ANTH 3396B-001 and GSWS 2414B-001
Special Topics in Anthropology & Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies:
BLACK LIVES AND EXPERIENCES
Provisional Course Outline
Winter 2024

Instructor and course information:
Instructor: Dr. Andrea S. Allen
Credit Value: 0.5
Antirequisites: None.
Prerequisites: GSWS 2414B – None.
ANTH 3396B - Registration in third or fourth year in any program.
Please note: Students can request special permission to enroll in this course without the prerequisites. Please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator in Anthropology for assistance.

Course Description:
Black populations in the Black Diaspora defy simple characterizations. In this course, we will examine the experiences of Black people through an ethnographic exploration of their lives. The close analysis of ethnographic monographs and articles will illuminate the ways in which race, gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality, ability, nationality, and other factors, shape the everyday for Black people in different cultural contexts. An additional focus will be consideration of the experiences of Black anthropologists as ethnographers and scholars who are broadening anthropological discourses.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and critically engage major anthropological approaches and debates to the study of Black communities and populations.
- Understand how Black identities and experiences are shaped by the intersecting axes of race, class, gender, religion, and culture.
- Develop nuanced awareness of how socio-political, historical, and cultural factors have influenced Black anthropologists’ perceptions and experiences and their engagement with the discipline of anthropology.
- Reflect, both personally and analytically, on the role of race in our material and everyday realities.
- Augment proficiency in critical thinking, research, and analytical skills.
- Improve oral and written communication.
**Course Materials:**  
TBA

**Evaluation:**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class discussion facilitation</td>
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<td>In-class midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Infographic Project</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Class Attendance and Participation – 5%**

Class participation will be evaluated based on attendance, participation in discussions, demonstrated engagement with readings, and respective classroom behavior.

**Class Discussion Facilitation – 10%**

Each student is expected to help lead. In-class presentations should be no longer than 10-15 minutes each. The intent is to allow others to quickly comprehend your points and to initiate and maintain discussion. Feel free to use notes, and make sure to engage with your classmates during your presentation. In-class presentation details will be discussed in class and made available on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

**In-class midterm – 10%**

The midterm assignment will be distributed in class and will be taken in class after screening a documentary related to the course topics. The midterm will cover all course material on or before the day of the midterm, such as assigned readings, lectures, and visual media. Midterm details will be discussed in class and made available on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

**Annotations - 20%**

Beginning the second week of class, students will read and annotate the readings in a small group setting on OWL. This will be an opportunity to make notes on the readings while engaging in dialogue with the other group members. You will need to participate (do annotations) for five weeks’ worth (10 articles/annotations) of weekly readings.

Assignment details will be discussed in class and made available on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

**Infographic Project – 30%**

In groups, you will create an infographic project that relates to the anthropological study of Black people’s experiences and identities, including the experiences of Black anthropologists. The project will have collective and individual components. Each group member will write a 2-3 page explanation/analysis of their infographic project and its relationship with course themes.

Assignment details will be discussed in class and made available on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

**Take Home Final Exam – 25%**

The final exam will be a combination of course material and your infographic projects. It will be distributed on OWL and consist of short answer and essay questions. Students will have one day
during the final exam period to complete the final exam. The release and due date are to be determined. The final exam cannot be submitted late unless accommodation is granted.

Assignment details will be discussed in class and made available on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

**Course Expectations and classroom etiquette**

Learning occurs in a social environment and is a collaborative experience that requires the active participation of all those involved – teachers, teaching assistants and students. Successful learning happens when the professor and the students uphold their respective roles and responsibilities. In order to maintain a respectful and productive learning environment, it is essential that students arrive at class prepared and ready to participate. Disrespectful and disruptive behaviour (e.g., engagement inside conversations and flagrant inattentiveness during class), will not be tolerated. Students observed to be engaging in this behaviour during class may be asked to stop. If disruptive behaviour persists, the professor will use her discretion and judgment in deciding how best to deal with the situation. For example, the participation grade may be adversely affected.

**Use of OWL**

Western’s online course management program, will be used for providing the final course outline and weekly schedule (using the Syllabus page), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page), completing online discussion (using the Forums page), and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

**Academic Statements and Policies:**

**Late Policy for Assignments**

Late policy for annotations: each student can decide when they want to annotate a reading. You only need to annotate 10 readings from the semester overall, and the readings can be from different weeks. Accordingly, unless accommodation is granted, there are no extensions for this assignment, which is due before the beginning of each class.

Late policy for class discussion facilitation, in-class midterm, group infographic presentation, and take home final exam: no rescheduling or alternative assignment approval will be given unless there is a grave, serious, and unexpected circumstance that has occurred that has impeded your ability to complete, submit, and/or present an assignment.

Late policy for infographic written assignments: past the assignment deadline, a seven-day extension will be granted. However, submissions after the deadline (during the seven-day extension period) will receive a grade but no feedback. This extension is granted to all students, regardless of one’s accessibility accommodations. After this extension period, the submission portal will be closed for a particular assignment, and students will be unable to upload submissions, and any submissions submitted through OWL or email will not be accepted (exception for those with accommodation approval within the strictures of the accommodation policy).

Thus, it is to your advantage to submit your infographic assignments on time in order to receive useful comments that can help guide your future submissions.

Of course, if you would like to speak with me about your work, please see me during my office hours.

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment’s due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be
seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds. It is your responsibility to make sure you request accommodation within the strictures of the late and accommodation policies. If you have an accommodation request that has been approved, you will still receive feedback on this assignment.

if you submit an infographic assignment during the 7-day extension period and/or your accommodation request has been approved with a deadline outside this period."

**Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

**Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:**

In order to pass this course students must submit a final exam within the strictures of the assignment instructions as well as the late assignment and accommodation policies.

**Accessible Education**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcomed in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, please make sure to work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.

**Academic Rights and Responsibilities**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

~ End ~