

SOC 4100: AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Fall 2012

Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
New Cabell Hall 324

Instructor Info:

Professor Sabrina Pendergrass
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 p.m.
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Course Description:

Welcome to Soc 4100! This course will survey historical and contemporary debates about the sociology of African American communities. We will discuss African Americans' social status and multiple forms of difference within the community (e.g., class, gender, and sexuality). We will also study institutions within the community, and we will consider social issues that will face African Americans in the future. Class meetings will include a combination of lecture and discussion. They will also include reflections on the relevance of studying African American communities for social policy, the arts, law, medicine, and more.

Collab Website:

<https://collab.itc.virginia.edu/portal/site/398b825a-7ca2-4dcd-bc7d-604de0cb4b21>

Grading Criteria:

Class Attendance and Participation: 30%

This includes attending each class, being prepared, and contributing to the discussions.

Weekly Reading Responses: 20%

Please submit a brief written or video response to the readings on weeks where it is assigned on the course outline. The responses should be posted to the discussion forums of Collab by Wednesday at noon. Written responses should be between 100-200 words. Video responses (using Kaltura) should be 1-2 minutes. You may use the response to share your disagreements or agreements with the authors, to ask questions, to connect ideas across several readings, to link the

readings to recent events in the news, or to respond to another student's response. You may focus on one reading or respond to all of the readings.

Research Paper: 20%

Compare the popular and scholarly discussion surrounding an issue related to the sociology of African American communities. Please select a newspaper or magazine article, radio or TV segment, or major media blog piece about a social issue related to African Americans. After reading, watching, or listening to the popular piece, please identify 8-10 scholarly sources related to the issue. These sources could include course readings. How do the questions, arguments, and claims in the popular piece compare to the arguments and empirical findings in the scholarly sources? The research paper should be 17-20 pages, and it will be due Friday, November 16, 2012 by 5pm. You will receive a more detailed handout to guide you.

Final Exam: 30%

The final exam will include multiple choice and short essay questions. It will examine your comprehension of key definitions, theories, and empirical findings from lectures and course readings. The exam will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in New Cabell Hall 324.

Readings:

All course readings will be available on Collab. They are linked from the online interactive syllabus.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART ONE: OVERVIEW

Why Study the Sociology of African American Communities?

August 28:

- First day of class!

No response assignment this week.

August 30:

- Wilkerson, Isabel. 2010. "Epilogue." Pp. 527-538 in *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. New York: Random House.

- Listen: Duster, Troy. 2008. "The Role of Race and Ethnicity in Biomedical Research." Cleveland, OH: Idea Stream.
(<http://www.ideastream.org/news/feature/15392>) (3:13)
- Skim: White House. 2011. *President's Agenda and the African American Community*. Washington, D.C.: White House.
(http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/af_am_report_final.pdf)

African American Communities – General Overview

September 4:

- Du Bois, W.E.B. [1903] 2007. "Of Our Spiritual Strivings." Pp. 2-7 in *The Souls of Black Folk*, edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Bobo, Lawrence D. 2011. "Somewhere Between Jim Crow and Post-Racialism: Reflections on the Racial Divide in America Today." *Daedalus* 140(2): 11-36. (please focus on pp. 19-29)

Assignment: Response to "African American Communities-General Overview" reading(s) due Wednesday, September 5 by noon

September 6:

- Listen: Hill-Collins, Patricia. 2004. "Black Sexual Politics: Images of Sex and Racism." Washington, DC: NPR's Tavis Smiley Show. (8:15)
- Zuberi, Tukufu. 2008. "Deracializing Social Statistics." Pp. 130-133 in *White Logic, White Methods: Racism and Methodology*, edited by Tukufu Zuberi and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

African American Communities – Historical Overview

September 11:

- Hill-Collins, Patricia. 2000. "Work, Family, and Black Women's Oppression." Pp. 51-75 in *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge.
- Oliver, Melvin and Thomas Shapiro. 2006. "A Sociology of Wealth and Racial Inequality." Pp. 35-54 in *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*. New York: Routledge.

Assignment: Response to "African American Communities-Historical Overview" reading(s) due Wednesday, September 12 by noon

September 13:

- Browse sections on "The Great Migration" and "The Second Great Migration" on the "In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience" website.
- Morris, Aldon. 2009. "Tactical Innovation in the Civil Rights Movement." Pp. 259-264 in *The Social Movement Reader: Cases and Concepts*, edited by Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

PART TWO: BEING AFRICAN AMERICAN - MULTIPLE VANTAGE POINTS

Gender, Sexuality, and African American Community

September 18:

- Hill-Collins, Patricia. 2004. "Get Your Freak On: Sex, Babies, and Images of Black Femininity." Pp. 119-148 in *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism*. New York: Routledge.
- Harvey-Wingfield, Adia. 2007. "The Modern Mammy and the Angry Black Man: African American Professionals' Experiences with Gendered Racism in the Workplace." *Race, Gender, and Class* 14(1-2): 196-212.

