**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**

**Humanities Division**

**CIN 103 – History of African-American Film**

**Course Outline**

**Course Number & Name:** CIN 103 History of African-American Film

**Credit Hours:**  3.0 **Contact Hours:**  3.0 **Lecture:** 3.0 **Lab:**  N/A **Other:**  N/A

**Prerequisites**:  Grades of “C” or better in ENG 096 and RDG 096 or placement

**Co-requisites:** None **Concurrent Courses:** None

**Course Outline Revision Date:**  Fall 2010

**Course Description**: This is an introductory course designed to acquaint students with the history of African-American film, from early film pioneers to new directions in African-American filmmaking.  Much of the course content is analyses of theories, film facts, and people.

**General Education Goals**: CIN 103 is affirmed in the following General Education Foundation Category: **Global and Cultural Awareness of Diversity.** The corresponding General Education Goal is as follows: Students will understand the importance of global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. explain the historical development of African-American film;
2. analyze the work of key African-American filmmakers and artists;
3. assess key films and their relation to historical events and movements in African-American, U.S. and global culture and politics; and
4. acquire, evaluate and cite print and online information sources regarding African-American film.

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)**: Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Explain the historical development of African-American film:

1.1 *recognize and discuss major developments and/or movements in African-American film including but not limited to: race films, Blaxploitation, LGBT Black cinema, the UCLA school, feminist Black film, etc.*

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)** (continued):

2. Analyze the work of key African-American filmmakers and artists:

2.1 *identify and discuss key African-American filmmakers, such as Oscar Micheaux, Spike Lee, Julie Dash, St. Clair Bourne, etc. and their major works*;

2.2 *critique African-American films in relation to theme, structure, aesthetics and historical significance*; and

2.3 *communicate in writing and oral presentations one’s analysis*

3. Assess key films and their relation to historical events and movements in African-American, U.S. and global culture and politics:

3.1 *discuss key films and/or bodies of work within African-American film and their relation to the social and political milieu in which they were created;* and

3.2 *compare African-American films to films from other genres, time periods or countries and identify influences*

4. Acquire, evaluate and cite print and online information sources regarding African-American film:

4.1 *utilize established research methodologies and sources to aggregate information for at least one 5 – 7 page research paper and one group oral presentation*;

4.2 *write in MLA style and cite source material in MLA format to effectively communicate research*;

4.3 *utilize paraphrasing as well as quoting directly from sources;*

4.4 *distinguish between acceptable and questionable research sources, particularly in relation to Internet-based sources*; and

4.5 *recognize and adhere to ECC and general academic plagiarism and ethics policies*

**Methods of Instruction**: Instruction will consist of a combination of lecture, demonstration, use of visual aids (DVDs, etc.), and hands-on work.

**Outcomes Assessment:** Rubrics are used to score the oral presentations, essays and written responses for the presence of measurable objectives. Data is collected and analyzed to determine the level of student performance on these assessment instruments in regards to meeting course objectives. The results of this data analysis are used to guide necessary pedagogical and/or curricular revisions.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Complete assigned readings and view all required screenings.

2. Participate actively in class discussions and activities.

3.    Complete all written assignments, essays and oral presentations on time.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

**% of**

**Grading Components final course grade**

* **Class participation 10 – 25%**

Class participation includes attendance, completing class assignments, and involvement in class discussion. Assignments and discussion will provide evidence of student mastery of course objectives.

* **Written Responses**    **20 – 30%**

Written critical responses to various screenings are to be submitted to the instructor or posted to the course blog. These responses will provide evidence of achievement of some course objectives.

* **Critical Essay/Paper**  **25 – 40%**

Students will write at least one 5 – 7 page, MLA-format research paper conducting an extensive film analysis with a central organizing thesis related to course objectives.

* **Group PowerPoint Oral Presentation**  **25 – 40%**

Students will work in groups to research, write and present an original presentation on a significant theme, body of work or film artist that is related to course objectives.

Note: The instructor will provide specific weights, which lie in the above-given ranges, for each of the grading components at the beginning of the semester.

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College.  Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

* plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
* cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
* interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
* fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions.  Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Course Content Outline:** There is no textbook for this course. Readings are assigned by the instructor from a variety of scholarly sources.

**Week Chapter/Topic**

1. Course introduction | Black representation in film
2. Spike Lee | Screening | Assigned reading | **Blog posting 1**
3. Oscar Micheaux: Birth of Black Cinema | Assigned reading
4. Race films | Screening | Assigned reading | **Blog posting 2**
5. Blaxploitation Films | Screening | Assigned reading
6. Third Cinema/World Connections | Assigned reading | **Blog posting 3**
7. **Group presentations**
8. Feminism on film | Julie Dash | Assigned reading
9. Sisters in Cinema | Screening | **Blog posting 4**
10. Open topic | Screening | Assigned reading
11. Alternative Black film and Identity | Paper outline due
12. Alternative Black film and Identity | Paper draft due

13 Identity (continued) | Screening

14 Open topic | Screening | **Revised paper due**

15 Wrap up