

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNICATION

Spring 2016

Instructor: Professor Seay

275-02

4:00 pm-5:15 pm

Strickler 306

Required Reading:

Kochman, Thomas. Black and White Styles in Conflict. Publisher: University of Chicago Press. 1981, Edition: [1st].

Thurston, B. (2012). *How to be Black* (1st ed.). New York, NY: Harper Paperbacks.

Selected Readings:

Hecht, M. L., Jackson, R. L., & Ribeau, S. A. (2003). *African American communication: Exploring identity and culture*.

Jackson, R. L. (2004). *African American communication & identities: Essential readings*. Sage.

Orbe, M. P., & Harris, T. M. (2013). *Interracial communication: Theory into practice*. Sage Publications.

Ore, Tracey. (2006). *The social construction of difference and inequality: Race, class, gender, and sexuality*. McGraw-Hill.

Rothenberg, P. S. (2004). *White privilege: Essential readings on the other side of racism*. Macmillan.

To be announced (TBA) Readings will also be included

Description

Study of various dimensions of communication pertaining specifically to African Americans. Communication patterns within the African American community as well as cultural, socio-economic, and other communication related patterns relating to this community are analyzed.

Goals:

Helping students develop “oral, written and critical analysis” by completing the following:

- 1) Give students an overview of theory of communication and the definition and development of African American culture and communication as a field of study.
- 2) Identify how social and cultural systems develop out of adaptation to environmental and historical circumstances.
- 3) Communicate an understanding of the ways in which, race, ethnicity, and/or gender are socially constructed.
- 4) Communicate an understanding that different cultures may hold different views of the same issues.
- 5) Evaluate pertinent information and assertions for relevance, bias, stereotyping, manipulation, and completeness.
- 6) Ability to integrate theory with experiential and practical ideas to communicate an understanding of concepts and how to apply them.

Office Hours

Belknap Campus
Strickler Hall West Side Room 206C
T/TH 10:00am-11:00am

Office Phone: 502-852-2975
Fax: 502-852-8166
Email: dana.seay@louisville.edu

(Please note, although I have standing office hours, students still need to send an email or call, so I can be prepared to discuss your situation.)

Students may contact me using the information above. If you call or send an email I will respond within 24 to 48 hours. On the weekends I do not check my email as frequently, so you may want to allow extra time. When calling my office be sure to leave a message and include a phone number and the best time to call.

Note: If I am traveling due to research, field work, or conferences, I will post announcements in Blackboard and provide details on assignments and other course related information.

Grading:

Midterm Exam/Project	100 pts.
Class Assignments	200 pts.
Group Project/Debate	50 pts.
Participation	50 pts.
Final Project	<u>100 pts.</u>
Total Points Possible	500 pts.

Grading Scale:

<u>Total Pts.</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Pts.</u>	<u>Grade</u>
500-485	A+	399-385	C+
484-465	A	384-365	C
464-450	A-	364-350	C-
449-445	B+	349-335	D+
444-415	B	334-315	D
414-400	B-	314-300	D-
		Below 299	F

Key Items to Remember:

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism or fabrication will result in a failing grade for the assignment and may result in a failing grade for the class. Plagiarism is defined by the following guidelines:

- Copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own, including but not limited to work that is accessed in person, from computer files, or from the internet.
- Paraphrasing someone else's work and claiming it as your own.
- Collaborating excessively with another person and claiming the work solely as your own.
- Cheating on tests.
- Students are advised to become familiar with the **Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities (U of L Student Handbook)** for more Details on this matter.

E-mail Accounts:

Each student has a U of L e-mail account. We will use this account to communicate in our course. If you have a preferred e-mail account students should contact the Information Technology (IT) help desk (852-7997) for assistance with syncing your U of L account to your preferred account (e.g. If you prefer your Yahoo account, then your U of L e-mails will automatically go to that account).

To ensure we are all up and running, everyone needs to send me an e-mail by **Friday 1/8 by 10:00pm**, letting me know you are connected to the U of L e-mail system. Students will receive 5 extra credit points once I have responded to your email. No late work will be accepted due to your failure to access this account.

