

**North Carolina State University**  
**Africana Studies Program**  
**MDS 346: Black Popular Culture**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Spring 2005**

**Instructor:** Tracey Ray, Ph.D.

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**Class Hours:** 9:50-11:05am, Tues/ Th

**Office Hours:** 8:30-9:30am, Tues/ Th

And by appointment

**Course Description:** Black Popular Culture is a post-civil rights multidisciplinary examination of contemporary black issues of identity, social justice, cultural expression, film, music, art, the media, and general community issues and dynamics. Key areas of focus include an emphasis on race, class, gender and political discourse. Critical examination of significant events, people and concepts will take place throughout the course.

**Teaching Objectives:** The instructor of this course will utilize presentation of relevant news reports, essays, research, video, shared personal experiences, guest speakers/presenters, class discussion, and small group activities, in addition to objective evaluation and individual projects to facilitate student achievement of the following learning goals.

**Learning Goals:**

- ✓ Students will engage in critical thinking and analysis on particular significant events that have occurred during the post-civil rights era.
- ✓ Students will have an understanding about racial identity development and theory.
- ✓ Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of contemporary African American scholars and their contributions.
- ✓ Students will examine perceptions and beliefs associated with social justice in the Black community.
- ✓ Students will examine the following three areas: community efforts to organize, religion and the black church, civil rights and making the case for slave reparations during the post-civil rights era.
- ✓ Students will examine issues related to music and entertainment as it relates to Black Popular Culture.
- ✓ Students will explore and predict more current and future issues facing the African American/Black community in 2005 and beyond.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance and participation is a **requirement** of this course and is factored into your final grade.

**Course Requirements/Evaluation:**

Prerequisite/Restriction: None. Attendance and class participation is required and is worth 10% of your final grade (100 points). You will be required to complete 3 writing assignments associated with the 3 course topics. Each paper is worth 100 points (=300 points total). You are also required to complete a research paper (200 points) on a contemporary African American Scholar and present your findings through an oral presentation (100 points). You are required to participate in an Africana Studies lecture or associated program this semester (100 points). Finally, there will be a cumulative final examination based on all course content (200 points). There are a total of 1000 possible points.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be calculated based upon class and lecture/program attendance and participation (200 points), written assignments (500 points), oral presentation (100 points) and a final examination (200 points). Course grades will be assigned with + or – grades based on the following percentage scale: A+ (100-97), A (96-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-63), D- (62-60), F(59 or below).

***\*\*Students with disabilities should schedule an appointment with instructor to discuss academic accommodations. Policy for Students with Disabilities:  
[http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/hat/current/appendix/appen\\_k.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/hat/current/appendix/appen_k.html)***

***\*\*Students with excused university absences should schedule an appointment with instructor to make up missed assignments.***

Students must adhere to the University policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct. Plagiarism, cheating and other acts of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero and notification with the Office of Student Conduct will occur.

Students may face further disciplinary action or sanctions as a result of procedures with the Office of Student Conduct. Students should indicate and sign the following statement on all tests and assignments. "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment." Code of Student Conduct:

**[http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic\\_regulations/integrity/reg.htm](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_regulations/integrity/reg.htm)**

**Required Readings (All readings on reserve in DH Hill Library):**

- *West, Cornel (1993). Race Matters, Boston, Beacon Press. (Required Text- \$9)*
- Wallace, Michele (1992). “Boyz N the Hood and Jungle Fever,” Black Popular Culture, Seattle, Bay Press.
- Dyson, Michael Eric (1996) Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line, Massachusetts, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Inc. (Chapter 5 & conclusion)
- Tatum, Beverly Daniel (1997). Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race, New York, Basic Books. (Chapter 3)
- Allen Jr., Ernest and Chrisman, Robert (2001) “Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery Are a Good Idea”, Reparations for American Slavery, Black World Foundation.
- Conyers Jr., John and Watson, Jo Ann Nichols (2003). “Reparations: An Idea Whose Time Has Come,” Should America Pay, New York, Harper Collins.
- Dyson, Michael Eric (1993). Reflecting Black: African-American Cultural Criticism, Minnesota, University of Minnesota Press. (Chapters 6 & 21)
- Williams, Sherley Anne (1992). “Two Words On Music: Black Community,” Black Popular Culture, Seattle, Bay Press.