**AAST 4350 -001** Social Issues in Black Communities

Spring 2017

**Instructor(s):** Dr. Pamela Hill

**Office Number:** NA

**Office Telephone Number: 817 272-9642/ Cell – 214 205-8804**

**Email Address: pamelahill@uta.edu**

**Faculty Profile:** http://www.uta.edu/profiles/pamela%20-hill

**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Section Information: AAST 4350 Sec 001**

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** PKH 302 11:00 am – 12:20 pm – Tuesdays. Thursdays

**Description of Course Content:**

This course will provide an historical and contemporary overview of current social issues associated with Black Communities in general, covering such areas as systemic racism, education, voting rights, health, economics, mass incarceration ,crime, police brutality, family, etc. Course format includes discussions, reading assignments, class assignments, films and community guest speakers.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Identify key issues and challenges that affect Black communities locally and globally
2. Analyze how historically issues still affect Black Communities today and create progressive solutions to address these issues
3. Use existing skills and knowledge to examine real life situations in Black communities, while developing new skills and knowledge in order to leave a positive impact for improving and expanding the life of the people
4. Understand how individuals and groups go about creating change

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Selected articles will be provided by instructor

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations**

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

**1. COMMUNITY SOCIAL ISSUES INTERVIEW**- **25 points**. Students are required to interview three individuals of their choice regarding their perception of a social issue which affects the black community. The professor will provide the questions for the interview. Students will give individual presentations to the class on community interviews… you can be creative and do video or a power point for this assignment.

**2.** **REFLECTION PAPERS.** **25 points** Students will write a 2-3 page reflection paper on 5 assigned readings or video..worth 5 points each for a total of 25 points. **READINGS WILL BE POSTED ON DISCUSSION BOARD IN BLACKBOARD.. PLEASE CREATE A THREAD UNDER THE APPROPIATE HEADING TO POST YOUR REFLECTION**

\*Components of Reflection Assignments: Must be at least 4 paragraphs.(it CAN be longer) .3-7 sentences in each paragraph. Please be sure to follow outlined components below.

1st paragraph.. what was the reading/video ABOUT?

2nd paragraph.. overall, how did the information you read make you FEEL or THINK?

3rd paragraph. . , what was your perspective about this issues BEFORE reading this article/viewing this film…and did it change afterwards…? If so..in what way?

4th paragraph..Was the information provided IMPORTANT TODAY? If so….in what way? If not…why not?

**3. GROUP SOCIAL ISSUES PRESENTATIONS**- **25 points.** This group project will involve being assigned to review and research a specific social issue and the impact on Black communities. Students will be placed in groups and collaborate on this assignment. **Each group will give a presentation**, which will include a historical overview of the issue, its impact today and suggest solutions. The professor will assign each group an issue to research.

**5.FINAL EXAM** , **25 points**– Students do a final project at the end of the semester to count as their final exam. Professor will provide details.

Grading Scale

1. Community Social Issues Interview 25 points

2. Reflection paper from assigned readings/video 25 points ( 5 readings, 5 pts each)

3. Group Social Issue Presentation 25 points

4 Final Project 25 points

TOTAL 100 POINTS

Grading Scale 90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 60 – 69 = D 0 – 59 = F

**COURSE SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2017**

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

*–Dr Pamela “Safisha” Hill*

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| **Week 1** | Tuesday- Jan 17 | *Thursday Jan 19* |
| **Introduction –Course Overview**  **Black Studies as a discipline**  **Review of Syllabus**  **Lecture/Discussion** | **Lecture and Discussion**  **The Roots of Systemic Racism**  ***Community Interview Assigned*** |
| **Week 2** | *Tuesday Jan 24* | *Thursday, Jan 26* |
| ***Lecture and Discussion***  **Reading Assignment 1** | ***Lecture and Discussion***  ***Mass Incarceration*** |
| **Week 3** | *Tuesday Jan 31* | *Thursday, Feb 2* |
| **Community Interview Presentations**  **Reading Assignment 2** | **Lecture and Discussion**  **Police Brutality** |
| **Week 4** | *Tuesday Feb 7* | *Thursday, Feb 9* |
| **Community Interview Presentations**  **Reading Assignment 3** | **Lecture and Discussion**  ***Voting Rights*** |
| **Week 5** | *Tuesday Feb 14* | *Thursday, Feb 16* |
| **Community Interview Presentations**  **Reading Assignment 4** | **Lecture and Discussion**  **Education**  **Group Research Presentation Assigned** |
| **Week 6** | *Tuesday Feb 21* | *Thursday, Feb 23* |
| **Community Interview Presentations**  **Reading Assignment 5** | **Lecture and Discussion**  **Economics and Wealth** |
| **Week 7** | *Tuesday Feb 28* | *Thursday, March 2* |
| **Community Interview Presentations** | **Lecture and Discussion**  **Crime, Violence and Poverty** |
| **Week 8** | *Tuesday March 7* | *Thursday, March 9* |
| **Community Interview Presentations** |  |
| **Week 9** | *Tuesday March 14* | *Thursday, March 15* |
| **SPRING BREAK** | **SPRING BREAK** |
| **Week 10** | *Tuesday March 21* | *Thursday, March 23* |
|  |  |
| **Week 11** | *Tuesday March 28* | *Thursday, March 30* |
| **Group Research Presentatiom** | **Group Research Presentation** |
| **Week 12** | *Tuesday April 4* | *Thursday, April 6* |
| **Group Research Presentation** | **Group Research Presentation** |
| **Week 13** | *Tuesday April 11* | *Thursday, April 13* |
| **Group Research Presentation** | **Group Research Presentation** |
| **Week 14** | *Tuesday April 18* | *Thursday, April 20* |
| **Group Research Presentation** | **Group Research Presentation** |
| **Week 15** | *Tuesday April 25* | *Thursday, April 27* |
| **Course Wrap up** | **Review for Final** |
| **Week 16** | *Tuesday May 2* | *Thursday, May 4* |
| **Review for Final** | **Last Day of Class** |

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will take regular attendance, as it is important for students to attend ALL classes in order to stay updated on new and relevant information provided through this course. I expect students who miss class due to illness, family, or work related issues, to inform me of dates you will be out. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Grade Grievances:** Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. [<http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>; <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#graduatetext>. <http://www.uta.edu/deanofstudents/student-complaints/index.php>.

**Drop Policy: LAST DAY TO DROP – MARCH 31** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated.*For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](file:///C:\Users\home\Documents\jmhood@uta.edu).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** for semester-long courses**,** a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/learning-center/tutoring/index.php), [major-based learning centers](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/college-based-clinics-labs.php), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/advising.php), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/mcnair/index.php). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**The IDEAS Center (**2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email [IDEAS@uta.edu](mailto:IDEAS@uta.edu) or call (817) 272-6593.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**: [Optional.] The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at http://uta.mywconline.com. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381