

**Black Women's Activism**  
AFA 3930 – Class Number 10307 – Spring 2019  
African American Studies Program – The University of Florida  
Dr. Ashley Robertson Preston- Lecturer

Class Times & Location: MWF 11:45AM-12:35PM/CSE E119

Office Hours & Location: Virtual Office Hours MWF 3:00-4:00 pm (Canvas)/Also available by appointment

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"I'd rather go down in history as one lone Negro who dared to tell the government that it had done a dastardly thing than to save my skin by taking back what I said."  
-Mrs. Ida B. Wells

Facing both sexism and racism upon their arrival into the America, Black women have always resisted the confines of their enslavement. Not once did they accept their status as permanent and this is evident in their continued struggle for freedom. With emancipation came new challenges yet they organized themselves to take on issues such as disenfranchisement, lynchings and inequalities in education. Though often overlooked, Black women's activism has played a critical part in the Black Liberation Movement. This course will examine the activism of Black women from the period of enslavement to the rise of the Black Power Movement.

Requirements & Evaluation:

**REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION AT A GLANCE:**

**Participation & Attendance 15%**

**Discussion Board 30%**

**Final Project 20%**

**Reflection Papers 25%**

**Quizzes 10%**

**Attendance & Participation (15%)**

For this class to be successful, students must take responsibility for actively participating each day in the course. Discussion of course materials allows for a higher degree of interaction and collaboration than the traditional lecture format. Throughout the semester, you will have opportunities to give informal presentations, lead discussions on particular readings, and participate in a host of small-group activities.

Attendance will be taken during **EVERY** class. You are allowed up to three unexcused absences and thereafter I will deduct 2 points per missing class. Missing more than six unexcused classes will result in failing the course. Also, please do not arrive to class late or leave early. Late assignments will receive 50% credit and no

late assignments will be accepted after 48 hours. No exceptions (unless hospitalization has occurred).

### **Final Project (20%)**

Students will create short 3-5 minute videos on Black women activists that were profiled throughout the course. Each person will select one activist and will be responsible for researching the person's life, finding graphics and creating the short video which will be used to create a Youtube page for the course. Guidelines will be sent.

### **Discussion Board (30%)**

Students will be expected to watch the weekly online video lectures (on Friday's) and develop a critical analysis to the weekly discussion board question. All discussion questions and responses will be posted to Canvas. **Again, every Friday there will be a video lecture that will be posted and you will need to watch and respond via the discussion board. This will serve as the meeting for the Friday class with the exception of our library day with Ms. Birch.**

### **Critical Reflections (25%)**

*Students* are required to write three essays (1000 words for each essay), 12 point font (Times New Roman) These **reaction papers** are to critically reflect on some aspect of the readings done usually over a few week's period.

### **Quizzes (10%)**

Quizzes will cover class readings, lectures, discussions, and films. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and short (essay) items).

### **Students with Disabilities**

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **University of Florida Honor Code**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Florida's Student Honor Code and Code of Conduct. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Do not plagiarize. All work must be cited. Students suspected of academic dishonesty or of violating the Honor Code will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. To learn more

about the UF policy regarding Academic Honesty, please visit:  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

Required Texts:

Paula Giddings *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*

Deborah Gray White *Too Heavy a Load, Black Women in Defense of Themselves, 1894-1994*

Tiffany M. Gill *Beauty Shop Politics African American Women's Activism in the Beauty Industry*

Supplemental Text:

Bettye Collier-Thomas & V.P. Franklin *Sisters in the Struggle: African American Women in the Civil Rights-Black Power Movement*

**\*\*This text does not need to be purchased. Articles will be accessed via the UF Library E-Book\*\***

Schedule:

Week 1 January 7-11

M: Introduction

W: *When and Where I Enter* Chapter 2

F: *When and Where I Enter* Chapter 3 **\*\* Discussion Board**

Week 2 January 14-18

M: *When and Where I Enter* Chapters 1&4

W: *When and Where I Enter* Chapter 6

F: Online Video Lecture **\*\*Discussion Board**

Week 3 January 21-25 (Dr. Martin Luther King Day Observance 1.21.19)

M: No Class

W: *Too Heavy a Load* Chapter 4

F: Online Video Lecture **\*Discussion Board**

Week 4 January 28-February 1

M: *When and Where I Enter* Chapter 7

W: *Too Heavy a Load* Chapter 5

F: Online Video Lecture **\*Discussion Board**

Week 5 February 4-8

M: *When and Where I Enter* Chapter 8

W: *Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 1

F: Library Instruction Day 2.8

Week 6 February 11-15

M: The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai3/protest/text5/robinsonbusboycott.pdf>

Recy Taylor, Rosa Parks, and the Struggle for Racial Justice

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/recy-taylor-rosa-parks-and-struggle-racial-justice>

W: *Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 3

F: Online Video Lecture \*Discussion Board

“The Rape of Recy Taylor”: How Rosa Parks Helped a Sharecropper Report Her Assault & Seek Justice”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BJgNUrS38c>

Week 7 February 18-22

M: *Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 9

W: *When and Where I Enter* Chapter 16

F: Online Video Lecture\* Discussion Board

Online Lecture: Eyes On The Prize (Part 4): No Easy Walk (1962-1966) America's Civil Rights Movement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YYaaEffMFk>

Week 8 February 25-March 1

M: *Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 6

W: *Too Heavy A Load* Chapter 6 (pg. 189-211)

F: Online Video Lecture \*Discussion Board

Week 9 March 4-8 **Spring Break**

Week 10 March 11-15

M: Women in the Black Panther Party: A roundtable

By Ashley Farmer, Mary Phillips, Robyn C. Spencer and Leela Yellesetty

<https://isreview.org/issue/111/women-black-panther-party>

Read “Beyond Berets: The Black Panthers as Health Activists”

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5024403/>

Read “Children can’t learn on an empty stomach”: The Black Panther Party’s Free Breakfast Program

By Husain Lateef & David Androff

W: Kathleen Cleaver Interview

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/race/interviews/kcleaver.html>

F: Online Lecture\*\*Discussion Board

Vanguard of the Revolution- The Real Story of the Black Panther Party

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6qb27VJzDY>

Week 11 March 18-22

M: (Article will posted to Canvas)

“To Make That Someday Come: Shirley Chisholm’s Radical Politics of Possibility

*(Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*

W: (Article will be loaded to Canvas)

“Framing the Panther: Assata Shakur and Black Female Agency

*(Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle)*

F: Online Lecture \*\*Discussion Board

Week 12 March 25-29

M: *Sisters in the Struggle* Chapter 14

W: “We Do Whatever Becomes Necessary”

*(Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle)*

F: Online Lecture \*\*Discussion Board

Week 13 April 1-5

M: *Beauty Shop Politics* Intro & Chapter 1

W: *Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 2

F: Online Lecture \*\*Discussion Board

Week 14 April 8-12

M: *Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 3

W: *Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 4

F: Online Lecture \*\*Discussion Board

Week 15 April 15-19

M: *Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 5

W: *Beauty Shop Politics* Chapter 6

F: Online Lecture \*\*Discussion Board

Week 16 April 22-24 (Reading Day 4.26)

M: Women and Black Lives Matter: An Interview with Marcia Chatelain

W: One Year of #MeToo: The Legacy of Black Women's Testimonies

F: Reading Day

Final Project Due: April 30, 2018-12:00 pm

\*\*Dr. Preston reserves the right to modify this syllabus at anytime.\*\*