Classlin University
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
GNST 315: Introduction to Black Feminist Thought
Syllabus

Instructor Information

Please see the course information page on the course site for instructor name and contact information.

Course Information

Course Description

A survey of historical and contemporary black feminist traditions. Core themes could include the intersections of race and gender with class, sexuality, generation, and place; black feminist thought and its relationship to womanism and other feminisms. This course will utilize a variety of texts to define womanhood, including novels, critical texts, films and personal narratives.

Credit Hours: 3

Required Materials


Articles and Links: All required articles will be posted in Moodle. Links to videos, readings, etc. will be provided in Moodle.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define feminism, Black feminism and Black feminist theory/thought
2. Identify the roles of Black women in the US beyond socially constructed stereotypes
3. Examine the intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality and nationality as categories of analysis or bases of oppression or empowerment
4. Think about and creatively apply feminist theories to various issues in their personal lives
Instructional Methods

- Readings from the texts
- Discussion forums
- Power point presentations
- Videos
- Audio Lectures

Course Assessment

Assessment Overview

Objectives will be achieved and demonstrated through the following course assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th># of Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded Assignments</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading System and Scale

Grades will be posted in the Moodle course site as soon as they are ready for distribution. The final grade is based on the computations listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Number of Assignments</th>
<th>Points Per Assignment</th>
<th>Total Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Course Policies

Grading Scale

90-100 = A  
80-89 = B  
70-79 = C  
60-69 = D  
0-59 = F

Academic Success

Early Alert Statement

The Claflin University Early Alert Program is designed to assist you with your academic success. Should your instructor determine that you need additional help, you will be referred to the Academic Success Center. The Academic Success Center will assist you in successfully completing the course.

Students with Disabilities

Assurance Statement

Claflin University adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities should register with Disability Services and contact their instructor(s) in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Claflin Code of Honor Policy Statement

Claflin University prohibits all forms of academic or scholarly dishonesty, including written or oral examinations, term and research papers or theses, modes of creative expression, and computer-based work.

Scholarly dishonesty includes lying, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the falsification or misrepresentation of experimental data. (See Claflin University Student Handbook: Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.)

All students are required to take the following code of honor pledge:

“In my enrollment at Claflin University, I do hereby solemnly pledge that I will adhere to the Code of Honor. As a Claflin University Student, I do solemnly pledge to uphold the integrity of Claflin University. I will not participate in nor tolerate dishonesty in any academic endeavor.”

Code of Honor Definition of Violations

1. **Academic Dishonesty**: Includes any other act (not specifically covered in previous provisions) that compromises the integrity of a student or intrudes on, violates, or
disturbs the academic environment of the university community. Examples include attempting or agreeing to commit, or assisting or facilitating the commission of, any scholastic dishonesty; failing to appear or testify without good cause when requested by the Council for the Code of Honor; failing to keep information about cases confidential; supplying false information to the Council for the Code of Honor; and accusing a student of a violation of this code in bad faith.

2. **Cheating:** Act that implies the intent to deceive. It includes all actions, electronics or other devices, and deceptions used in the attempt to commit this act. Examples include, but are not limited to, copying answers from another student’s exam and using a cheat sheet or crib notes in an exam.

3. **Collusion:** The act of working together on an academic undertaking for which a student is individually responsible. Examples include, but are not limited to, sharing information in labs that are to be done individually.

4. **Plagiarism:** Representing the words or ideas of someone else as one’s own. Examples include, but are not limited to, failing to properly cite direct quotes, the false utilization of copyrighted material, and the failure to give credit for someone else’s ideas.

### Code of Honor Sanctions

All proven cases of academic dishonesty shall be penalized as appropriate under the circumstances. The imposition of any sanction will include a statement of reasons supporting its severity. Recommendation of sanctions for cases of proven dishonesty will be forwarded by the Council for the Code of Honor to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. All proven cases of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “XF” which shall remain on the student’s transcript for a minimum of two years. After two years, the student may petition the Vice President for Academic Affairs to have the “X” removed; however, the “F” will remain.

Other sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- A defined period of probation or suspension with or without the attachment of conditions.
- The withdrawal of university funding.
- Expulsion from the university.

For more information, see the “Student Regulations” section of the [Academic Catalog](#).

### Netiquette

Although it is not expected to be a problem, students are asked to behave in the discussions and other class interactions in a professional and civil manner. If you are in doubt, do not post it! Instructors reserve the right to remove any posts deemed inappropriate, unprofessional, or otherwise distracting from the course.
**Student Responsibilities**

You are responsible for all material covered in the textbook, in lectures, and any other resources mentioned. You are responsible for checking your Claflin Email address and the Moodle Links for this course on a DAILY basis in order to receive communication, assignments, and readings for this course. You are responsible for obtaining the textbook in the beginning of the semester, as the textbook will be used for tests, some assignments, and as a reference for your projects. All assignments and papers should be typed and should follow the length and format given for each assignment.

A. **Class Participation:** You are expected to actively participate in the discussion forums and ask questions! Feel free to inquire and critically analyze information that is presented to you.

B. **Late Work:** All work is due at the time indicated by the instructor or on Moodle. Any late work will receive a penalty of half a letter grade deduction for each class period that it is late.

**Course Schedule**

- **Weeks 1&2:** [Introduction]
- **Weeks 3&4:** [Black Feminism]
- **Weeks 5&6:** [Black Feminist Ideals and Constructs]
- **Weeks 7&8:** [White and Black Feminism]
- **Weeks 9&10:** [History of Black Women]
- **Weeks 11&12:** [Emotional and Mental Aspects of Black Women]
- **Weeks 13&14:** [Black Feminist Consciousness]
- **Weeks 15&16:** [Intersectionality and Black Women]
Additional Resources

The Writing Center
The Writing Center, located in the Grace Thomas Kennedy Building, room 228, is a free resource for honing writing proficiency. Trained peer consultants from diverse majors are available to assist clients at any stage in the writing process from prewriting to polishing. Please be aware, however, that the Writing Center is not a proofreading or editing service. Peer consultants engage clients in conversation about their writing and share tools and resources to help them become better writers. Thirty minute appointments with a consultant can be made by registering at http://Claflin.mywconline.com. Clients without an appointment will be served as space and time are presented. Planning ahead is the key to success, so visit early and often. If there are questions, contact Ms. Kelly, Writing Center Coordinator, at (803) 535-5422 or cankelly@claflin.edu.