Course Description: The course is a historical, conceptual and thematic exploration of the forces that have shaped the transformation of African-Diasporic identities and communities in the Americas and parts of Western Europe from Emancipation to today. Students will read scholarly articles and books that cover a range of concepts and debates that interrogate the notion of African-Diasporic identity. Students will also view documentaries and movies that deal with issues relevant to understanding how African Diasporic identity formed from the end of slavery to today. Finally, students will listen to a selection of recent musical performances by African-Diasporic artists such as rap performers to gain insights into what they reveal about the present state of African-Diasporic identity. By engaging in class discussions and debates and writing critical evaluations of the readings, documentaries, movies, and lyrics, students will gain a deeper appreciation of how and why African-Diasporic identities emerged and diverged during the period. The comparative approach that the course adopts also exposes students to common issues that descendants of enslaved Africans in various parts of the Americas and Western Europe have confronted in their attempts to construct American and European identities. Students will leave the course with a deeper appreciation of the commonalities and divergences between various African-Diasporic populations in the Americas and Western Europe today.

Required Books and Other Readings:

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin: White Masks* (Grove Press, revised ed. 2008).
Additional Readings are available on Blackboard Learn (BL)
Required books can be purchased at the bookstore. One copy of each of the required book is also available at Mugar Reserve. To obtain a list of the materials on reserve go to http://library.bu.edu and click on Reserve Services, selecting either my name or the course number. The additional required readings are available at Blackboard Learn (http://www.bu.edu/tech/teaching/lms/blackboard/). BL.

Attendance: Prompt and regular attendance is required. No late assignments will be accepted without supportive evidence of illness or personal hardship, otherwise a grade of “zero” will be given for each graded assignment missed.

Course Requirements

Grading: Essays on 3 of the Weekly Readings 30%
Oral Presentation 15%
Class Participation/Attendance 15%
Research Paper 40% (Due May 2)

Essays: Three essays (3-4 pages-not including footnotes-Font size Times New Roman 12). The essays should be based on the readings from three different weeks. The essays will be graded for critical evaluation of the main themes covered as well as for organization and coherence. Essays must be submitted at the end of the following class meetings: Week 4, Week 8, Week 12. Each essay counts for 10% of the course grade. 30% of final grade.

Oral Presentation: Each student will be required to make one formal 20 minute presentation on the readings for one week as well as other readings that the presenter has consulted. Students should not select for their presentation any of the weeks that they have chosen for their critical essays. Students must select the week for their oral presentation during the first class session. 15%

Class Participation: All students are expected to attend each class and participants in all class discussions. Students writing critical essays on readings for a particular week will take the lead in class discussions for the week that they have selected for the critical reading. 15% of final grade.

Final Paper: The paper can be on any of the themes arising from the weekly readings and discussions. Each student must consult with the instructor before deciding on a topic and undertaking research for the paper. Students should hand in a one page description of their topic (proposal) on Thursday March 2 during class. These will be returned with comments at the beginning of the next class. Supporting material for final paper should be selected from the core weekly readings as well as from outside readings. Final papers from students who have not handed in a proposal will not be accepted. The final paper should be between 3,500 words -4,000 words. Font Size-Times New Roman 12. Final Papers are due May 4. 40% of the final grade.

Academic Integrity Policy: Each student is expected to author his/her own work. Students should familiarize themselves with the CAS Conduct Code.
http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code
Weekly Class Meetings

Part One: In Search of Definitions and Concepts of African Diaspora Identities in the Atlantic World

Week 1 1/23: Definitions and Approaches
Readings:
Kristin Mann, “Shifting Paradigms” BL OR
Kim Butler, “Defining Diaspora: Redefining a Discourse.” BL
Lecture, Discussion

Week 2 1/30: Towards a Theory of Identity and the African Diaspora: Methods, Debates
Readings:
Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora.” BL
Brubaker, “The ‘Diaspora’ Diaspora” BL
Christine Chivallon, “Beyond Gilroy’s Black Atlantic.” BL
Lecture, Presentation, Discussion

