Fall 2007
AAS 250 (905PH) / ANTH 250 (901SM):
‘Health of Black Folks’
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15
McLeod 2014

Teaching Team:
Professor Wende Marshall, wende@virginia.edu
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"The Health of Black Folks" is an interdisciplinary course that introduces undergraduates to social analyses of race, gender, class and health. Readings range across anthropology, sociology, psychology, epidemiology, history and journalism, and include readings in both the social sciences and the humanities. The course title is meant to evoke W.E. B. Du Bois’ classic 1903 essay “The Souls of Black Folk.” But the course is not only about the bodies and souls of “black folk,” we will also consider the experience of Native Americans and other people of color, and common and divergent experiences of Euro/American colonialism, racism, and class and gender oppression. How does an understanding of “racial” experience in the U.S. framed by blackness and whiteness occlude a comprehensive analysis of oppression as it relates to health? We will be attentive to the limits of the black/white racial paradigm in analysis of health, and consider how such limits might distort our ability to map social inequality and injustice. Topics for discussion include: the myth of the biological basis of race; race, health and the environment; black, brown and poor bodies as research subjects for biomedical science; gender, race and reproductive health; and specific epidemics such as cancer, HIV and diabetes.

Course Requirements:
- Attendance is required in discussion section.
- Reading must be completed before discussion section each week.
- Do not sleep during lecture; if you do and Prof. Marshall catches you, she will wake you up and dismiss you until you have the fortitude to stay alert during lecture.
- For the quizzes and the final you are encouraged to study in groups. However, the quizzes and the final must reflect your own best work, and must be completed without the aid of readings or your classmates. Students who cheat on a test will receive a failing grade for that test.
- There will be 3 quizzes, in multiple choice and short answer format.
• The final exam is on December 14th, 9am to 12 noon and will be in multiple choice and short answer format.
• Doing well requires that you read the assigned material and participate in discussion section.

**Grading:**
Quizzes 35%
Final Exam 35%
Section 30%

**August 28:**
Overview of the Course
What is Social Analysis?
Discussion of Requirements and Expectations
Logistics

**August 30:**

*Extinction Discourse*

**September 4:**

**September 6:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guest Lecturer: Dr. Wendi El-Amin</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine</td>
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<td>UVa Health Systems</td>
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*“Healing Behind Bars: The Health of Incarcerated Women”*


**What is a Health Disparity?**

**September 11-13:**


**Is Race Biological?**

**September 18-20:**


September 25-27:

October 2: Quiz #1
Does Racism Kill?

October 4-9:

Racism and Reproduction

October 11-16:

October 18-23:

Legacy of Mistrust

October 25-30:

November 1: Quiz #2

Mapping Social Inequality on Colored Bodies

November 6-8:
November 13:

November 15:
Special Evening Session
People’s College Forum on Health Disparities in Charlottesville
TIME and PLACE TBA

Reading TBA

November 20

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Cato Laurencin
University Professor and Chair, Orthopaedic Surgery Sports Medicine Division
UVa Health Systems

“Health Disparities in African Americans: Where are we now and what is the roadmap for change?”

November 22 - Thanksgiving No Class

November 27
Surviving and Healing
Video: “Louisiana Fenceline: God Greenpeace and Cancer Alley”
(To be viewed during lecture)


November 29 Anthropology Meetings – No Class

December 4


December 6: Quiz #3

December 14: Final Exam 9:00am- 12:00 noon McLeod 2014