Assignment: Response to "Gender, Sexuality, and African American Community" reading(s) due Wednesday, September 19 by noon

September 20:

- Dozier, Raine. 2010. "The Declining Relative Status of Black Women Workers, 1980-2002." *Social Forces* 88(4): 1833-1857. (please only read pp.1833-38 and pp. 1850-54.)
- Moore, Mignon. 2010. "Articulating a Politics of (Multiple) Identities: LGBT Sexuality and Inclusion in Black Community Life." *Du Bois Review* 7(2): 315-334.

Class among African Americans: General

September 25:

- Wilson, William Julius. 1978. "Poor Blacks' Future," excerpt from *The Declining Significance of Race* in *The New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Feb 28.
- Wilson, William Julius. 1987. "Rights Mean Little without the Means to Enjoy Them," excerpt from *The Truly Disadvantaged* in *The Chicago Tribune* November 15, Sec. 3, pp. 1-4.
- Wilson, William Julius. 1996. "Work," excerpt from *When Work Disappears* in *The New York Times Magazine*, August 18, pp. 27.

Assignment: Submit brief note to the Collab discussion forums by Wednesday, September 26 at noon about the popular media piece you have selected for your research paper – 100 to 200 words

September 27:

- Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 2011. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." Pp. 153-164 in *The Inequality Reader: Contemporary and Foundational Readings in Race, Class, and Gender*, edited by David Grusky and Szonja Szelenyi. Boulder: Westview.

- Lamont, Michèle. 2002. "Assessing 'People Above' and 'People Below'." Pp. 97-149 in *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Class among African Americans: The Low-Income

October 2:

- Liebow, Elliot. [1967] 2003. "Men and Jobs." Pp. 19-46 in *Tally's Corner: A Study of Negro Streetcorner Men*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Duneier, Mitchell. 1999. "The Magazine Vendors." Pp. 43-80 in *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- Listen: Newman, Katherine. 1999. "No Shame in My Game." *NPR's Diane Rehm Show*, July 12. (47:48)

Assignment: Response to "Class among African Americans: The Low-Income" reading(s) due Wednesday, October 3 by noon

October 4:

- Anderson, Elijah. 1994. "The Code of the Streets." *The Atlantic*, May.
- Jones, Nikki. 2009. "'Love Make You Fight Crazy': Gendered Violence and Inner-City Girls." Pp. 107-150 in *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner-City Violence*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers.

Class among African Americans: The Middle-Class

October 9: Reading Day

Assignment: Submit list of 8-10 scholarly sources you plan to use for your research paper in class on Thursday, October 11

October 11:

- Frazier, E. Franklin. [1957] 1990. "Society: Status without Substance." Pp. 195-212 in *Black Bourgeoisie*. New York: Free Press.
- Pattillo, Mary. 1999. "Growing Up in Groveland" Pp. 91-116 in *Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril among the Black Middle Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Listen: Lacy, Karyn. 2007. "Which Comes First - Race or Class?" about *Blue-Chip Black* on *The Brian Lehrer Show*, October 1. (24:05)

Colorism, Hair, and the Body

October 16:

- Drake, St. Clair and Horace Cayton. [1945] 1993. "Color of the Skin." Pp. 495-506 in *Black Metropolis: A Study of Negro Life in a Northern City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Thompson, Maxine and Verna M. Keith. 2004. "Copper Brown and Blue Black: Colorism and Self-Evaluation." Pp. 45-64 in *Skin Deep: How Race and Complexion Matter in the 'Color-blind' Era*, edited by Cedric Herring, Verna M. Keith, and Hayward Derrick Horton. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Assignment: Response to ""Colorism, Hair, and the Body" reading(s) due Wednesday, October 17 by noon

October 18:

- Craig, Maxine L. 2002. "Yvonne's Wig: Gender and the Racialized Body." Pp. 109-128 in *Ain't I a Beauty Queen? Black Women, Beauty, and the Politics of Race*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- May, Reuben B. 2008. "Race and Hoops Everyday" Pp. 79-100 in *Living through the Hoop: High School Basketball, Race, and the American Dream*. New York: New York University Press.

PART THREE: AFRICAN AMERICANS, INSTITUTIONS, & CULTURE

African Americans and Family

October 23:

- Skim: Moynihan, Daniel P. 1965. *The Negro Family: The Case for National Action*. Washington, D.C.: Office of Policy Planning and Research for the United States Department of Labor.
- Stack, Carol. 1974. "Swapping." Pp. 32-44 in *All Our Kin: Strategies for Survival in a Black Community*. New York: Basic Books.

Assignment: Submit brief outline of research paper (approx. 1 page) in class on Thursday, October 25.

October 25:

- Burton, Linda, Dawn Obeidallah, and Kevin Allison. 1996. "Ethnographic Insights on Social Context and Adolescent Development among Inner-City African American Teens." Pp. 395-418 in *Ethnography and Human Development: Context and Meaning in Social Inquiry*, edited by Richard Jessor, Anne Colby, and Richard A. Shweder. Chicago: University of Chicago.
- Dickson, Lynda and Kris Marsh. 2008. "The Love Jones Cohort: A New Face of the Black Middle Class?" *Black Women, Gender, and Families*. 2(1): 84-105.