Email etiquette means I will not respond to emails or discussion post that are in texting language, all caps or varied color. Black is the only color used to submit emails and assignments. When using exclamation points, please be advised of the appropriate use of this punctuation.

Classroom Protocol

- Be sure to turn all cell phones off before coming to class!!! Please put your device on the quiet feature and not vibrate.
- ABSOLUTELY NO Text Messaging during class!!
- ABSOLUTELY NO working on other assignment during class!!

(If the above is not adhered to you will be given a WARNING. On the second offense with one of the above devices, your Professor has the right to ask you to leave the class for that day. On the third offense points will be deducted from your participation grade 10 points each time your name is called up to 30 points. Once you have reached the 30 point limit you will be asked not to return to class.

- On the day of presentations students are asked to stay outside until the presenter(s) has finished speaking. A student will be asked to check for those who are waiting in the hall.
- Being late on the day of your presentation will result in a grade penalty for the individual. Group members will not be penalized.

Attendance Requirements

Regular attendance and preparation are expected. The format of this course depends heavily on class discussion; it is therefore necessary to have a formal attendance policy. If you are absent two (2) days (excused or unexcused) it will result in your final grade being lowered by one letter grade. The third (3rd) day of absence will result in your final grade being lowered by an additional letter

grade. On the fourth (4th) day of absence a student will receive a failing grade for the course. Excuses for an absence must be verified with doctor statement or some type of written documentation. If an emergency does arise, students are asked to notify your instructor by **a phone call within 24 hours** of the class period **and by e-mail**. Each student is responsible for communicating with your instructor regarding your absence before turning in late assignments. If there are extenuating circumstances that require one to miss class, it is the student's responsibility to provide (in a timely manner) the appropriate documentation and set up time to discuss this with the professor.

Tardiness

Students are required to be in class on time. If there are extenuating Circumstances, the student is required to communicate the issue to your instructor. After a student is late three times to class she/he will lose 10 points from your final participation grade up to 30 points. Once a student reaches the 30 point limit she/he will be asked not to return to class.

Blackboard:

We will use Blackboard for this course. The Delphi Center offers an online help page for Blackboard at <http://delphi.louisville.edu/help/student/>. You can also access the Blackboard student manual at <http://library.blackboard.com/ref/ac6a8266-81c9-423f-a187-6cf4f7a505b7/index.htm>. The University of Louisville completes regular system maintenance on the Blackboard servers. Therefore, Blackboard @ UofL is unavailable during these times: Fridays 10 PM - 2 AM EST, Sundays 1:30 AM - 5:30 AM EST. **NO** assignments will be given due dates with these time requirements.

Operating systems go there may be mishaps. It is your responsibility to alert your Instructor in a timely manner if you have problems with the system. A few suggestions include, going to the library or accessing a computer outside of your home. System suggestions are as follows:

1. Contact the IT HelpDesk (<http://louisville.edu/it/support/helpdesk>). The HelpDesk is available 365 days a year around the clock at **(502)-852-7997** helpdesk@louisville.edu. Do you need help quickly? You can use the **Live Online Support** button (on the left) and receive the help you're looking for in just minutes.
2. You may contact Linda Leake in the Delphi Center at (502) 852-4332, Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm, as a last resort. Her e-mail address is Linda.Leake@louisville.edu. If you contact her, you will also want to send me a note letting me know you are experiencing problems.

Some helpful hints about Blackboard that you won't find in the help files or

FAQS:

1. While you are taking a Blackboard quiz, do NOT open a new web browser window or tab. If you do open a new web browser window or tab while taking a quiz, Blackboard will automatically submit your quiz as is. If quizzes are assigned from your readings you will only get one (1) opportunity to take the quiz (with exceptions for internet connection problems, Blackboard server problems, etc. as spelled out in the syllabus). Therefore, you do not want to shut yourself out of the quiz accidentally by opening a new window/tab for Facebook or Twitter.
2. If you are using Internet Explorer 8, Blackboard may not allow you to correctly submit your quizzes. Please download Mozilla Firefox @ <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/upgrade.html?from=getfirefox> and use this browser instead. Firefox is a free browser and has no known issues with Blackboard.

