

XIDS 2100-LXA--Representing American Women Spring 2012

Marian Muldrow, Ed. S.

Office: Pafford 304-B

Email: mmuldrow@westga.edu

Website: <http://www.westga.edu/~mmuldrow>

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Through the analysis of representations in the literary and visual arts of both the high and popular cultures, this course will examine a range of identities, images and ideologies associated with the **African** American woman throughout history.

Course Goals

- To develop both reading and visual comprehension skills in response to works of art;
- To analyze literary and visual arts by means of applying established aesthetic criteria;
- To develop the ability to synthesize from diverse modes of artistic expression common ideas and ideals
- To develop awareness of how artistic expression both shapes and is shaped by specific cultural contexts as well as by more generalized cultural ideals.

Required Texts

- All required readings are on Course Den.

Grading

- Participation and Quizzes 15%
- Discussion leader and analysis 10%
- Rebuttal of a text 10%
- Literary and cultural events and responses (4) 15%
- Media Presentation 50%

Policies and Expectations

- I expect students to take their reading seriously, taking notes in preparation for class discussion and thinking about the link between the cultural models discussed and their literary representation. You are responsible for printing what you need to from Course Den and bringing the materials to class.
- Participation *is not* the same as attendance. Attendance is arriving on time for class and staying for its duration; participation is active and informed contribution to class discussion by means of thoughtful questions and observations.

- More than three absences *for any reason* will be grounds for lowering your grade; five absences will be grounds for failure in the course.
- You are expected to be in class on time and remain for the entire period. Tardiness is rude and disruptive; each late arrival or early departure will count as an absence. You will turn in your cell phone at the beginning of class and pick it up on your way out. We will not need laptops in class unless I specify otherwise.
- Neither reading quizzes nor presentations can be made-up. There is **NO** extra credit in this course.
- Work submitted to fulfill requirements in other courses, whether this semester or in past semesters, will not be accepted. Indeed, I consider this practice a breach of academic integrity which will result in failure for the assignment.
- **Disruptive Behavior:** Students will be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes-but is not limited to-arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, checking email or surfing the web, and using personal audio or video devices. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance requirements policy above.
- **Plagiarism** will result in failure for the course; it also will be documented and sent to both the Department Chair and the Vice President for Academic Affairs as part of your record at UWG. Please see the department website for a definition of plagiarism and a discussion on means to avoid it: <http://www.westga.edu/%7Eengdept/Plagiarism/index>
- Course Den email accounts will be the official mode of communicating with you, so check your account on a regular basis.

Special Needs: If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation, please see me at the beginning of the semester. If you have a disability, you must register through the Disabled Student Services Office in Parker Hall.

Reading Schedule

You are responsible for all readings prior to class even if that is not your text to discuss.

January – Nappy Roots

Week of 1/9

“On Being Brought from Africa to America”
“Am I not a Man and a Brother” (image)
“Childhood”

Week of 1/16

“The Trials of Girlhood”
“The Ascent of Ethiopia” (image)
“We Wear the Mask”
“Breaking Kunta” (video clip)

Week of 1/23

Chapter one from *Black Boy* (up to three presenters)
“I Sit and Sew”

Week of 1/30

“How it Feels to be Colored Me” (up to two presenters)
“The Stereotype of the *Mammy*” (video clip)
Excerpt from *The Help*

February – “Who gone check me boo?”

Week of 2/6

Chapter One from *God Don't Like Ugly*
“The Dreamer” feat. Maya Angelou by Common
“The Couple” (image)

Week of 2/13

“homage to my hips”
“Bootylicious” by Beyoncé
“For My People”
“Beautiful Black Men”

Week of 2/20

“Single Ladies” by Beyoncé (video)
*Your choice of article, video, and/or image from worldstarhiphop.com (up to three presenters)

Week of 2/27

“The Hidden Truth: AIDS/HIV Epidemic in Atlanta” (video)
“Black Student College Graduation Rates Remain Low...”
“Phenomenal Woman”

March- *Dark Girls*

Week of 3/5

Discuss the film
Begin planning film event

Week of 3/12

Film event

Week of 3/19

Film event

Week of 3/26

Week of film event
Discuss final project

April- What does it mean and *not mean* to be an African American female?

Week of 4/2

One-on-one editing for final project

Week of 4/9

Presentations

Week of 4/16

Presentations

Week of 4/23

Presentations