

# **AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNICATION**

**Summer 2016**

**Instructor: Professor Seay**

**275-10**

**Class Location: Strickler Room 208**

## **Required Reading:**

Thurston, B. How to be Black. Publisher: Harper, Place of Publication: New York, NY, Date of Publication: 2012, Edition: [1<sup>st</sup>].

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

## **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) Recognize that 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**

If you need to reach me regarding a matter that pertains to your unique circumstance you may send me an email and I will respond promptly. You may also call the office at the number provided below and please be sure to leave a message. I will only be available to meet on campus by appointment only for those who are local. I am also available by phone upon request.

Office Location: Strickler Romm 206C West Side

Office Hours: Noon-1:00pm (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday)

E-mail: [dana.seay@louisville.edu](mailto:dana.seay@louisville.edu)

Phone: 502-852-2975(**make sure you leave a message and a number**)

### **Grading:**

Weekly Quizzes	200 pts.
Class Assignments (Includes your syllabus quiz 25 pts.)	135 pts.
Hot Topics (10 pts. each)	30 pts.
Participation	35 pts.
Final Paper Project	100 pts.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>500 Pts.</b>

### **Grading Scale:**

<b><u>Total Pts.</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Total Pts.</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>
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-
		<b>Below 299</b>	<b>F</b>

### **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.

### **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 take your device for 24 hours. If your device is taken on a Thursday, you will not receive the device back until the following Tuesday. On the third offense you will be asked not to return to class. )

### **Attendance Requirements**

**Regular attendance and preparation are expected.** Due to the number of absences that have been accumulating in the class it is necessary to emphasize an attendance policy for the class. 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. If you are absent one day that equates to one week of a regular 15 week semester. Therefore, it is imperative that you attend class regularly and that you are prepared. Two (2) days (excused or unexcused) it will result in your final grade being lowered by two letter grades. The third (3rd) day of absence will result in your final grade being lowered by an additional letter grade. Excuses for an absence must be verified with doctor statement or some type of written documentation. If an emergency does arise, I will need to be notified by **a phone call within 24 hours** of the class period **and by e-mail**. Each student is responsible for communicating with me regarding your absence to receive the opportunity to make up work.

## **Communication**

While we are all adults, it is customary and courtesy to address faculty members by Professor or Doctor at the University. Your instructors have advanced graduate degrees which are to be recognized in the academic setting. Referring to your instructor as 'Ms.', 'Mrs.', or 'Mr.' is incorrect and can be perceived as disrespectful. Please do not make this mistake when communicating with your instructors in person or online. For this course, please address the instructor as Professor Seay. Do NOT send correspondence addressed to Ms. or Mrs. Seay as both salutations are incorrect. All email correspondence must be properly addressed to Prof. Seay and you must sign your name at the end. I will not answer any email sent to me where I am addressed by my first name, as Ms. Seay, as 'Hey.' All email correspondence must have a greeting or salutation.

## **E-mail Accounts:**

Each student has a U of L e-mail account. I will communicate with you using this account. Students wishing to use another (preferred account) will need to contact the Information Technology (IT) help desk (852-7997) for assistance with how to attach your U of L account to your preferred account (ie: If you prefer your Yahoo account, then my e-mails will automatically go to that account). Everyone needs to send me an e-mail by **Wednesday 5/11, 11:00pm** letting me know they are connected to the U of L e-mail system. You are responsible for ensuring this is done, so that you receive information regarding the class. No late work will be accepted due to your failure to access this account.

When communicating with your instructor it is important to use complete sentences along with a greeting, the email content and closing within the email (ie: Professor Seay, The content of your email, Regards, your name). 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.

## **Blackboard:**

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/ac6a8266-81e9-423f-a187-6cf4f7a505b7/index.htm>. The University of Louisville completes regular system maintenance on the Blackboard servers. Therefore, Blackboard @ UofL is unavailable during these times: Thursdays 3:30 AM - 4 AM EST, Fridays 10 PM - 2 AM EST, Sundays 1:30 AM - 5:30 AM EST. Please note that **NO** assignments are due at these times.

If you are having problems with Blackboard or other technologies (including logging into Blackboard, Groupwise email, and/or Ulink), please 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 or [helpdesk@louisville.edu](mailto: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.

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. For the chapter quizzes, 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.