Weekly Readings:

Under the Weekly Readings tab you will find a brief overview of the week's reading and any films and or Websites to view. Check this tab weekly.

Assignments:

Assignments will be located under the Assignment tab in Blackboard. Your assignments may be given in class and a copy will be provided within Blackboard. Click on the folder for that week, within the folder you will find guidelines for your assignment. **All assignments are due in class. Any assignments submitted through Blackboard will be announced in class.**

When submitting assignments be sure to include the following: **your name, date and assignment name or title. After the first two weeks of class students will lose points if they do not include the above. All assignments should have 1" margins on all sides, typed using Times Roman font, double-spaced with pages numbered.** Assignments submitted without the above specifications will lose points.

Late or Missed Assignments:

It is expected that students will submit assignments on time. However, when there are extenuating circumstances, you should inform your instructor immediately. Assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class. Extenuating circumstances do not include printer issues for forgetting your homework. Your instructor has the discretion to accept or not accept any late or missed assignments. This determination will be made based on some form of verification and when the student alerted the instructor of her/his circumstance.

If you fail to complete your assignments by the assigned date, you will not be given credit. The University approved exceptions are as follows:

- Due to a University-sponsored event (athletics/academic competitions and events) you will be unable to access the online material. You must provide appropriate documentation beforehand to be allowed to qualify for this consideration.
- If there is an emergency and you speak to the instructor within 24 hours of the assignment being due. **WORK IS NOT AN EMERGENCY.** Again, you must provide appropriate documentation.
- Observation of a religious holiday.
- Technological difficulties that limit and/or prohibit your access to course Material online. You must provide appropriate documentation.

Please try to notify me as soon as possible if an emergency, technological difficulty or religious holiday(s) will impact your participation in the course.

Exams/Quizzes/Exercises: There may be exams or quizzes for this course. I will alert you ahead of time as to which will be required. In the case of your Midterm and Final, if an exam is not assigned you will have a project to assess your progress. Instructions for either the exam or project will be provided well in advance of the due date to give sufficient time for completion.

NOTE: Please refer to the Blackboard section of the course syllabus for instructions concerning the navigation of Blackboard for assessments (exams and quizzes)

Journal/Reflections: Occasionally there are reflection assignments-I will post guidelines for completion of these entries under the Assignment tab.

Discussion Board:

Occasionally you may be required to post in the discussion forum for this course. When posting in the forums, please adhere to proper English (no IM or text messaging speak) and keep netiquette in mind. *Flaming* (negative, inflammatory language designed to influence opinion) will not be tolerated. For more helpful information regarding netiquette refer to www.onlinenetiquette.com.

Each student will find ground rules for the discussion board under the **Course Documents** tab along with Weekly reading and course overviews/summaries

Student Resources:

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

The University of Louisville is committed to equal opportunity for all academically qualified students and does not discriminate based on disability. The mission of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is to coordinate services that ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to take full advantage of the University's education, social, and cultural opportunities. For information, please visit <http://louisville.edu/disability> OR Disability Resource Center, Stevenson Hall the first floor, Phone: (502) 852-6938, Fax: (502) 852-0924. *If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the DRC as soon as possible.*

WRITING CENTER

Students can utilize the University Writing Center to improve your writing skills for this course or other courses. The Writing Center offers face-to-face consultations, synchronous one-on-one consultation online, and email consultations in which consultants respond in writing to students texts. All options are accessible from the "Make An Appointment" link on the center's homepage: www.writingcenter.louisville.edu.

Title IX/Clery Act Notification

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111).

Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer.

For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives, to compensate for missed classes, and/or to accommodate for special circumstances.

