African-American Humanities / HUM 2454

Syllabus/fall 2021

**“Sometimes we are blessed with being able to choose the time, and the arena, and the manner of our revolution, but more usually we must do battle where we are standing.” -Audre Lorde**

**Instructor:** Lisa Lippitt                                           **West campus office:** Bldg. 5-255

**Phone:** 407.582.5289                                             **Email:** through Canvas

**Session: 1-fall 2021**                                                **Time/Place:**    TR: 8:30-9:45/5-253

**Student Contact Hours**

Monday-Wednesday: 9-10:30 a (email online)

Tuesday-Thursday: 1:30-3:00 a (email online)

Friday:         9a-1p (email online)

Please read this syllabus very carefully as it outlines specific policies and guidelines for this course. Reading this entire syllabus with care will help prepare you for this semester and let you know ahead of time what is expected of you.

Canvas access is a MUST. Consistent internet access is a must.

**Please disable your “Pop-up Blocker” for our Canvas homepage.**

**Otherwise, you will miss important class announcements.**

**Course Description and Objectives**

HUM 2454, African-American Humanities, is a three-credit writing reinforcement humanities. However, your assessments this semester will be written in the form of short essays/papers. **To pass this course and receive credit toward graduation, you must earn a grade of “C” or better.  You must have successfully completed ENC 1101 to be enrolled in this course.**

**Communication with Your Instructor**

Email through Canvas please

**Course Requirements and Materials**

The following books\* are required (**not optional**) for this course and must be purchased:

* *March*, Book 1 by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell (graphic novel)
* *The Black Panther Party* by  David F Walker (graphic novel)
* *The Beast Side* by D. Watkins

\*Please do not utilize RedShelf for this course.  The editions listed there are incorrect.

**Reliable, consistent Internet access\***

* **A working knowledge of computers and the Internet**

**Course Outline**

**Course Overview and Approach**

African-American Humanities is primarily a writing and reading-based course. Our approach to material regarding this course will carry a **predominant theme of social justice** and will cover areas including history, cultural climate, current events, art, music, and literature.

**Assignments and Submission**

**This is crucial to passing this course.  Read it carefully and refer to it often.**

**Assignments**

**Paper (essay) assignments are posted on Canvas in the Assignments section on the course homepage.  Assignments are submitted  to Canvas on the day they are due.  By submitting your paper electronically to Canvas, you are automatically sending it through Unicheck.**

**Papers will adhere to MLA style guidelines**. Please format your papers as you were taught in Comp I.

* **U**se a full header (name, date, class, etc) on your first page of **text only. Last name and page number only, beginning with page 2 +**
* 12 point Times or Times New Roman font (**ONLY**)
* Double-spaced body (i.e.: no extra space between paragraphs)
* Begin the text of the entire paper at the left margin, indent paragraphs
* 1 inch margin all the way around the page--No more, no less
* Indent paragraphs
* Use black ink only
* No bullets or bold fonts
* Use italics only as per MLA guidelines
* Proofread and spell and grammar checked (I strongly encourage you to be careful with this)
* DO NOT USE TEXT SPEAK IN PAPERS! They will earn a grade of zero.
* Papers that do not adhere to the assignment guidelines of the paper will earn a grade of zero.

* **DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR PAPERS-These are NOT scholarly sources, and the use of them will earn you a zero on your assignment:
wikipedia**
* **how stuff works.com**
* **thoughtco.com**
* **spinbot**
* **coursehero**
* **synonym replacers**
* **essay generators**

All papers must have titles and titles must be centered on the first page of text and adhere to the above guidelines.  Your paper titles must not be underlined, italicized, nor contain quotation marks.

**All submitted work must be original, and you may not turn in ANY assignment that has already been turned in to a previous or current class.**Doing so results in a grade of zero that cannot be made up.

**All**of your paper assignments are due according to dates set forth on your assignment calendar.

Papers that do not meet the minimum length requirement will be deducted a percentage complementary to the number of pages missing. For example, if the minimum page requirement is 3 pages and a submitted paper is only 2 pages in length, a 30% deduction will be made as the paper is only 2/3 the required length.

**Unicheck**

Unicheck is a plagiarism checker.  By submitting your paper online, you are automatically loading your paper to Unicheck as well. This is not an option in this class.

**Course Participation**

Course participation is counted through class participation, being on time, being attentive, and eschewing electronic devices in class.

**Class Readings, Discussion, and Assignments**

You can expect to read fairly heavily in this class from your textbook, posted links, and posted materials on Canvas.

You are expected to be prepared with your readings and be ready to have a discussion regarding them in class. This means having thoughtful commentary prepared to share with your class and me.  “I liked it” or “I agree” isn’t thoughtful nor does it reflect critical thinking. You are expected to provide analyses reflective of a 2000-level course student. **You can expect reading quizzes on assigned reading material. All deadlines are available in the course Assignment Calendar.**

**Writing Assistance**

You may make use of the writing center located on the west campus. This is not a place for proofreading, but rather writing assistance. Should you decide to do this, let me know and perhaps I can guide you to a professor with experience in this course’s subject matter and assignments.

**Grading**

Your grade will be determined by a point scale.

