

**African American Community --SYLLABUS
AFRIAMR (Sociology) 270—3 Week Summer
M-F June 18-July 6 10:45-1:25; Hyer Hall 213**

**Instructor: Ms. C. Holly Denning
Office: 420 Salisbury Hall
Office hours: After class or by appt.
Phone: 262-472-5777
Email: denningc@uww.edu (preferred contact)
Sociology Main Office: 204 Salisbury**

Required readings:

Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities, Robert M. Franklin
(for purchase)

Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America, Nathan McCall (text rental)

Supplemental:

The Black Community: Unity and Diversity, James Blackwell (text rental)

Overview:

This course examines the historical roots and current expressions of prejudice and discrimination against African Americans as individuals and as reflected from psychological to societal patterns. We will identify “invisible” aspects of racial, gender and class privilege. Parallel systems of domination and resistance efforts will also be analyzed. Social movements and other arenas for creating hope amidst crises will be of primary focus. Readings, films, and dialogue are the main forms of learning with theoretical and historical lectures as needed. Reflections on current issues and on our own lives, will expand understanding beyond the academic realm.

Policies and Expectations:

Engaged participation is essential to making this class a success. Reading the assignments before class is necessary to ensure animated, in-depth discussions. Each individual brings a wealth of knowledge and experience—we can all learn together through sharing our respective insights. **No more than two classes may be missed.**—you must notify me in advance, if at all possible.

Since the objective is to apply critical thinking skills, writing is the best measure. Much of the class will examine the interplay and overlapping tensions between “isms;” the best papers and presentations will illuminate some of these complex interconnections. *Ask for writing help early and submit drafts if you want to do your best.*

Confidentiality is vital to the class. I encourage a free exchange of ideas and emotions through dialogue, in doing so, the risk of hurt feelings does increase it is thus paramount to extend respect to fellow students and to the instructor. If you are a student with learning or other disabilities needing extra accommodations please approach me for any help I may provide.

Assignments:

Reflection papers (on 3 films)	30%
Open-book Exam	10%
Presentation (w/ partner)	20%
Final Paper	20%
Participation	20%

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: SLAVERY, SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RACE AND MODERN LEGACIES

READ McCall: Makes Me Wanna Holler, chapters 1-10

Group discussion questions on McCall
Sanday, “Pulling Train” (e-res)

Videos/ excerpts:
Slavery-Making of America
Race: Power of Illusion
Tough Guise
A Place of Rage

Reflection papers due Thursday 6/21

WEEK 2: RECONSTRUCTION/JIM CROW TO CIVIL RIGHTS/BLACK POWER

READ Franklin: Crisis in the Village Introduction and Strategies
Groups choose: chapter 1, 2 or 3
Group discussion questions on Riggs
PowerPoint presentation on Health and Economic Issues

Videos/excerpts— **New Orleans: American Experience**
Black Is...Black Ain't
Selections: **Eyes on the Prize**

Student presentations: Family, Religion and Education

Reflection papers due Thursday 6/28

WEEK 3: INTERNALIZED OPPRESSION AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM/SEXISM/CRIMINAL IN-JUSTICE

READ McCall: Makes Me Wanna Holler, chs. 11-23
Group discussion questions on McCall

excerpts: **The Hurricane**

Wednesday July 4-- NO CLASS

Conclusion: Paradox of Personal Choices and Structural Constraints
Restoring Hope in the Community and in the Global Village

Reflection papers Due Thursday 7/5

Monday July 9, Final papers due in d2l dropbox— no e-mailed papers, please!

A NOTE FROM THE UNIVERSITY:

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events. (For details please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate timetables; the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures” [UWS Chapter 14]; and the “Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures” [WS Chapter 17].