

COMMUNICATION

Email: You are welcome to email me with any questions or concerns. I expect, however, that you be timely and considerate with your emails.

Office Hours: Do not hesitate to come see me if you have any questions regarding the course materials or your written work. If you are unable to attend my scheduled office hours, contact me to set up another time by appointment.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Attendance at all classes is required. Because this class only meets once per week, ***students will be allowed one absence without penalty.*** All other absences will lower your participation grade for the course.

You are expected to attend every class and be fully present in our collective space. Therefore, ***cell phones must be put on silent and remain out of sight. Additionally, all laptops, iPads, tablets, and digital notebooks are prohibited in class,*** unless there is a documented need for students who require specific learning accommodations. Also, you must remember to bring the readings with you to class in order to appropriately reference and engage them during our discussions.

LATE PAPER POLICY

No Late Papers Will Be Accepted Without Penalty. One full letter grade will be deducted for every day that a paper is late (i.e., B+ to C+). If you are having difficulty with an assignment, please come see me during my office hours. **NO THESE WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 6, 2015. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any breach of academic integrity will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary review. I expect all students to familiarize themselves with and adhere to Dickinson College's policies regarding academic misconduct, which can be accessed here: [http://www.dickinson.edu/student-life/resources/dean-of-students/content/Conduct---Community-Standards/#Academic Misconduct](http://www.dickinson.edu/student-life/resources/dean-of-students/content/Conduct---Community-Standards/#Academic_Misconduct)

ACCESSIBILITY & ACCOMODATIONS

Dickinson College makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students requesting accommodations must make their request and provide appropriate documentation to Disability Services in Biddle House. Because classes change every semester, eligible students must obtain a new accommodation letter from Director Marni Jones every semester and review this letter with their professors so the accommodations can be implemented. The Director of Disability Services is available by appointment to answer questions and discuss any implementation issues you may have.

Disability Services proctoring is managed by Susan Frommer, she can be reached at (717)-254-8107 or proctoring@dickinson.edu. Address general inquiries to Stephanie Anderberg at (717)-245-1734 or e-mail disabilityservices@dickinson.edu.

If you prefer to be called by a different name or referred to by a different gender pronoun than the one under which you are officially enrolled, please inform me.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Participation: 20%

On-time completion of the reading assignments, active listening, and adding to discussions by making comments and asking questions are all required of you in this course.

Presentation of Research at Symposium: 10%

All students will present their research at the senior symposium on February 28, 2015.

Writing Assignments: 20%

- i. Introduction (including overview, thesis, research questions and methods) 5 pgs
- ii. Literature Review and Historical Context and Background 8-10 pages
- iii. Original Argument and Analysis I – 8-10pgs
- iv. Original Argument and Analysis II – 8-10pages
- v. Conclusion and Bibliography 4-5pgs

Peer-editing Exercises: 10%

All students are expected to provide meaningful feedback on their classmates' writing assignments. Please bring an extra copy of your writing assignments to class for peer review. More details will be provided in class.

Senior Thesis: 40%

Students will draft, edit, and complete the writing of a senior thesis over the course of the semester. Successful theses will demonstrate the student's knowledge of the methodologies, intellectual foundations, central concepts, and concerns that guide contemporary American Studies scholarship and the writing in American Studies. Final thesis papers will total a minimum of 35 pages.

SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

Monday, February 9: Please let Denise McCauley (mccauley@dickinson.edu) know about dietary restrictions by this date

Wednesday, February 11: Eric Avila Lecture @ 5PM in Althouse 106

Monday, February 16: Titles and images due to Denise McCauley by this date

Wednesday, February 18: Introduction due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, February 25: Mock symposium presentations in class

Saturday, February 28: AMST Senior Symposium from 9am to 5pm in Stern Great Room

Wednesday, March 4: Literature Review & Historical Context due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, March 18: Original Argument and Analysis I due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, April 1: Original Argument and Analysis II section due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, April 15: Conclusion and Bibliography due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, April 28: Draft of ENTIRE THESIS due at the beginning of class

May 2: Honors Theses due by NOON

May 6: Senior Theses due by NOON

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: January 21, 2015 – Introduction to the Class

- Discussion of deadlines and expectations
- Present thesis topic to class
 - How did you come to your research?
 - What are your research questions? How do you attempt to answer these questions in your thesis?
 - What methods does your project utilize?
 - What theories inform your research? How are you using these theories?
 - What kinds of interdisciplinary connections does your project make?
 - Where are you now?

Week Two: January 28, 2015

- Claire Jean Kim, “Exposing Racial Power,” in *Bitter Fruit*.
- Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, “On Queer Diasporas and Puerto Rican Migration Histories,” in *Queer Ricans*.
- Natalia Molina, “Introduction,” in *How Race is Made in America*.
- Nayan Shah, “Introduction: Public Health, Race, and Citizenship,” in *Contagious Divides*.

Week Three: February 4, 2015

- Preface and Chapters 1-4, Eric Avila, *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight*.

Week Four: February 11, 2015

- Eric Avila class visit

Mandatory Attendance
Shaw Lecture: Eric Avila
February 11, 2015 @ 5PM
Althouse 106

Week Five: February 18, 2015

- Introduction due at the beginning of class
- Peer-editing exercise

Week Six: February 25, 2015

- Mock Senior Research Symposium Presentations and Feedback
- General comments on Introduction

**Mandatory Attendance
AMST Senior Symposium
February 28, 2015
9am to 5pm in Stern Great Room**

Week Seven: March 4, 2015

- Literature Review and Historical Context and Background due at the beginning of class
- Peer-editing exercise

Week Eight: NO CLASS, Spring Break

ENJOY!

Week Nine: March 18, 2015

- Original Argument and Analysis I due at the beginning of class
- Peer-review exercise

Week Ten: March 25, 2015

- NO FORMAL CLASS – individual meetings to discuss thesis progress with Professor LeBrón

Week Eleven: April 1, 2015

- Original Argument and Analysis II section due at the beginning of class
- Peer-editing exercise

Week Twelve: April 8, 2015

- NO FORMAL CLASS – individual meetings to discuss Original Argument and Analysis sections with Professor LeBrón

Week Thirteen: April 15, 2015

- Conclusion and Bibliography due at the beginning of class
- Peer-editing exercise

Week Fourteen: April 22, 2015

- NO FORMAL CLASS – individual meetings to discuss conclusion with Professor LeBrón

Week Fifteen: April 28, 2015

- Peer-review exercise: ENTIRE THESIS

**Honors Theses Due, MAY 2nd by noon
Senior Theses Due, MAY 6th by noon**