KEY FIGURES
FALL 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This full online course combines the following three course sections:

HUM 4931: Key Figures in Humanities and Cultural Studies
PHP 4931: Key Figures in Philosophy
REL 4936: Key Figures in Religion and Cultural Studies

The "Key Figures" courses in all three programs are intended to give students the opportunity for in depth exploration of the contributions of a specific scholar in one's field of study. This semester we will be exploring the work of Dr. Cornel West, whose work as a prolific scholar, a charismatic public speaker and a well known public intellectual of our time addresses questions and issues central to Humanities, Philosophy, Religion, and Cultural Studies.

The syllabus information below on readings, assignments and course schedule pertains to all three sections of the course. I look forward to sharing interdisciplinary discussions with you about a body of work that requires the ability to move freely across disciplinary boundaries to work at the intersections of philosophy, literature, music, religion, culture and politics.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. Shelley Park
Department of philosophy
PSY 269
407-823-2273
email: Please contact me via course mail from within the webcourses.
Office Hours: M 9-10 (Virtual), T noon-1 pm (F2F in Orlando) or by appt.
REQUIRED TEXTS:

Please note: As indicated on the course schedule below, the texts below will be used in the order listed, so if you cannot purchase all at once, please purchase in this order. We will start using the first text immediately, so please purchase it now and begin reading.


Additional online sources as assigned.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

For more detailed descriptions of assignments, go to "Assignments"

**Discussion Participation (7x5=35%)**

You are expected to make a minimum of 2 substantial postings to weekly discussion forums on each section (I-VIII) of *The Cornel West Reader* and to the discussion forum on *Race Matters* (the primary readings for the course). You will be scored on 7 of these 9 weeks. [1 week you will be scored as discussion leader instead--see below; and for 1 week of your choosing you get a pass, i.e. I will drop your lowest score.]

**Discussion Leadership (1x10=10%)**

You will take an active role in leading the discussion (requiring you to interpret the text carefully, open, moderate and facilitate discussion threads opened) during a specific assigned week depending on your disciplinary expertise. [Philosophers will be discussion leaders during the week on Pragmatism, Religion scholars during the week on Prophetic Christian Thought, and Humanities scholars during the week on the Arts.]

**Reading Abstracts (4x2.5=10%)**

During 2 weeks of the semester, you will be reading selections of your choosing from the secondary readings gathered in the Yancy collection. You will be responsible for writing a brief but clear abstract of each of the readings you select. These will serve as a resource for students when they are writing their final essays.

**Draft Essay (10%)**

Prior to Thanksgiving break, you will post a draft of your final essay for peer and instructor feedback.

**Peer Reviews (2x5=10%)**

Each student is responsible for providing constructive feedback to 2 of their peers on their essay drafts by the end of the last full week of classes.

**Final Essay (25%)**

All senior level courses require a final research paper demonstrating student ability to construct a clear thesis and a persuasive argument in support of it which engages both primary and secondary sources. You will submit this during finals week. It should reflect revisions you have made in light of feedback received on your earlier draft.

GRADING POLICIES:
I use a plus/minus scale for grading as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(Exceptional, Outstanding, Wow!)</td>
<td>93% or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(Very good, exceeds expectations)</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>(Satisfactory, Meets expectations)</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>(Below satisfactory, fails to meet basic expectations)</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>(Fail)</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Attendance Policy:** See course requirements above.

**Academic Integrity:** There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating and plagiarism. Cheating occurs when someone else does your work for you or gives you test answers, etc. Plagiarism occurs when you quote or paraphrase someone else's words or borrow their ideas and fail to cite your source. It is a form of cheating because this failure (whether intentional or unintentional) represents someone else's work as your own. It is an infraction of the student code of conduct and will result in a referral to the Office of Student conduct and an automatic "F" on that assignment. If you have questions regarding when or how to cite something, please consult the MLA style guide, the University Writing Center, or your professor.

**Disability accommodations:** If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) who will inform me how to best provide individualized accommodations consistent with your documented disability. To be eligible for disability related accommodations, students must have a disability as defined by applicable federal and state laws and documented by an appropriate health care provider or professional.

**Late Submissions:** Late submissions will not be given full credit unless you have a relevant excuse under UCF policy (e.g. hospitalization, bereavement). Other legitimate reasons for absence (e.g. religious holidays, UCF related travel) are not excuses for late submissions; work should be turned in early when you know you will be absent on the deadline. Please also note that a broken computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for submitting an assignment late. Back up your work and avoid procrastination in order to meet deadlines.

**Extra-credit:** Do not ask for extra-credit. Do your best throughout the class and you will not need it. If I decide a substantial portion of the class would benefit from an additional opportunity, it will be offered to everyone. I will not select you out for special treatment. Don't ask.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

The course schedule, including topics, readings and assignment due dates are below.