

Mediating Race: Technology, Performance, Politics, and Aesthetics in Popular Culture

Wed, 2-4pm, Spring 2019

Professors Cathy N. Davidson (GC) and Racquel Gates (CSI)

ENG 87400 Studies in Visual Media | IDS 81630



The Carters: Apeeshit (2018)

What does it mean to be “cool,” to be “fierce,” or to “slay”? How do film, television, and new media make these concepts legible to audiences? This course focuses on technologies, techniques, performance, and style as components contributing to our ideas, representations, conventions, and stereotypes of race. Rather than treat film, television, and new media as straightforward reflections of social realities, this course will analyze how the media establishes, and continues to shape, our understandings of what blackness (and gender) “look” like.

This is an ideal course for anyone in the humanities and social sciences who is looking for critical approaches to issues of race, racism, and representation in American popular culture. The course will be using active learning techniques, and will offer students new pedagogical methods for the teaching of controversial, difficult, and complicated subject matter.

This course will also be listed in: American Studies, Africana Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Urban Education, Social Welfare, and Psychology.

Professor **Cathy N. Davidson** is the author of *The New Education: How To Revolutionize the University To Prepare Students for a World in Flux* (2017).

Professor **Racquel Gates** is the author of *Double Negative: The Black Image in Popular Culture* (2018) and “Why I Love Reality TV,” *New York Times*, September 28, 2018.