

AFAM/WMST 25: Introduction to Black Feminism

Summer 2023

"I am a Black feminist. I mean I recognized that my power, as well as my primary oppressions come as a result of my blackness as well as my womanness, and therefore my struggles on both of these fronts are inseparable." - Audre Lorde

Required Text

- *****All necessary course materials will be available in the Canvas system.*****
- A PDF version of the (12-week) course textbook, **Words of Fire: An Anthology of African - American Feminist Thought**, ed. Beverly Guy-Sheftall. New York: New Press. ISBN- 978-1-56584-256-4 **is provided, as a gift**, in the Canvas system. Many of the readings from the course are found in this text.

Instructor Information

Dr. Julie Keiffer-Lewis
(she/her/herself; or Lewis)

Office Hours: Summer
office hours by
appointment only. Email
for appointment.

keifferlewisjule@fhda.edu

General Information

Course Description

An interdisciplinary, multi-perspective, critical analysis and comparative study of Black Feminism. Examines some of the key theories and ideas of Black Feminism and Black Feminist Thought, including womanist theory, theory of intersectionality, and standpoint theory. It will consider how Black women have challenged the intersecting effects of racism, sexism, classism, colonialism, homophobia, media exploitation, and other forms of social violence. Students will read major works, learn to engage in critical dialogue, and articulate their own positions concerning the basic ideas and principles of Black Feminism. The values, experience, and cultural contributions of Black feminist and/or Black womanist individuals in the United States will be identified, examined, and authenticated.

Expectations and Goals

Welcome and thank you for enrolling in **Introduction to Black Feminism**. This is the **course syllabus**. It is an extremely important tool for your success in the course. It is imperative that you read the syllabus, completely. This syllabus contains course information, guidelines on assignments, due dates, the grading policy, and overall expectations. If you have any questions regarding the course, please consult the syllabus first; it is more than likely that the answer will be found here. Please understand that the **class is set up for an online learner**. Since you enrolled in this class, it is my expectation that you are interested in the material and want to be here. Therefore, I anticipate you will take responsibility for your education. This means, **I expect that you will be personally responsible** to handle all aspects of the course or **communicate to me** that you need further support in the course.

Course Materials

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate an awareness of some of the key theories and concepts of Black feminism.
- Engage in critical dialogue about the basic ideas and principles that guide Black feminist theories in a safe classroom-learning environment.
- Analyze and articulate current issues from a Black feminist perspective.

Student Accommodations

Students who require accommodations are encouraged to inform the instructor immediately. The Disability Programs and Resource Center is available to facilitate the accommodation process.

Active Participation

In order to get the most out of the class, it is helpful to be an active learner in the process. **Active participation** in the course means the following:

- Accessing all materials, links, readings, Power Points, videos, and discussions in the system.
- Engaging with fellow classmates. **You must respond to at least two fellow classmate's discussion post per week.**

Community Agreements

Because we are in community over the next few weeks, it is important for us to establish some agreements to guide us. Here are some:

- I will work cooperatively with others.
- I will actively participate in class discussions and stay engaged in the dialogue.
- I will listen without judgment and be intellectually open to perspectives that may conflict with my own.
- I will assume positive intentions on behalf of my fellow students.
- I will maintain confidentiality and keep the virtual classroom a safe place for everyone's thoughts.
- I will use the preferred pronouns of my classmates

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignment
Week 1	Welcoming & Introductions	Discussion; Content Reflection #1; Profile Picture & Pronouns
Week 2	Understanding Intersectionality, Power & Privilege	Discussion #2; Content Reflection #2
Week 3	Early Black Feminist Thought	Discussion #3; Content Reflection #3
Week 4	Black Womanhood	Discussion #4; Content Reflection #4
Week 5	The Personal is Political	Discussion #5; Content Reflection #5; 'Zine Contribution
Week 6	Closing Week	Discussion #6; Content Reflection # 6; Final

Course Grade Distribution

Assignment	Points
Weekly Discussions (5)	120 points
Reading Reflections (6)	180 points
'zine Contribution	50 points
Final	100 points
Total	450 points

Academic Integrity

Please don't cheat. It's not worth it. The official campus policy is: De Anza College is committed to excellence in the pursuit of learning and academic achievement by its students. To further this goal, the college is committed to providing academic standards that are fair and equitable to all students in an atmosphere that fosters integrity on the part of student, staff and faculty alike. The student's responsibility is to perform to the best of his or her potential in all academic endeavors. This responsibility also includes abiding by the rules and regulations set forth by individual faculty members related to preparation and completion of assignments and examinations

Assignment Guidelines

All assignment guidelines are found on the Assignment Page in Canvas.

Grade Distribution

Grading Scale:

90-100	A Range
80-89	B Range
70-79	C Range
60-69	D Range
59-Below	F Range

Student Success Center

Need help with this course? Student Success Center peer tutors are ready for you!

- **SSC tutoring links and schedules:** go to the **SSC tutoring links and schedules:** go to the SSC
- **SSC homepage** (<https://www.deanza.edu/studentssuccess/>) to check hours for each area, then "Click to Join" to go to the Zoom room.
- **Need after-hours or weekend tutoring?** See the **Online Tutoring** page (<http://deanza.edu/studentssuccess/onlinetutoring/>) for information about NetTutor (via Canvas) or Smarthinking (via MyPortal)