Survey of ethnographies on the Black experience in the US. This course focuses on interpretations of the Black American experience in the US through critical analyses of the methodological, theoretical, and analytical foundations of a select group of ethnographic studies ranging from the 1930s to the present and their impact on social theory, public policy, and societal perceptions. The context in which these ethnographic studies were produce provides historical insight into changes in practice in the field of cultural anthropology in general as well as an understanding of the increasing diversity in approaches to studying the Black experience specifically. Ethnographies will be placed on reserve. However, Amazon.com and other online distributor have the ethnographies at more than reasonable prices. Chapters from Decolonizing Anthropology will be on reserve as well.

REQUIRED READINGS
Week 1 – Introduction to Course
W 1/5

Week 2 -
W 1/12 –
Assigned Readings:
Harrison, Faye V.

Begin Reading:
Powdermaker, Hortense

Week 3
W 1/19 – First Critical Analysis Paper Due thru email by Noon.
Assigned Reading:
Blakey, Michael L.

Finish Reading: After Freedom.

Week 4
W 1/26
Assigned Reading:
Begin Reading:
Davis, Allison  

**Week 5**

W 2/2 – Second Critical Analysis Paper Due  
Assigned Reading:  
*Finish Reading*: Deep South

**Week 6**

W 2/9  
Assigned Readings:  
Jordan, Glenn H.  
*Begin Reading*:  
Drake, St. Clair and Horace R. Cayton  

**Week 7**

W 2/16 – Critical Analysis Paper Due  
Assigned Reading:  
*Finish Reading*: Black Metropolis

**Week 8**

W 2/23  
Assigned Reading: TBA

**Week 9 Spring Break – NO CLASS**

W 3/2  
Assigned Readings:  
D’Amico-Samuels, Deborah  
*Begin Reading*:  
Lewis, Hyland  

**Week 10**

W 3/9 – Critical Analysis Paper Due  
Assigned Reading:  
*Finish Reading*: Blackways of Kent

**Week 11**

W 3/16 – Critical Analysis Paper Due  
Assigned Reading:  
Liebow, Elliot  

**Week 12**

W 3/23 – Critical Analysis Paper Due  
Assigned Readings:  
Harrison, Faye V.

Stack, Carol B.

**Week 13**
W 3/30 – Critical Analysis Paper Due
Assigned Reading:
Anderson, Elijah

**Week 14**
W 4/6 – Critical Analysis Paper Due
Assigned Readings:
Bourgois, Philippe

Mullings, Leith

**Week 15**
W 4/13 - Critical Analysis Paper Due
Assigned Reading:
Gregory, Steven

**Week 16**
W 4/20 – Critical Analysis Paper Due
Assigned Readings:
Jones, Delmos J.

Thomas-Houston, Marilyn
2005 “Stony the Road” to Change: Black Mississippians and the Culture of Social Relations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Final Exam Day - Tuesday 4/26 10 am – 12 Noon**
**Instructions for critical analysis reviews**

A critical analysis review involves at least three elements: 1) a synopsis of the book; 2) an assessment of what the author is trying to achieve in writing the book; 3) situating the work in the context of the various discussions/arguments it engages.

1. **Synopsis**: Assume you are writing for an audience who has no knowledge of the book. In approximately 250 words (1 page), summarize
   - the book's topic
   - the book's primary argument
   - the book's primary methodology
   - if relevant, the book's narrative voice

2. **Assessment of what the author is trying to achieve**: Elaborate on the book's primary argument. How is this study significant to the field? Does it succeed or fail in achieving this significance? Note that a book may be extremely successful in dealing with one dimension of the problem it engages, and fail utterly in another. And it may be partially successful in another.

3. **Situating the text in the larger context**: You will need to read as many reviews and other commentaries of the book as possible. These reviews will give you a good idea of how other scholars who are more-or-less specialized in the same area assess the book. You will need to determine
   - What are the key issues in the field, as indicated by these reviews?
   - How do other scholars assess the book you have read?
   - Do you agree or disagree with these assessments? Support your arguments.

Note that elements 2 and 3 can be combined. You can cite reviews concerning the significance of the book, in assessing its successes and failures, and so forth. That is, draw on the reviews as material for your analysis and assessment.

4. **Format**: Head your paper as if it were a formal scholarly review. Use the following style: *Book title [in italics], Author's name (first, middle, surname), Publisher (city, state: press), date of publication.* Put your name below it flush to the left margin, with the course title below your name. Then begin your text. Here's an example


   *marilyn m. thomas-houston
   ANG 6930 Reading the Black Experience*

   The entire essay should be no more than 7 double-spaced pages; you should be able to address these issues in around 5 pages (1250-2500 words). It should use standard American Ethnologist citation form and include a bibliography of all works cited, including reviews.

**Email your paper by Noon on date due.** Turn in all printouts and notes from your search and copies of all reviews and commentaries that you located at the end of class on due date on due date. These documents should be used for issue discussions in class.