I. Instructor Information

Name: Nicolette Smith  
Office: Fine Arts & Humanities Office – CHARTS building – 4th floor  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:25 – 9:25  
Tuesday and Thursday 12:15 – 1:15  
Friday 10:00 – 11:00 and as needed by appointment  
Mailbox location: Fine Arts & Humanities Office located in the CHARTS building – 4th floor  
Email: nsmith1@pulaskitech.edu  
Phone: 501-812-2261

II. 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 2330 must meet one of the following requirements:
- Completion of DEVE 0324 (Composition Fundamentals) with a grade of "C" or better  
- A score of 19 or above on the English section of the ACT  
- A score of 75 or above on the COMPASS Writing Placement Test

III. Course Resources

Textbook:

Desmond, Matthew, and Mustafa Emirbayer. Race in America.  
IV. General Education Institutional Learning Outcomes
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:
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sla/mission.asp

V. 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

VI. Course Objectives
The student will:

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

VII. Attendance Policy
Agencies granting financial assistance may be notified of the violation of the attendance policy by students receiving financial aid. Attendance is taken starting the first day of the semester, with the exception of students who enroll after classes have started.

Teachers have the right to count students as absent if they arrive late to class, leave class early, or go in and out of the classroom during class time. Teachers have the right to lower a student’s grade based on excessive absences.

Any student who misses two consecutive weeks of class may be administratively withdrawn from the class. Any student who does not come to class within the first two weeks of class will be
considered a “no show” according to the campus attendance policy and will be reported as such and dropped from the class.

Teachers have the right to enforce PTC’s administrative drop policy for days of consecutive nonattendance. Such particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

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

VIII. Classroom Policies
The PTC Catalogue rules and regulations will be enforced in this class at all times.

Please consult the following website for more information:
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/admission/web_catalog/

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

Treat others with respect. Do not make an exception for yourself. If you need to have a conversation related to something other than the topic at hand, do so outside of class.

IX. Grading

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 to 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Research Project:
Students will complete a research project worth 200 points covering a topic discussed in class. Students will complete a timeline project that details great events in African American history. While this is a historical timeline, we will focus on philosophy, art, events, and literature.

More details of this assignment will be given closer to the due date.

Research Submission: 100 points

Short Review:
Students will write one short analytical reviews worth 100 points each inspired by two different assigned readings in class. These short reviews will require students to read and explain their understanding of an article of their choosing. Students should explain the reading and their views on it. Additional research is NOT required. MLA format should be followed and grammatical errors kept to a minimum. The essays should be 2 to 2.5 pages in length and in 12 point font.

Class Participation: Class participation is based on in class discussion, dialogue and polite debate with other students, proven reading of the text, attendance and respect for one another.

X. Academic Integrity

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

The handbook 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.”

Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances and those that plagiarize their assignments will be dropped from the course.

The complete Academic Integrity Policy can be found in the PTC Student Handbook.

XI. Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Coordinator of Disability Services in Counseling Services (501-812-2220 or www.pulaskitech.edu) prior to the semester of planned enrollment, and must provide recent documentation of medical, educational, and/or psychological records.

Students who need accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Accommodations will only be provided if the instructor receives a letter of approved accommodations from the Coordinator of Disability Services. Failure to provide sufficient notification may result in a delay of services.

XII. 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 PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Dean of Students
Campus Center Building Room 212
501-812-2756
manderson@pulaskitech.edu

Additional information, including the PTC sexual assault policy, procedures, and resources may be found online at http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sexual_misconductAwareness/.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Information Literacy

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.

XV. Course Schedule/Course Content

Course Schedule – Spring 2018

Week 1 (January 16-21) Course Description and Syllabus – Sign syllabus contract and return. Discuss course and expectations. What is Race?


Week 3 (January 29 – February 4) Read pages 16 – 44. Intersectionality, A Biological Reality?, and Whiteness.

Week 4 (February 5-11) Read pages 47 – 75. The Invention of Race, The Invention of Whiteness and Blackness, Africans Enslaved, and Manifest Destiny.
**Week 5** (February 12-16) Read pages 89 – 122. Politics, The Civil Rights Movement, Backlash, Partisanship and Representation, and Voting. – **Short Review Due on February 16th – details in syllabus**


**Week 7** (February 26 – March 4) Review and complete Midterm Exam – No assigned readings this week. **Midterm will be on Thursday March 2nd**

**Week 8** (March 5-11) Read pages 203 – 223. Crime and Punishment, Rise of the American Prison, and Fear (of darkness)


**Week 10** (March 19-25) – SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

**Week 11** (March 26 – April 1) Read pages 245 – 275. Education, Whiteness in Education, and Educational Inequality.

**Week 12** (April 2-8) Read pages 281 – 300. Aesthetics and Racial Representation in Art – **Research Submission due**


**Week 14** (April 16-22) Read pages 377 – 390. The Self and Identity Formation and the Problem with Identity. – **Research Project due**

**Week 15** (April 23-29) Read pages 393 – 422 Toward Racial Democracy, What are the Goals?, and How Do We Bring About Change

**Week 16** (April 30 – May 6) Complete any missing work/exams and review for final exam. No required readings this week!

**Week 17** (May 7 -11) **FINAL EXAMS WEEK! Complete Final Exam – date TBA - ANYTHING COMPLETED PAST THIS DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Disclaimer:** The schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary
XVI. Course Agreement Form

Read, complete, and return to instructor:

I have read the course syllabus for Nicolette Smith’s Introduction to African American Studies at Pulaski Technical College, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior.

Semester ______________

Date ______________

Print name ___________________________________________________

Signature _____________________________________________________

Email address ________________________________________________

(please use your PTC email address)

Telephone ___________________________________________________