**Assignment Points**

Papers:   up to 100 points each

Quizzes:  up to 30 points each

Course Participation:  up to 200 points

Valencia uses the following grading scale:

**Grade Percentage**

A 100-90

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

If additional work needs to be assigned, this scale will be changed, and you will be notified.  **THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE.**

**General Class Policies**

**Attendance and Tardiness**

**Class must be attended regularly, and you must be on time.  Sleeping, using electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc) and being impolite (private conversations, leaving class for long periods, etc) are marked as absences from the course and will negatively impact your course participation grade.**  After 3 absences (of any kind), your commitment to this class is called into question, and you may fail.

**The withdrawal (“W” grade) deadline for this semester is 3 November 2021.**

**The deadline for graduation application is 10 September 2021.**

**I DO NOT WITHDRAW STUDENTS FROM CLASS AFTER THE FIRST WEEK, NO-SHOW DEADLINE.**

**Late Work and Work Submission**

**Late work is not accepted. Period.  If you are late to class the day an essay is due, there will be an automatic letter grade deduction for that assignment. I do not reopen quizzes once the deadline has passed.**

**Plagiarism**

***Plagiarism*** is the use of someone else’s words, ideas, pictures, design, and/or intellectual property ***without***the correct documentation and punctuation.

Plagiarism takes many forms: for example, turning in the ***same essay***for ***two different courses***is considered ***self-plagiarism*** and will result in a zero for the paper. You may legitimately wonder how anyone would ever know; this is one of the purposes of a plagiarism scan.

Valencia College subscribes to Unicheck. This Canvas feature allows students to upload their essays so that software can compare these essays to every available electronic resource in the world, looking for parts that match up with previously published sources. All written assignments must be submitted for plagiarism analysis at Unicheck.

***Plagiarism is morally indefensible***. Any assignment showing signs of plagiarism, either the

* deliberate cut-and-paste of online or print sources without proper documentation (in-text AND a Works Cited page)
* the recycling of essays from previous classes
* essays written on behalf of the student by family members or friends (including those purchased online or elsewhere)
* result of inattention and incompetence

**Penalties:**

**The first infraction is a zero for the assignment (that cannot be made up).**

**A second instance is course failure. Period**. You may also need to attend a mandatory meeting with dean to determine further disciplinary action.  This is at my discretion.

This course **requires**paper submission to Unicheck to check for plagiarism in student work. If you are concerned that something you have written may be plagiarized (not properly cited or paraphrased), see me **BEFORE** submitting *either* as a final draft *or* to Unicheck. For more information, consult the West Campus library homepage or an *MLA Handbook* only.

**Cell Phone Statement**

Phone use in class is not permitted (unless otherwise instructed by your professor).  Phones must be put away (out of sight) and silenced.  The first two violations of this policy will result in a warning.  Upon the third violation, the student will be referred to the Dean of Students in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Failure to respect this policy will result in an immediate call to security, who will be asked to remove the student from class for obstructing the learning environment of other students.

**Class Environment and Biased Language\***

You can expect multiple opinions to be expressed during this course and therefore are expected to treat these opinions with respect and attention. You do not have the right to grief me or your peers. I will not tolerate bias in this course (i.e.: language that offends or limits a person or group of persons). Racist, classist, sexist, homophobic, and ageist (to name only a few) language, either spoken or written (in papers and quizzes), will not be tolerated. If you engage in this type of behavior, you will be removed from class.

**\*Disclaimer**

Some of the material presented in this class contains language which is not for the faint of heart.  Please know that course materials are carefully chosen by your instructor for academic purposes.

**House Bill 233:**

As your professor, I’m committed to giving you as many opportunities and resources to support your learning as possible. Therefore, you may find it beneficial to record class lectures to review later. Please keep in mind that you do not have your peers’ permission to record them, and they have a right to privacy; your peers should not be in your recordings. You may not record class discussions, student presentations, labs, group work, and private conversations. These recordings are permitted for your own personal use. Note that while these recordings are useful for review, we want you to attend class for your insights and questions; these recordings are not substitutes for class participation and attendance.  Further, you may not publish or share recordings without my written consent, nor may you provide recordings to classmates as a substitution for class participation and attendance. If necessary, I will handle violations of this section through the College’s Student Code of Conduct.

Should you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me through Atlas email or Canvas message.

**Covid 19 Statement:**

If you test(ed) positive for COVID, please inform me immediately.  I will report to Tanya Mahan, but please know you can report it yourself.

If your class is online, we will have a conversation about how you might be able to complete classwork.

If your class is an onsite class, you need to have a conversation with me to determine the severity of your condition and if you will be able to finish the course work.  **You need to stay home until you are clear to return to campus**.  I will evaluate your needs and will design a timeline for you. Incompletes will be offered ONLY if you are missing one partial assessment and the final exam.

Masks are recommended and expected.  Physical distancing is mandatory.  Please do not move desks, chairs, or tables in classrooms.

**Disability Statement**

“Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (West Campus SSB 102, ext. 1523).”

**Final Note**

This syllabus is the **final word** in this class, **and it is not negotiable or flexible.** Continued attendance in this course constitutes acceptance of all the policies in this syllabus.

Please do not ask me to bend or change rules/guidelines established in this syllabus and/or handouts and assignments.

A final word of unsolicited advice:  Don't complain about the results you're not getting from the work you're not doing.

Be teachable.  You're not always right.