

# LMC 3306: Science, Technology, and Race

Summer 2023

## Instructor Information

### Instructor

Kevin C. Winstead

### Email

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### Office location & hours



## General information

### Description

“Examines specific historical and contemporary construction of race, within the prevailing scientific theories and ideologies in order to determine the role played by “race” in scientific and technological culture”

This course takes a critical look at the ways race and gender shape the uses and design of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Beginning from the understanding that ICTs have become part of our social infrastructure, the readings for this course have been selected to encourage reflection on how information technologies are mediated by culture; that is, how everyday digital interactions are configured or approached by racial groups, with men, and with women.

*This course is critical in that I am asking you to interrogate the assumptions behind technology’s promises of efficiency, progress, and post-racialism - what are the norms and values embodied within the artifacts we use every day?*

Although the readings and our discussions will focus mainly on the Internet, it is important to remember that information technology is much more than simply the assemblage of hardware, software, practices, and people that make up our experience of the Internet.

### Class Format and Expectations

The class will combine semi-structured lectures, discussions based on the assigned readings, and learning activities. Dialogue is my preferred mode of instruction, so interactions (class or online) between you, me, and your classmates are the key to getting a good grade.

As a student in this class, you are expected to:

- Bring an open mind and critical perspective to the course materials and class discussions

- read the assigned readings BEFORE class, not during
- post required feedback to the class blog by the agreed-upon deadline
- Complete assignments in a timely fashion

### Accessibility and Special Needs

I will make every effort to accommodate any needs around health and accessibility, particularly around learning support or mental or emotional health issues. However, to support you, you must register with ADAPTS. Once you have done so, please email me so we can figure out the best means to support you: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/CourseMaterials>

### Honor Code and Plagiarism Policy

The Georgia Tech Honor Code is very explicit about plagiarism as “the deliberate use of any outside source without proper acknowledgment,” Page 3 of 10 “appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts of passages of his or her writings, or language or ideas of the same, and passing them off as the product of one’s own mind.” If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. The full GT Honor Code is available online: <http://osi.gatech.edu/content/honor-code>.

### Course Requirements

The course grade will be based on the following elements:

Reading Discussion Leader	20%
Portfolio - Reading Reflections and Responses	50%
Annotations/Class Participation	30%

### Grade Policies

A good grade requires thoughtful, informed participation in class and in online discussions, well-executed arguments in writing, and an outstanding portfolio. Readings will be DISCUSSED on the day marked on the syllabus. Assignments are due as scheduled.

## Course schedule

Week	Day	Reading/Assignment
Week 1	22-Jun 23-Jun	
Week 2	27-Jun  29-Jun  30-Jun	<p><a href="#">"The Space Traders" - Derrick Bell (1994)</a></p> <p>Michael Omi, Howard Winant - Racial Formation in the United States-Routledge (2014)</p> <p>(Race, Gender, and Science) Sandra Harding (editor) - The _Racial_ Economy of Science_ Toward a Democratic Future-Indiana University Press (1993)</p> <p>Glitch Racism_ Networks as Actors within Vernacular Internet Theory – Culture Digitally</p> <p>[Arnold_Pacey]_The_Culture_of_Technology</p>
Week 3	4-Jul  6-Jul	<p>Holiday</p> <p>Innovations in Sugar-Cane Mil Technology in Jamaica</p> <p>Sidney W. Mintz - Sweetness and Power_ The Place of Sugar in Modern History-Penguin Books (1985)</p>

	7-Jul	Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud_ African Americans, American Artifactual Culture, and Black Vernacular Technological Creativity
Week 4	11-Jul	Algorithms of Oppression
	13-Jul	Algorithms of Oppression
	14-Jul	Algorithms of Oppression
Week 5	18-Jul	Digital Black Feminism
	20-Jul	Digital Black Feminism
	21-Jul	Digital Black Feminism
Week 6	25-Jul	Distributed Blackness
	27-Jul	Distributed Blackness
	28-Jul	Distributed Blackness

**Exam schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Portfolio Checks	TBA
Portfolio Checks	TBA
Portfolio Checks	TBA