. Dir. Tanya Hamilton, *Night Catches Us* (2010)* [90 min]

Recommended Black Film Review List

- Dir· Berry Gordy, *Mahogany* (1975)
- Dir· Rusty Cundieff, *Tales from the Hood* (1995)
- Dir· Rusty Cundieff, *Fear of a Black Hat* (1993)
- Dir· Kasi Lemmons, *Eve's Bayou* (1992) [109 min]
- Dir· Kasi Lemmons, *Talk to Me* (2007)
- Dir· Cheryl Dunye, *Watermelon Woman* (1997)
- Dir· Jack Hill, *Foxy Brown* (1974) [91 min]
- Dir· Michael Roemer, *Nothing But a Man* (1964)
- Dir· Charles Burnett, *Killer of Sheep* (1979)
- Dir· Charles Burnett, *To Sleep with Anger* (1990)
- Dir· Michael Shultz, *Cooley High* (1975) [107 min]
- Dir· Melvin Van Peebles, *Sweet Sweetbacks BaadAsssss Song* (1971)
- Dir· Ava DuVernay, *I Will Follow* (2010)
- Ava Durvernay, *Middle of Nowhere* (2012)
- Dir· Gordon Parks, *Superfly* (1972) [93 min] dvd 2309
- Dir· Jack Hill, *Foxy Brown* (1974)[91 min]
- Dir· Cheryl Dunye, *The Watermelon Woman* (1996)
- Dir· Spencer Williams, *The Blood of Jesus* (1941) [121 min] DVD 12277
- Dir· Spencer Williams, *Go Down Death!* (1944) vidcass 6623
- Dir· Spencer Williams, *Harlem Rides the Range* (1938) vidcass 6619
- Dir· Oscar Micheaux, *God's Step Children* (1938)
- Dir· Ivan Dixon, *Trouble Man* (1972)
- Dir· Julie Dash, *Daughters of the Dust* (1991)
- Dir· Kasi Lemmons, *Eve's Bayou* (1998)
- Dir· Stanley Nelson, *The Murder of Emmett Till* (2003)
- Dir· F· Gary Gray, *Friday* (1995)
- Dir· Marco Williams, *Banished* (2007)
- Dir· John Berry, *Claudine* (1974)
- Dir· Matty Rich, *The Inkwell* (1994)
- Dir· Bill Duke, *A Rage in Harlem* (1991)
- Dir· Albert and Allen Hughes, *Menace II Society* (1993)
- Dir· Michael Shultz, *Car Wash* (1976)

Dir· Malcolm D· Lee, *The Best Man* (1999)
 Dir· Carl Franklin, *One False Move* (1992)
 Dir· Carl Franklin, *Devil in a Blue Dress* (1996)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Four Little Girls* (1998)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *She's Gotta Have It* (1986)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Bamboozled* (20) dvd 466
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Malcolm X* (1992) dvd 3499
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Mo' Betta Blues* (1990) dvd 9469
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Passing Strange* (2010)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Crooklyn* (1994) dvd 6947
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Inside Man* (2006)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Jungle Fever* (1992)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *School Daze* (1988)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Summer of Sam* (1999)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *Red Hook Summer* (2012)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *He Got Game* (1998)
 Dir· Spike Lee, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Acts* (2006)
 Dir· George Tillman, *Soul Food* (1997)
 Dir· Christopher Chernot, *Hav Plenty* (1997)
 Dir· Barry Jenkins, *Medicine for Melancholy* (2008)
 Dir· Darnell Martin, *I Like it Like That* (2006)
 Dir· Darnell Martin, *Cadillac Records* (2008) [109 min]
 Dir· Michelle Parkerson, *But Then She's Betty Carter* (1980)
 Dir· Sanaa Hamri, *Something New* (2006)
 Dir· Denzel Washington, *The Great Debaters* (2007)
 Dir· Antonie Fuqua, *Training Day* (2001)
 Dir· Daniel Martin, *For the Love of Ivy* (1968)
 Dir· Sidney Poitier, *Uptown Saturday Night* (1974)
 Dir· Sidney Poitier, *Let's Do it Again* (1974)
 Dir· Paul Bogart, *Skin Game* (1971)
 Dir· Stanley Kramer, *The Defiant Ones* (1958)
 Dir· Robert Townsend, *Hollywood Shuffle* (1987)
 Dir· Keenan Ivory Waynans, *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka* (1988)

Dir. Jack Starett, Cleopatra Jones (1973)

Dir. Jack Hill, Coffy (1973)