As you know we are using Blackboard for this course and as computer Operating systems go, there can be mishaps. It is your responsibility to let me know in a timely manner, if you are having problems with the System. Those encountering problems, may contact Linda Leake in the Delphi Center at (502) 852-4332, Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm. Her e-mail address is [Linda.Leake@louisville.edu](mailto:Linda.Leake@louisville.edu). If you contact her, you will also want to send me a note letting me know you are experiencing problems.

The University's computer system shuts down on Friday evenings from 10:00pm to 2:00am. During this time you can not access the system, so it is important that any assignments due on Friday be sent by 10:00pm or they will be considered late. These days and times are also noted on the Blackboard page.

### **Assignments**

All assignments may be located under the Assignment tab in Blackboard. Students should check this tab every Monday and when indicated by your instructor. Once you have accessed the folder for the week, click to view the contents and open any attachments. Complete all assignments in WORD, create a folder for the class and save the assignment to your computer. Once you have completed and saved your assignment, go back to the folder, click to the instructions, click on the name of the assignment and scroll down to the "browse computer" button to attach your assignment. Do not type your assignment content into the content box. Assignments submitted in this manner will not be graded. The comment box is provided for those who wish to send me a note regarding their assignment.

All assignments need to include your name, date and the assignment name or title, before saving. You will need to use 12 pt. and Times Roman font, double space with pages numbered. **When assignments are to be submitted into**

**Blackboard the following are required:**

When saving your assignments, be sure to include the name of the assignment along with your name (**ex: Syllabus Quiz Professor Seay**). If assignments are submitted without the above information you will lose points.

**Late or Missed Assignments:**

It is expected that everyone will submit assignments in a timely manner. If there are extenuating circumstances, I will need to know as soon as possible. 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.

You are expected to complete all assignments by the assigned dates. 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.
- 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 online learning. You must provide appropriate documentation.

Please try to notify me as soon as possible if an emergency, technological difficulty or religious holiday(s) will limit your access to an assignment. Please do NOT try to struggle through an assignment-we can work together to arrange an alternative date and time for you to take the quiz.

**Exams/Quizzes/Exercises:** There will be weekly quizzes. Week one you will have three quizzes. Week 2 you will have four quizzes and Week 3 you will have three quizzes. Your instructor will provide you with clear instructions about what to know for your quizzes. There will be **no exams** for this course.

### **Final Project**

Instead of a final exam you will be required to complete a final project. Instructions will be provided well in advance of the due date to give sufficient time for completion.

**Reflections:** If there are any reflection assignments, I will post guidelines for writing your reflection in a folder under the Assignment tab.

### **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, locate on the first floor of Stevenson Hall, 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](http://www.writingcenter.louisville.edu).

*(A portion of the course syllabus content was replicated from Dr. Jessica McCarty's Course Syllabus, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky)*

**Weekly topic overviews and assignment location will be announced each day in class. Be sure to access the Weekly Readings in Blackboard. Important dates to remember are located below.**

**Week 1: May 9-May16**

***Monday:***

**Introduction Readings**

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

**Located under the Weekly Course Readings tab  
Assignment (*Located under the Assignment tab*)**

**Syllabus Quiz will be taken in class on Tuesday 5/10**

***Tuesday:***

**Race and White Privilege**

**Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)**

***Wednesday:***

**African American Culture**

**Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)**

***Thursday:***

**African Americans and Identity**

**Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)**

***Friday:***

**Cultural Competence**

**Reading and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)**

Week 2: May 16-May 23

Monday:

Communication Competence

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Tuesday:

African American Language

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Wednesday:

African American Language

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Thursday:

African Americans and Relationships

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Friday:

African Americans and Relationships/Media

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Week 3: May 23-May 27

Monday:

African Americans and the Media

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Tuesday:

African Americans and Media

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Wednesday:

African American Communication in Practice

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Thursday:

African American Communication in Practice

Readings and Assignment (*In class or Located under the Assignment tab*)

Friday:

African American Communication: Final Thoughts

**FINAL PROJCT PAPER DUE via Blackboard by 11:00pm Sunday 5/29**

***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.***

**BE SURE TO READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY. YOUR SYLLABUS QUIZ IS NOW POSTED UNDER THE “ASSIGNMENT” TAB IN BLACKBOARD. REMEMBER, YOU WILL HAVE UNTIL WEDNESDAY 5/13 BY 11:00 PM, TO COMPLETE THIS QUIZ AND YOUR INTRODUCTION ESSAY.**