Weekly Topic Calendar

January

Week 1: January 4-January 11

Introduction Readings

Introductions, Discussion Board Introductions, E-mail Checks
Selected Readings and Viewings

Kochman: Introduction and Chapter 1

Thurston: text introduction pp.1-16

Assignment (*Located under the Assignment tab*)

Due by 11:00pm Monday 1/11 (Email check)

Due by 11:00pm Wednesday 1/13 (Syllabus Quiz)

Week 2: January 11-January 18

History of Race in America and African Americans in America

Orbe & Harris “History of Race”(reading will be provided)

McIntosh: “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”
(provided)

Jensen “White Privilege Shapes the U.S. (provided)

Kochman Chapter 2

Selected Readings

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Assignment (*Located under the Assignment tab*)

Week 3: January 18-January 25

NOTE: *Monday the January 18 is Martin Luther King Holiday. This week will be a normal work week, however, due to the holiday the week will begin on Tuesday. Be sure to check the class for readings, discussion board, film viewing and assignments. Assignment(s), due this week, will have an extended due date of Tuesday 1/19.*

Cultural Identity

Hecht, Jackson, Ribeau (Powerpoint slides provided)

Thurston: chapters 1-5 pp. 17-51

Kochman chapter 9

Selected Viewing **TBA**

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Assignment (*Located under the Assignment tab*)

February

Week 4: January 25-February 1

Identity Negotiation and Racial Location

Thurston: pp101-109; 109-115 and 115-125

Selected Readings and viewings

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Assignment (*Located under the Assignment tab*)

Week 5: February 1-February 8

Communication Competence & Theoretical Approaches

Hecht, Jackson & Ribeau: (Powerpoint slides will be provided)

Kochman Chapters 6 & 7

Read remainder of Baratunde Thurston's text

Selected Readings

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Assignment (*Located under the Assignment tab*)

Week 6: February 8-February 15

Theoretical Approaches Cont'd

Orbe & Harris: Theoretical Approaches

Readings TBA

Midterm Exam Monday 2/15

Week 7: February 15-February 22

African American Language (Politics of Language & Black English)

Terms to Know (List will be located in the reading folder for this week, located under the Weekly Readings tab)

Thurston: pp.51-57; 69-75; 75-79

Week 8: February 22-February 29

African American Language Cont'd

Kochman: Chapter 3 & 4

Hecht, Jackson, Ribeau: (Powerpoint slides provided)

Selected Readings or Viewing

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Week 9: February 29-March 7

Special Topic Class Activity TBA

Selected Readings and Viewings **TBA**

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Last Day to Withdraw: Monday 3/7

March

Week 10: March 7-March 14

African Americans Relationships

Hecht, Jackson & Ribeau: (Powerpoint slides provided)

Kochman: Chapters 5 & 8

Thurston: 89-101

Selected Readings and Viewings

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Selected Viewing **TBA**

Phase I of Media Project Assigned

Due: Wednesday 3/23 by 11:00pm

Week 11: March 14-March 21

Spring Break

No Readings or Assignments Assigned

Enjoy!

Week 12: March 21-March 28

African American Relationships Cont'd

Readings & Viewings TBA

Week 13: March 28-April 4

African Americans and Media

We will cover mediated communication such as radio, television, and print along with social media such as Twitter and Facebook to create meaning.

Thurston: 171-177; 179-201

Kochman: Chapter 5

Selected Viewings **TBA**

Phase II of Media Project Assigned

Due: Monday 4/11 by 11:00pm

April

Week 14 April 4-April 11

Special Topic TBA

Orbe & Harris: Moving from Theoretical to Practice

Thurston: 201-209; 209-247

Week 15: April 11-April 18

Theoretical to Practice Cont'd

Selected Readings & Viewings

Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab

Phase 3 of Media Project Assigned

DUE: Wednesday 4/20 by 11:00pm

Week 16: April 18-April 20

Last Day of Classes Wednesday 4/20

Reading Day Thursday 4/21

NOTE: Final Exam/Project Due today by 11:00pm (Those requiring an extension, to Friday by 10:00pm, may request to do so no later than 11:00pm Monday 4/18. If you do not submit a request by 11:00pm Monday 4/18 a letter grade will be deducted for every day late. Projects not submitted by 10:00pm Friday 4/22 will receive a zero grade for the assignment.

NOTE: Assignment due dates may vary. You will be given sufficient notice of due dates to allow ample time for completion of all assignments. The above information may be modified at the discretion of the Instructor. Unless revised, it will be followed as written. To compliment the information listed, there will be material covered that is not listed above or in your text. You will be given prior information and notice regarding this information.