

PSYC 414: African American Psychology - WR

Fall 2011 - Professor Monnica Williams

Course Syllabus

General Information

Information	Specifics
Class Times	T Th 4.00-5.15pm
Class Dates	8/23 – 12/1
Class Location	DA 301
Office Hours	Tuesday 2pm – 3pm
Office Location	Life Sciences 345

Description

This course presents an Afrocentric perspective on psychology, from its historical roots in ancient Egypt, through slavery, and into modern times. The course will review ethnocentrism, the misuse of Western psychology to marginalize African Americans and reasons for scientific abuses against people of color, such as the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. The course will focus on topics such as the Black family, racism, cultural mistrust, stereotype threat, Black-White relations, and Black mental health. Also discussed are spirituality, the gifted, sexuality, youth culture, common misconceptions about African Americans, and within-group differences related to gender, class, age, and sexual orientation.

Prerequisites

This is an advanced course. Students should have taken at least 3 psychology courses and should be a Psychology major or in a related field. Students should be familiar with psychology, research concepts, and writing papers in APA style. Freshmen and students with undeclared majors may not take this course. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that have met all requirements.

Reading

Textbooks (available at student bookstore)

- Neville, H. A., Tynes, B. M., & Utsey, S. O. (2009). *Handbook of African American Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications
- Guthrie, Robert V. (2003). *Even the Rat Was White: A Historical View of Psychology, 2nd Ed.* Allyn & Bacon, Inc

Articles (available on Blackboard)

- McIntosh, P. (1990). White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.
- Suite, D. H., et al. (2007). Beyond Misdiagnosis, Misunderstanding and Mistrust: Relevance of the Historical Perspective in the Medical and Mental Health Treatment of People of Color, *Journal of The National Medical Association*, 99 (8).

- Gold, S. J. (2004). From Jim Crow to racial hegemony: Evolving explanations of racial hierarchy. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 27 (6), 951-968. (optional)
- Whaley, A.L. (2001). Cultural Mistrust: An Important Psychological Construct for Diagnosis and Treatment of African Americans. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 32 (6), 555-562. (optional)
- Other articles TBA

Goals of the Course

1. Knowledge: To obtain an understanding of African American Psychology, including definitions, methods, history, personalities, and areas of inquiry.
2. Research and writing: To develop skills in reviewing psychological literature, and writing a research paper.
3. Oratorical production: To develop speaking and presentation skills.

Methods of the Course

1. Lectures
2. Class discussion of assigned readings
3. Reading review quizzes
4. Analysis of current events within African American Psychological framework
5. Student presentations of assigned reading
6. Student presentation of an African American psychologist and related literature review
7. Research paper writing assignment

Grading

Item	Percentage	Due Date
Reading Review Quizzes	10	Day before class
Leading Class Discussion	20	Variable
Class Psychologist Presentation	20	Variable
Research Paper	35	12/5
Participation & Preparation	15	Daily

Grades

- A+: 98%-100%
- A: 92%-97%
- A-: 90%-91%
- B+: 87-89%
- B: 83-86%
- B-: 80-82%
- C+: 76-79%
- C: 70-75%
- C-: 67-69%

- D: 56-66%
- F: 0-55%

Leading the Class Discussion

Every student will take a turn (approximately 2 times, usually paired with a partner) presenting the weeks' reading material and leading the class discussion. Students leading the discussion are required to meet with the professor during office hours to review the material to be presented at least 2 days prior to class. (See separate handout for details about the requirements for this task.)

Class Presentation: Noteworthy Black Psychologist

Every student will do one 15-20 minute oral presentation during the semester, to be scheduled on the first day of class. You will select one noteworthy African American psychologist and present a biographical history and synopsis of their most important work. The use of overheads, PowerPoint, video clips, etc. is encouraged. The presenting students should distribute an outline of the presentation to the class, with sources included. After the presentation, the presenter will have an opportunity to answer questions posed by the class and instructor. Students will turn in a 4-page paper summarizing their presentation, in APA format, with sources. (See separate handout for details about the requirements for this assignment.)