African Americans and Religiosity

October 30:

- Gilkes, Cheryl T. 1998. "Plenty Good Room: Adaptation in a Changing Black Church." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 558(1): 101-121.
- Watch: McRobert, Omar. 2009. Interview about *Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood*. Arts & Humanities at Research @ Chicago, University of Chicago. July 31. (5:55)

Assignment: Response to "African Americans and Religiosity" reading(s) due Wednesday, October 31 by noon

November 1:

- Edwards, Korie. 2008. "Decently and In Order Congregational Worship." Pp. 19-38 in *The Elusive Dream: The Power of Race in Interracial Churches*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Byng, Michelle. 1998. "Mediating Discrimination: Resisting Oppression among African American Muslim Women." *Social Problems* 45(4): 473-487.

Business and Civic Spaces among African Americans

Assignment: Submit first two pages of research paper by Monday, November 5 at noon.

November 6:

- Du Bois, W.E.B. [1899] 1996. "Secret and Beneficial Societies and Cooperative Businesses." Pp. 221-229 in *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Nelson, Alondra. 2011. "African American Responses to Medical Discrimination before 1966." Pp. 23-48 in *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

November 8:

- Hughey, Matthew and Marcia Hernandez. 2012. "Black, Greek, and Read All Over: Newspaper Coverage of African American Fraternities and Sororities, 1980-2009" *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. N/A.
- Harris-Lacewell, Melissa V. 2006. "Truth and Soul: Black Talk in the Barbershop (with Quincy T. Mills)." Pp. 162-203 in *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton.

African Americans, Cultural Consumption, and “Ways of Seeing”

November 13:

- Banks, Patricia. 2010. “Black Cultural Advancement: Racial Identity and Participation in the Arts among the Black Middle Class.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 33(2): 272-289.
- Jeffries, Michael. 2011. “The Meaning of Hip-Hop.” Pp. 23-54 in *Thug Life: Race, Gender, and the Meaning of Hip-Hop*. Chicago: University of Chicago.

November 15:

- Harlow, Roxanne and Lauren Dundes. 2004. “‘United We Stand’: Responses to the September 11 Attacks in Black and White.” *Sociological Perspectives*. 47(4): 439-464.

November 16: Research paper due by 5pm.

PART FOUR: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

African American Communities in the Future – Education

November 20:

- Listen: Ravitch, Diane and Angel Harris. 2011. “What Works to Close the Education Gap” *National Public Radio*. August 22. Selected clips on Collab.
- Tyson, Karolyn. 2011. “On Becoming a Cultural Object: Academic Achievement and Acting White among Black Students.” Pp. 35-78 in *Integration Interrupted: Tracking, Black Students, & Acting White After Brown*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Carter, Prudence. 2007. “‘Black’ Cultural Capital and the Conflicts of Schooling.” Pp. 47-72 in *Keepin’ It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White*. New York: Oxford University Press.

No reading response this week.

November 22: Thanksgiving Break

African American Communities in the Future – Incarceration

November 27:

- Wacquant, Loïc. 2011. “From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the Race Question in the US.” Pp. 387-403 in *Why Punish? How Much? A Reader on Punishment*, edited by Michael Tonry. New York: Oxford.
- Goffman, Alice. 2009. “On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto.” *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 339-357.

Assignment: Response to “Incarceration” or “Health” reading(s) due Wednesday, November 28 by noon

African American Communities in the Future – Health

November 29:

- Williams, David R. and Michelle Sternthal. 2010. “Understanding Race-Ethnic Disparities in Health: Sociological Contributions.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(1): S15-S27.
- Harris-Perry, Melissa V. 2011. “Strength.” Pp. 101-133. *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America.* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

African American Communities in the Future – Residential Segregation

December 4:

- Watch: Charles, Camille Z. 2007. “An Open Letter to Mr. Rogers” Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania. April 25. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNux_O2NdfQ) (3:39)
- Sharkey, Patrick. 2007. “Survival and Death in New Orleans: An Empirical Look at the Human Impact of Katrina.” *The Journal of Black Studies.* 37(4): 482-501.

Assignment: Response to “Residential Segregation” or “The Obama Era and Beyond” reading(s) due Wednesday, December 5 by noon

African American Communities in the Future –The Obama Era and Beyond

December 6:

- Patterson, Orlando. 2009. “A Job Too Big for One Man.” *The New York Times.* November 3. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/04/opinion/04patterson.html>).
- Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2008. “Will Change Happen in Obamerica?” *Contexts.* July 15.
- Porter, Shanette and Gregory S. Parks. 2011. “Michelle Obama: Redefining Images of Black Women.” Pp. 116-132 in *The Obamas and a (Post) Racial America?* edited by Gregory S. Parks and Matthew Hughey. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Young Jr., Alford. 2011. “The Black Masculinities of Barack Obama: Some Implications for African American Men.” *Daedalus* 140(2): 206-214.

December 11: Final Exam 9:00 a.m.-12:00p.m. in New Cabell Hall 324