Part Two: Historicizing African-Diasporic Identities: 1830s-1920’s

Week 3 2/6 North America and the English-Speaking Caribbean
Readings:
DuBois, The Souls of Black Folk (Begin to Chapter V11)
Hawthorne, Self-Writing, Post-Emancipation Identity…Mary Seacole BL
Bailey, “Race Patriotism” BL
Lecture, Presentation, Discussion

Week 4 2/13 Brazil and Cuba
Reading:
Kim Butler, “Africa in the Re-invention of Nineteenth Century” BL
Góis Dantas, Candomblé…Afro-Brazilian Identity (Begin to end of Chpt 2).
Helg, “Race and Black Mobilization”. BL
Giovennetti, “Identity…Race, Religion and Empire…Cuba.” BL
Lecture, Presentation, Discussion

Week 5 2/20 Haiti, Dominican Republic
Reading: Michael Largey, “Haitian Cultural Identity.” BL
Torres-Saillant, “The Tribulations of Blackness.” BL
Zacair, “Haiti on His Mind” BL
Lecture, Presentation, Discussion

Part Three: Identity, Race, Politics and Culture
**Week 6  2/27** Competing Ideologies and Conflicting Loyalties: Race and New Identities in the Making I

Readings:  
James, “A race outcast from an outcast class: Claude McKay’s Britain” **BL**  
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin/White Mask* (Begin to Chapter 4)  
DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk* (continue to end)

**Lecture, Presentation, Discussion**

**Week 7  3/6** Competing Ideologies and Conflicting Loyalties: Race and New Identities in the Making II

Readings:  
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin/White Mask*; (continue to end)  
Murdock,” Creolizing the Metropole.” **BL**  
Cohen, “Cultural Diaspora: The Caribbean Case.” **BL**

Video, West Indians in Britain and the War Effort- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViGwxJloI70&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViGwxJloI70&feature=player_embedded)

**Lecture, Presentation, Discussion**

**Week 8  3/20**: Competing Ideologies and Conflicting Loyalties: Race and New Identities in the Making III

Reading:  
Góis Dantas, *Candomble...Afro-Brazilian Identity* (Chpts. 3 to end)  
Ford Smith, “Una Marson, Black Nationalist and Feminist Writer” **BL**  
Hutchinson, “Nella Larsen and the Veil of Race” **BL**

**Lecture, Presentation, Discussion**

**Part Four: The Individual and the Making of African-Diasporic Identity**

**Week 9  3/27**: Biography I

Reading:  
Washington-Williams, *Dear Senator* (Begin to middle)  
Dudziak, “Josephine Baker, Racial Protest.” **BL**

Maria de los Reyes Castillo Bueno, *Reyita* (Begin to chapter 2).

**Lecture, Presentation, Discussion**

**Week 10  4/3** Biography, II

Reading:  
Maria de los Reyes Castillo Bueno, *Reyita* (Continue to End)  
Snaith, “Una Marson: Little Brown Girl.” **BL**  
Benedita da Silva, *An Afro-Brazilian Woman’s Story* (excerpts) **BL**

**Lecture, Presentation, Discussion**

**Week 11  4/10** African Diasporic Identity: Biography III

Reading:
Part Five: Creating (Re-creating) African Diasporic Identities: Cinema and other Media

Week 12 4/17:
- Reading: Guerrero, “The Black Man on Our Screens.” BL
- Telles, “Racial Ambiguity…Brazilian Population.” BL
- Carrington, “Improbable Grounds: Black Intellectuals.” BL
- Viewing of one of the following videos: Bamboozled; Black Orpheus; The Harder They Come (Available at Mugar Film Library)

Lecture, Presentation, Discussion of Readings and Videos

Week 13 4/24: African Diasporic Identities: Music and Art
- Reading:
  - George Lipsitz, “Diasporic Noise, History, Hip Hop…Politics of Sound.”
  - Fernandes, “Fear of a Black Nation…Local Rappers:...Contemporary Cuba” BL
  - Philip Galinsky, “Co-option, Cultural Resistance and Afro-Brazilian Identity.” BL

Lecture, Discussion of Readings, viewing of video clips.

Week 14 5/1 African Diaspora in Contemporary America
- Brown, “Black Liverpool, Black America…” BL
- Johnson, “What Then Is the African American…” BL

Lecture and Discussion of Readings