

Black Studies
1974

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION TO BLACK STUDIES

Black Studies 1
Fall 1974
Prof. Wendell Gorum
Office: 16 Silsby

Black Studies 1 explores the status of black people in the United States from their first arrival to the present. The subject matter is drawn from an interdisciplinary perspective of history, sociology, anthropology, economics, and political science.

Required Readings

1. Franklin, John Hope. From Slavery to Freedom. Fourth Edition. New York: Knoff, 1974. (F)
2. Hannerz, Ulf. Soulside: Inquiries into Ghetto Culture and Community. New York: Columbia University Press, 1969. (H)
3. Killens, John Oliver, Black Man's Burden New York: Pocket Book, 1969 (K)
4. Pinkney, Alphonso. Black Americans. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1969 (P)
5. Vatter, Harold G.; and Palm, Thomas, eds. The Economics of Black America. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1972. (V)
6. Walton, Hanes, Jr. Black Politics. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1972. (W)

Hustling the Grade

Although the course work demands originality and time, the dehumanizing aspect is that the educational "system" demands that I give you some sort of a grade. If you are after an "A", I expect a high level of commitment and sophistication represented by the work submitted. Other levels of work (B, C, D and E) are graduated according to quality and originality.

Final grades will be averaged among the following:

1. Ramblings
2. Research Paper
3. Dyad Interview
4. Final Examination and/or Mid-term Examination
5. Essay
6. Group Project
7. Class participation and quizzes

Except for extenuating circumstances, late papers will not be accepted in this course. If you have a good reason for turning a paper in late, I will grade it but will enter zero in my grade book for that particular requirement. Also grades of "Incomplete" will not be given in this course.

Course Requirements

The subsequent exercises are due from everyone on the indicated dates.

1. Ramblings

Every one should turn in five ramblings. Customarily, a rambling is a piece of paper (or more) with words written on it dealing with any topic, making any point, saying anything, complaining about anything, explaining anything, including yourself. It can also be a cartoon, a painting, photographs, a protest document, a lyric poem, a drawing, sculpture, and so forth; but please do not bring food items or live animals. A rambling is not a theme! A rambling is not a term paper. Your spelling, punctuation, and grammar will not be corrected. Your footnotes will be ignored. The only specifications I make are please write (preferably type) so that some other human can read it and relate it to Black Americans.

The week following the receipt of each set of ramblings, I will try, time permitting of course, to put out an underground journal printing of those ramblings that seem to be worth sharing with others (sometimes together with comments). If you want to say something entirely private and do not want it published, please print CONFIDENTIAL at the top of the first page.

The final rambling should be a gut-level evaluation of the course, the instructor, the texts and anything else relating to the course. This rambling will not be evaluated basis on the number of nice things you say, but on your honest appraisal. The class will continue to be the way it is largely because of the final ramblings. Therefore, you should include your recommendations for change in the course. The other ramblings can be almost anything. (Ramblings will not be returned.)

Due Dates

1. Monday, September 30, 1974
2. Monday, October 14, 1974
3. Monday, October 28, 1974
4. Monday, November 11, 1974
5. Monday, December 2, 1974

2. Research Paper

CONTRASTS BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE CULTURAL VALUES: America has been described as the "melting pot" of the world. This implies that all the peoples of which America is composed have merged into one society. If we assume that the cooking process is a continuing process and the safety valve has not exploded, then the melting pot analogy may be a valid one. We must admit, however, that some of the ingredients are as yet unmixed and the cooking process is incomplete.

Blacks have cultural concepts very distinct from those prevalent in white society. Some of these concepts he brought with him from Africa. Other

2. Research Paper continued

value concepts he borrowed from Indian, Spanish, Portuguese, English, Dutch, or French. For more than 300 years he has mixed, tested, and fortified them. In his isolated environment, these values have enabled him to survive against tremendous hardships.

His problems now arise from different cultural value concepts which are challenging his own. Some of these new and different concepts are in direct contradiction to many of the traditions which have been a part of his way of life. Some of these traditions involve his attitude toward his family and the concept of the meaning of life itself.

Drawing on resources and information in the readings, in the libraries, and from lectures, write a research paper about some of the basic contrasts in values between the two cultures. Support and document your paper as necessary.

There are ^{no} minimum or maximum number of words (or pages) for you to write. Just cover your topic thoroughly. Grading will be done with due regard for content and mechanics (grammar, spelling, and punctuation). In fact, your final grade will be an average of the content and mechanics grades. Since ~~two~~ points will be deducted for each error in mechanics, be sure to proof-read your paper before submitting it because it will be scrutinized. ~~typos~~

DUE DATE: Monday, November 25, 1974

Combination Count as errors.

3. Dyad Interview

BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS: You will be assigned a partner who will remain with you through this assignment. Arrange meeting times with your dyad mate. Take as much time as you need (outside of class, if you please) to do a thorough job. You will not be able to accomplish the interview in one casual meeting. If for some reason or other you have trouble contacting your partner, please notify me.

