

Film 187-01: Advanced Topics in Television Studies -- Race on TV
University of California Santa Cruz
Winter 2002

Instructor: Dr. Gloria Monti

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Office hours: T & Th 4:00-5:00 (Porter D-127)

Class meetings: T & Th 2:00-3:45 (242 College VIII)

Prerequisites: Film 20B

Requirements: Attendance at seminars and screenings, Midterm exam, Midterm paper (5 pages)
Final paper (10-12 pages), Final exam

Required Readings (available at Bay Tree Bookstore)

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001.

*Reading packet

Grading: Midterm exam: 20%, Midterm paper: 15%, Final paper: 25%, Final exam: 25%
Class participation: 15%

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory. You must be in class and you must be on time. If there is an assignment due on the day that you are unable to attend class, you are still responsible for turning in the assignment on that day, unless we have made specific arrangements. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off before class begins.

DEADLINES: All assignments are due on the assigned date, so plan your work in advance. Late work will be lowered 1/3 of a grade for every business day late.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Your class participation grade will be calculated as follows: 1 point for each correct answer you provide. To ensure that all students may participate, only 1 point will be assigned to a single student per class meeting, regardless of the number of correct answers provided.

Here's some math for you. If you have no absences and never answer my questions over the course of the quarter, you will receive a participation grade of C. If you have no absences and answer 1 question, you will receive a grade of C+. If you have no absences and answer 2 questions, you will receive a grade of B-, etc. If you have 1 unexcused absence and never answer my questions, you will receive a grade of C-. If you have 2 unexcused absences and never answer my questions, you will receive a grade of D+. If you have 3 unexcused absences and never answer my questions, you will receive a grade of D, etc. If you have 1 unexcused absence and answer 1 question, you will receive a grade of C. If you have 2 unexcused absences and answer 2 questions, you will receive a grade of C+. If you have 3 unexcused absences and answer 3 questions, you will receive a grade of B-, etc.

Week One: Introduction

Th 1/3

Screening

Color Adjustment (1991), Marlon Riggs

Week Two: Comedy

T 1/8

Screening

The Beulah Show (1950-1953), ABC

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 9-26.

Th 1/10

Screening

Amos 'n' Andy (1951-1953), CBS

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 26-41.

Ely, Melvin Patrick. *The Adventures of Amos 'n' Andy: a Social History of an American Phenomenon*. New York: Macmillan, 1991. 194-244.

Week Three: Documentary

T 1/15

Screening

“Awakenings (1954-1956)” *Eyes on the Prize* (1987), PBS

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 42-74.

Harding, Vincent. *Hope and History: Why We Must Share the History of the Movement*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1990. 190-200.

Th 1/17

Screening

“Fighting Back (1957-1962)” *Eyes on the Prize* (1987), PBS

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 74-91.

Hadley, Elizabeth. "Eyes on the Prize: Reclaiming Black Images, Culture, History." *Struggles for Representation: African American Documentary Film and Video*. Eds. Phyllis Klotman and Janet Cutler. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1999. 99-121.

Week Four: Drama

T 1/22

Screening

I Spy (1965-1968), NBC

"My Mother, the Spy" (3/30/1966)

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 92-125.

Th 1/24

Screening

The Mod Squad (1968-1973)

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 125-165.

**Week Five: The Variety Show
& Sketch Comedy**

T 1/29

Screening

The Flip Wilson Show (1970-1974)

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 172-183.

Th 1/31

Screening

In Living Color (1990-1994), Fox

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 376-383.

Gray, Herman. *Watching Race: Television and the Struggle for "Blackness."* Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1995. 130-146.

Week Six: Miniseries

T 2/5: midterm exam

Screening

Roots (1977), NBC

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 239-250.

Th 2/7

Screening

Roots (1977), NBC

Reading Assignments

Tucker, Lauren and Hemant Shah. "Race and the Transformation of Culture: The Making of the Television Miniseries *Roots*." *Critical Studies in Mass Communication* 9.4 (1992): 325-336.

Week Seven: The Sit-Com I

T 2/12

Advising Day: no class

Th 2/14

Screening

The Jeffersons (1975-1985), CBS

"Men of the Cloth" (2/7/1982)

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 183-239.

Midterm paper due on 2/12 in my box

Week Eight: The Sit-Com II

T 2/19

Screening

The Cosby Show (1984-1992), NBC
“The Prom” (3/28/1988)

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 165-171, 251-344, 448-451.

Means Coleman, Robin. *African-American Viewers and the Black Situation Comedy: Situating Racial Humor*. New York: Garland, 1998. 199-209.

Th 2/21

Screening

The Fresh Prince of Bel Air (1990-1996), NBC
“Three’s a Crowd” (1/9/1995)

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 365-368, 373-448.

Zook, Kristal Brent. *Color by Fox: The Fox Network and the Revolution in Black Television*. New York: Oxford UP, 1999. 15-24.

Week Nine: BET

T 2/25

Screening

Selections from BET

Reading Assignments

<http://www.bet.com/>

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/~jlafever/groups/royce/bet.htm>

<http://www.vanstavern.com/projects/corporat/betn.html>

Th 2/27

Screening

Selections from BET

Reading Assignments

<http://www.ayaed.com/hype/dontbet.html>

<http://www.media-alliance.org/mediafile/20-1/bet.html>

http://www.thenewrepublic.com/082701/chait082701_print.html

Week Ten: From Oprah to Harpo

T 3/5

Screening

The Oprah Winfrey Show (1986-), NBC

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 357-360.

Shattuc, Jane. *The Talking Cure: TV Talk Shows and Women*. New York: Routledge, 1997. 85-109.

<http://www.oprah.com/>

Th 3/7

Screening

Brewster Place (1990)

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 360-364, 368-373.

Bobo, Jacqueline, and Ellen Seiter. "Black Feminism and Media Criticism: *The Women of Brewster Place*." *Screen* 32.3 (1991): 286-302.

Final paper due on 3/11 in my box @Porter Faculty Services

Week Eleven: News

T 3/12

Screening

CNN Presents: LA and Beyond (1992), Turner Multimedia

Reading Assignments

Caldwell, John. "Televisual Politics: Negotiating Race in the LA Rebellion." *Living Color: Race and Television in the United States*. Ed. Sasha Torres. Durham: Duke UP, 1998. 161-194.

Th 3/14

Screening

American Tragedy (2000), Lawrence Schiller, NBC

Reading Assignments

Bogle, Donald. *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. New York: Farrar, 2001. 344-357, 453-469.

Hunt, Darnell. *O.J. Simpson Facts and Fictions: News Rituals in the Construction of Reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999. 87-106.

**Final Exam: Saturday 3/16/02
12:00-3:00PM**