Instructor Information

Instructor: Nicolette Smith  
Office: CHARTS 429  
Mailbox: CHARTS 4th Floor Workroom  
Hours: MW 9:30 – 10:30 and T-Th 11:00 – 12:30  
Phone: Office: 501-812-2261 Cell: 501-553-4091 (text only)  
Email: Nsmith1@uaptc.edu

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days. Please note that if you are unable to see me during office hours we can schedule a time that works better with your schedule.

Chair: Barry McVinney 501-812-2383 bmcvinney@uaptc.edu  
Dean: Christy Oberste 501-812-2869 coberste@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.

Course Information

HUMN 2340 is completely online.

Catalog Description

HUMN 2340. Introduction to African-American Studies (3 credit hours)

An interdisciplinary survey of African-American culture from its beginnings in Africa continuing through contemporary issues in the African-American experience with special focus on leaders and writings of significance.

PREREQUISITE: Students enrolled in HUMN 2340 must meet one of the following requirements:

- Completion of READ 0300 (Foundations of Literacy) with a grade of “C” or better.
- A score of 19 or above on the Reading section of the ACT
- A score of 83 or above on the COMPASS Reading Placement
- A score of 78 or above on the Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Placement Test

Course Materials
Desmond, Matthew, and Mustafa Emirbayer. *Race in America.*


Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism
6. Quantitative Literacy
7. Technology Literacy

For more information, please consult the following website: [https://uaptc.edu/sla](https://uaptc.edu/sla)

Department / Program Learning Outcomes

The Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:

1. Critical and creative thought
2. Effective argumentation with a focus on tone, purpose and audience.
3. Academic Integrity
4. Independent thinking and learning
5. Written communication on a collegiate level
6. Exposure to various cultures and subcultures
7. The influence of culture on individuals and their work
8. Collaborative study and writing

**Student Learning / Course Outcomes**

The student will:

- Develop an appreciation of various points of views dealing with the African American experience.
- Demonstrate understanding concerning race and racism particularly in the United States.
- Develop an understanding of the social construction of race in the United States.
- Demonstrate a familiarity with moral and political philosophy as it relates to African American studies.

**Policies**

**Report a Complaint or Concern**

UA-PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

**UA-PTC Attendance Policy**

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

**Departmental Attendance Policy**

Students who miss more than six days in a MWF class or more than four days in a class may be dropped a letter grade for each subsequent absence.

**Course Policies**

The UA-PTC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times.
Please consult the following website for more information: https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Some guidelines for communication are included in this syllabus to help you.

If you need to discuss a topic unrelated to the class please step outside to do so. Having private conversations with your peers or talking/texting on your cell phone while in the class will not be tolerated.

In this course we will discuss topics that you and others may feel strongly about. It is your job to be mindful of what you say to others and always treat everyone in the class with dignity and respect even if their opinion differs from yours.

**Grading Policy**

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90 to 100%  A
- 80 to 89%  B
- 70 to 79%  C
- 60 to 69%  D
- 0 to 59%  F

Exam topics:

- Midterm Exam: 250 points
- Final Exam: 250 points
- Ad Analysis (Critical Race Theory): 100 points
- Research Project Selection: 100 points
- Research Project: 200 points
- Discussions: 100 points

**Exams:** There will be two essay-type examinations worth 250 possible points each. Study questions for each exam will be distributed approximately one week prior to each examination. Each student must take his or her exam at the appropriate time for the section in which he or she is enrolled.

**Make-up examinations will be given only under extreme circumstances.** The testing procedure for make-up examinations will be modified to account for the additional study and preparation time available to those students who are unable to take an examination at the regularly scheduled time.

**Ad Analysis:** Students will write one review of an advertisement through the eyes of critical race theory. This assignment is worth 100 points. Students will select an advertisement of their choosing and explain their selection. More details and an example of this work will be available under the corresponding week under Course Content. MLA format should be followed and grammatical errors kept to a minimum.
Research Project Selection: Students will select a project for their research. The topic, thesis and sources should be submitted with this assignment. This assignment is worth 100 points.

Research Project: Students will complete a research project on a subject related to African-American Studies. This project will require research and also should be inspired by a subject we have covered in class. This assignment is worth 200 points.

This project will be completed using PowerPoint. More details and an example of this work will be available under the corresponding week under Course Content.

Discussions: Students will participate in discussions weekly on Blackboard. In order to receive credit for participating in discussion students must respond to the question asked by the instructor with a reply that is at least 100 words. Students must also respond to the discussion posts of 1 other student but are encouraged to respond to more. *Please note that while discussions are worth a total of 100 points there are 15 discussions available throughout the semester so students have a chance to make 50 bonus points if they complete all discussions by the date they are due. Students are not able to make-up discussions for any reason. Any discussion post completed after the due date will receive a zero.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalog states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The catalog also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

Under no circumstances will plagiarism be tolerated. Students who plagiarize will receive an “F” in the course.

Plagiarism consists of the following:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who
have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student's responsibility to provide their Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

**Student Code of Conduct**

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog. [http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2](http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2)

**Sexual Misconduct**

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership
Campus Center Building Room 216
501-812-2756
manderson@uaptc.edu

**Course Evaluations**

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

**Information Literacy**

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.

**Tentative Course Schedule**
Week 1 (January 9 - 20) Course Description and Syllabus - Discuss course and expectations. What is Race? – Critical Race Theory PowerPoint - Complete Course Agreement Form (10 points) – Complete Discussion (10 points)


Week 3 (January 28 – February 3) Read pages 16 – 44. Intersectionality, A Biological Reality? and Whiteness. – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 4 (February 4 – 10) Read pages 47 – 75. The Invention of Race, The Invention of Whiteness and Blackness, Africans Enslaved, and Manifest Destiny. – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 5 (February 11 – 17) Read pages 89 – 122. Politics, The Civil Rights Movement, Backlash, Partisanship and Representation, and Voting. – Ad Analysis using Critical Race Theory Due (100 points) – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 6 (February 18 – 24) Read pages 129 – 151. Economics, Economic Racism, Income and Wealth Disparities, and Chasing the American Dream. – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 7 (February 25 – March 3) Review and complete Midterm Exam – No assigned readings this week. Midterm due October 2nd by 11:59PM (250 points)

Week 8 (March 4 - 10) Read pages 203 – 223. Crime and Punishment, Rise of the American Prison, and Fear (of darkness) – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 9 (March 11 - 17) Turn in Review of Ethical Theory (100 points). Read on abortion, pages 85 & 92 – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 10 (March 18 - 24) – SPRING BREAK! – No assignments


Week 12 (April 1 - 7) Read pages 245 – 275. Education, Whiteness in Education, and Educational Inequality. – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 13 (April 8 - 14) Read pages 281 – 300. Aesthetics and Racial Representation in Art – Research Submission due (100 points) – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 15 (April 22 - 28) Read pages 377 – 390. The Self and Identity Formation and the Problem with Identity. – Research Project due (200 points) – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 16 (April 29 – May 5) Read pages 393 – 422 Toward Racial Democracy, What are the Goals? and How Do We Bring About Change – Complete Discussion (10 points)

Week 17 (May 6 - 7) Complete any missing work/exams and review for final exam. No required readings this week!

Final Exam Due by May 7th at 11:59 PM (250 points)

Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.