Research Papers

You will complete one research paper during the semester that should be related to the topic of African American psychology. Independent reading will be required—at least 4 sources should be peer-reviewed journal articles found in the PsychInfo or MedLine database. Internet sources are not permitted, unless they are from an authoritative source (i.e. the American Psychological Association), and approved in advance. You will need to meet with the professor at least once to review a draft of your paper prior to submission. Papers should be 10 pages, double-spaced, with references in APA format (not included in page count). Include a Xerox copy of the first page of all sources. It is your responsibility to have your paper ready on the day it is due. Late assignments will be penalized one point per day late. (See separate handout for details about the requirements for this assignment.)

Participation & Preparation

Participation in class is required. Each day we will have a class discussion, so please read the material before class. Write down your thoughts and questions about the readings, and bring your notes to class. You will be graded for your participation. Ten percent of your final grade will be based on participation, so be prepared to contribute! Being unprepared, late, or absent will result in a loss of participation points. If you must miss a class, you can

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still receive partial credit by writing a one-page summary of the required readings, which should be emailed to me the day before lecture, by prior arrangement.

Schedule

Date	Day	Topic	Reading
8/23	Tues	Introduction to the Course Leading the Class Discussion Requirements Race, Ethnicity & Overview	Handbook: Ch 2,3
8/25	Thurs	African-Centered Psychology Black Psychologist Class Presentation Requirements	Handbook: Ch 4
8/30	Tues	Foundations of African American psychology Research Paper Requirements	Handbook: Ch 1
9/1	Thurs	America's Obsession with Race Your selection for psychologist presentation due & presentation date	Guthrie: Ch 1 Guthrie: Ch 7&8
9/6	Tues	Historical Misuse of Psychology to Marginalize African Americans	Guthrie: Ch 2
9/8	Thurs	White Privilege Selection of topic for research paper due	Mcintosh article
9/13	Tues	African American Stereotypes Take the IAT on line at https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo (Race)	TBA
9/15	Thurs	The Role of the Media and Portrayals in African-American Social Development	Handbook: Ch 11
9/20	Tues	Racism, White Supremacy & Resistance	Handbook: Ch 12
9/22	Thurs	Guest speaker: Darlene Davis, M.A.	None
9/27	Tues	African Americans & Psychological Testing, Historical and Current Situation	Guthrie: Ch 3
9/29	Thurs	Stereotype Threat	Handbook: Ch 16
10/4	Tues	Racial Identity Development in Childhood	Handbook: Ch 20

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10/6	Thurs	Racial Identity in Adulthood	Handbook: Ch 21
10/11	Tues	NO CLASS – Reading Break	None
10/13	Thurs	Spirituality and Religion	Handbook: Ch 7
10/18	Tues	Black Families	Handbook: Ch 8
10/20	Thurs	Intimate Relationships of African Americans	Handbook: Ch 9
10/25	Tues	Eugenics, Sterilization Abuse & Abortion Attitudes	Guthrie: Ch 4
10/27	Thurs	Sexual Identity in African Americans	Handbook: Ch 23
11/1	Tues	Hip-Hop Music and Culture	Handbook: Ch 10
11/3	Thurs	Struggle of African American psychologists	Guthrie: Ch 5 & 6
11/8	Tues	Cultural Mistrust	Handbook: Ch 22
11/10	Thurs	Peer Editing - Paper Swap (Darlene Davis, M.A.) Bring complete draft of research paper to class	
11/15	Tues	Research Abuses and Mental Health Utilization	Suite article
11/17	Thurs	Mental health Among African-Americans and Disparities	Handbook: Ch 24, 25
11/22	Tues	Implications of Racism in the Mental health of African-Americans	Handbook: Ch 26
11/24	Thurs	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving	None
11/29	Tues	Positive Psychology / Behavioral & Emotional Strengths	Handbook: Ch 27, 28
12/1	Thurs	Anxiety, Depression, Suicide & Self-Harm Final Research paper due 12/5	Handbook: Ch 29

Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the materials and schedule in this syllabus based on unforeseen circumstances and the best interests of the class.