Try to find out the following:

1. Background and personal development (family, hometown, schooling, past activities, previous hang-ups, former pleasures, nostalgias, memories and so forth).
2. Present circumstances (year in school, major, campus activities, social patterns, preferred recreations, involvements, hostilities, and so forth).
3. Future plans (hopes, dreams, expectations, projections, and so forth).
4. Current attitudes on anything important relating to race (religion, politics, social relations, sex, the arts, the drug scene, homosexuality, Gay Liberation, Women's Lib., campus protest, Black Panthers, neo-colonialism, the Viet Nam War, any other way, the draft, Black Muslims, freedom, communism, education, the flag, the future of the country, Watergate, SCLC, the way the campus ought to be, stereotypes, NAACP, Pan-Africanism, Black Nationalism, the Black Mistique, soul, Black

Power, Black Liberation and so forth).

5. Anything else you find worthwhile to cover. Try to find out about his hang-ups, pressing concerns, what makes him happy, angry, excited, and so forth. Try to capture the respondent's "philosophy of life."

Write a report divided into the following headings:

1. Description profile (of your dyad mate).
2. Narrative history of your interaction with your dyad mate.
3. Inferences you draw about your dyad mate relative to race relations.
4. Predictions you make about your dyad mate's future.
5. Your frank evaluation of your dyad mate as you see him/her.
6. An evaluation of the interview your dyad mate conducted with you.

When you have completed writing your report, trade papers. Then write a rebuttal or rejoinder to your own profile as written by your partner. Tell me honestly what you think of it. Put your rebuttal/rejoinder in a sealed envelope. Put each profile in a folder together with the appropriate rebuttal/rejoinder. Write on the outside:

Interview of _____ (NAME) by _____ (NAME)

Put the two profiles together in a large envelope and put your names on the outside. Leave the envelopes in my office. Profiles must be submitted in pairs to complete the project. You are dependent on your partner.

DUE DATE: Monday, November 11, 1974

4. Quizzes and Exams

Everyone is expected to do all the required reading. The recommended readings *are* ~~to~~ recommended. There will be a final examination *on* the required readings and the lectures. I have not yet decided whether to have a midterm. Periodic unannounced quizzes may be substituted for the midterm.

Date: To be announced in class

5. Essay

Write an interpretative essay in which you define a concept and apply it to Black Americans. Your paper may take a broad overview of Blacks, or it may focus on a narrower theme. Of course, you may draw on information in the readings and from lectures.

DUE DATE: Monday, October 7, 1974

6. Group Project

You will be organized into three different types of groups (symposium, debate, and panel discussion). More information about the nature of this assignment will be given early in the course.

The task of your group is to prepare some kind of project around a theme relating to Afro-Americans. You should be ready to present your project to the class on the predetermined date. Your project should have on it the names of those who participated only. It is your responsibility to tag members

of your group who fail to do their share and penalize them by not including their names on the group project.

DUE DATE: To be announced in class

TENATIVE SCHEDULE

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| 1. September 23 M | Getting acquainted. Introduction to course. Consensus project. Motivational inquiry. |
| 2. September 25 W | Lecture/discussion. Reading assignment: F: 3-235; P 1-38. |
| 3. September 27 F | Film. |
| 4. September 30 M | Rambling 1 due. Filmstrip. |
| 5. October 2 W | Lecture/discussion |
| 6. October 4 F | Guest Lecturer. Reading Assignment: W: All |
| 7. October 7 M | Essay due. Open |
| 8. October 9 W
9 X | Debate |
| 9. October 11 F | Guest Lecturer. |
| 10. October 14 M | Rambling 2 due. Filmstrip. Problem |
| 11. October 16 W | Lecture/discussion Reading Assignment: P 39-218 |
| 12. October 18 F | Lecture/discussion |
| 13. October 21 M | Review. |
| 14. October 23 W | Midterm Exam |
| 15. October 28 M | Rambling 3 due. Filmstrip |
| 16. October 30 W
30 X | Debate. |
| 17. November 1 F | Filmstrip. Reading Assignment: F: remainder |
| 18. November 4 M | Guest Lecturer. |
| 19. November 6 W
6 X | Film. Discussion |
| 20. November 8 F | Lecture/discussion. Reading Assignment: Ki All. |

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| 21. November 11 M | Rambling 4 due. Dyad Interview due. |
| 22. November 13 W | Lecture/discussion |
| 23. November 15 F | Open. Reading Assignment: V: All |
| 24. November 18 M | Filmstrip. |
| 25. November 20 W | Debate |
| 20 X | |
| 26. November 22 F | Problem |
| 27. November 25 M | Research paper due. Open. Reading Assignment: H: All |
| 28. December 2 M | Rambling 5 due. Panel discussion |
| 29. December 4 W | Panel discussion |
| 30. December 4 X | Open |

FINAL EXAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.