Executive Summary of The N Word Seminar  
Fall Semester 2017  M 10:00PM-11:40PM  THE OAKS CLASSROOM

Dr. S. Boyd  
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Office Hours: M 2pm-5pm, T 10am-1pm, W 10am-12:15pm and by appointment

This course borrows heavily from UWG alumni Dr. Neal Lester’s course entitled “The N-Word: An Anatomy Lesson” taught at Arizona State University.

This course is an intensive, interdisciplinary scrutiny of one word—“nigger.” Because this word has its own history and cannot be erased from what Toni Morrison describes as “[cultural] rememory,” the need and desire for such a focused study of language is important and necessary. Understanding words and how we use language to construct realities can open us all to new and exciting ways of experiencing the world. Moving beyond and beneath the traditional binaries of analysis concerning this word—hip hop vs. old folks, black vs. white, and nigga vs. nigger—the readings and assignments consider the word’s continually shifting use through the complex discourse of American race relations. Ultimately, the course interrogates the fundamental role of words and language to construct identities—individual, communal, and even national.

The course format includes class discussion, written critical analysis/summaries, and independent research, and the grade for the course is based on the students’ multiple one-page critical analyses/summaries, attendance, and participation. While there is no single text for this course, students will access reading assignments via CourseDen. YouTube and other platforms for accessing media will feature prominently in this course. Each week has an overall theme or focus with a diverse range of assignments and texts centered on that particular topic.

Please visit CourseDen for complete list of readings and assignments.

Attendance Policy
Should you find it necessary to miss class, please be aware of the following:
• Each student is allowed 2 absences. Upon the third absence, the student’s final grade will be lowered five points each for every absence thereafter. Be aware that no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences.
• If the withdrawal occurs prior to last day to receive a W, the student will receive a grade of W. If the withdrawal occurs after the last day to receive a W, the student will receive a grade of WF.
• It is each student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet, the official record of attendance for this class.
• Arriving 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early is also a violation of the attendance policy and can result in being marked absent.

Email
Do not email your essays to me unless you have my express written permission. Your West Georgia email account is the University’s official means of trying to reach you. You should maintain your account by deleting old email. Otherwise, your inbox may get too full and you will be unable to receive important information from me or from the University.
**Required Work**—You will submit all work via CourseDen.
- 25% Weekly responses using the discussion questions
- 15% artefact presentation
- 10% homework/classwork
- 50% portfolio including N-word statement, google alert response, three artefacts response

**Late Work**
I will not usually accept late work. Late work is any work given to me after the deadline unless prior arrangements have been made with me.

**Special Needs**
If you have a registered disability that I can help accommodate, please see me at the beginning of the semester.

**Reading and Assignment Schedule:**
Please see the complete syllabus in CourseDen for the schedule.