PSCY 3170
Psychology of the African American Experience
Fall 2013
Mondays and Wednesdays
Dr. Eric M. Bridges
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12pm to 3pm and Tuesdays, 11:30am to 1:30pm and by appointment
Office Location—NBS 105
Email: ericbridges@mail.clayton.edu
Telephone: 678-466-4726
Texts:

1. The African origin of civilization; Myth or reality by Cheik Anta Diop.
2. The New Jim Crow; Mass incarceration in the age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
3. We will shoot back: Armed resistance in the Mississippi Freedom Movement by Akinyele Omowale Umoja
4. The autobiography of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass
5. The African Unconscious: Roots of ancient mysticism and modern psychology by Edward Bruce Bynum

Statement for students with disabilities: Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, 678-466-5446, disabilityservices@clayton.edu.

Required Prerequisite Course
Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1101)

Credit Hours
3 semester credit hours (3-0-3)

Computer Requirement:
Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to http://itpchoice.clayton.edu/policy.htm.

Computer Skill Requirements
Able to use Microsoft Word
Able to use Microsoft Outlook
To retrieve and receive Clayton State e-mail
Able to retrieve attachments via Microsoft Outlook

In Class Use of Personal Computers
Personal laptop usage is not required for this course. Since this course is discussion based, there is no need for you to bring your personal laptop.
Student Learning Outcomes:

General Education Outcomes:
- Communication
- Critical Thinking

Psychology Program Outcomes:
- Understand and apply the major concepts, findings, and theoretical perspectives of psychology;
- Communicate effectively and professionally both orally and writing

Course Description
African Psychology is defined as a system of knowledge (philosophy, definitions, concepts, models, procedures, and practice) concerning the nature of the social universe from the perspectives of African cosmology. (Belgrave and Allison, 2006). As instructor, I see myself as a teacher/student, which means that while I am the expert on this topic I consider myself a student in this area and may actually learn from you. As a student in this class, you are responsible for all assigned readings which must be read prior to our class meeting. This class is discussion based and your contribution to class discussions is based upon your having read the assigned materials.

Assignments

Paper 1 - 20%
Paper 2 - 20%
Weekly Reading Quizzes - 20%
Weekly Reflections/Journal - 10%
Attendance - 10%
Participation/Discussion - 20%

Grading Scale
100-90%=A
89%-80%=B
79%-70%=C
69%-60%=D
Below 60%=F

Assignments

Papers assigned will cover the topics discussed in class. The papers will be typed, double spaced and APA format. I will give you a rubric which will outline the details for grading the paper. Your papers should be a minimum of ten pages, not including references, abstract or cover. Late papers will not be accepted.

Weekly Reading Quizzes---- Once a week you will be given a 10 question quiz to evaluate over the assigned readings to make sure you are completing the reading,

Weekly Reflections/Journal----Once a week you will write a one page reflection of the readings for the week. There is an expectation that you read the materials and be able to critically evaluate the readings regarding their relevance to African mental health. Purchase a diary or notebook and write your reflections in it. Your journals will be taken up at the end of the semester.

Class Discussions---You as students bring a wealth of experiences and knowledge to the class. Along with the assigned readings and any supplemental reading you do (I will provide a brief list of texts you may be
interested in), you will have a lot to add to the class discussions. While some of you make label yourselves as introverts (LOL), you most certainly will read something that you have perspectives or views on. If I notice that someone is a little shy, I will periodically call on students because all perspectives are needed to make the learning experience more enriching. Also, when making a comment, refer to the books for substantiation because this makes your case stronger. Lastly, all cell phones should be turned off during class---think of this as church and you don’t want to disrespect the sanctity of the learning experience.

**Participation**

This part of your grade will be composed of your contribution to class discussions and any in-class assignments which include written assignments and contributions to the various readings posted on the class Facebook page.

**Course Policies**

Students must abide by the policies in the Clayton State University Student Handbook and the Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities.

Student Handbook Link: [http://adminservices@clayton.edu/studentaffairs/StudentsHandbook/foreword.htm](http://adminservices@clayton.edu/studentaffairs/StudentsHandbook/foreword.htm)

Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities Link: [http://adminservices.clayton.edu/registrar/BasicUndergraduateStudentResponsibilities.doc](http://adminservices.clayton.edu/registrar/BasicUndergraduateStudentResponsibilities.doc)

**Attendance:** Attendance is an important component of this course. Since the course is discussion based, it is important that you attend all classes. Research demonstrates that students who are actively engaged in their course work do better academically. A student with 3 or more unexcused absences final average will be dropped one letter grade. If your employer creates a situation where you will only attend one class per week, you should drop this course and take it when your schedule permits you to attend on a regular basis.

**Academic Honesty** - All students are expected to adhere to the standards for academy integrity as described in the Clayton State University Student Handbook. Any violations will result in automatic failure of the course.

[http://adminservices.clayton.edu/judicial/](http://adminservices.clayton.edu/judicial/)

**Reading Schedule**

Week 1---- The African Unconscious—Introduction to page 76; The New Jim Crow (Chapters 1 and 2)

Week 2------ Bynum, pp.77-154; Alexander
Week 3------Bynum, pp.154-210; Alexander
Week 4------Bynum, pp. 211-323; Alexander; First Paper due
Week 5------Diop; Umoja (will tell you which chapters to read)
Week 6 ------Diop; Umoja
Week 7-------Diop, Umoja
Week 8--------Umoja; Diop
Week 9--------Umoja and Douglass
Week 10------Umoja; Third paper due, Journals due