

# CTCS 673: (In)Visible Blackness

Division of Cinema & Media Studies

SPRING 2016

GRADUATE COURSES

This seminar is designed to encourage students to think creatively and well about what might be encountered under the categories of “blackness” and “audio-visibility” even as it aims to provide students with a context for how “blackness,” “visibility,” “audibility” have been thought in scholarship that is available in English. Though the emphasis will be on African American audio-visual culture, we also will consider how “blackness” appears in other national and regional contexts. To do this, we will consider a range of studies of “blackness” produced in the areas of cinema and media studies, performance studies, visual studies, and sound studies. While some of the readings on the syllabus do not explicitly address blackness, the audio-visual media on the syllabus do; thus, audio-visual media will serve as the primary cultural products through which we will seek to understand how “blackness” has been formulated in different contexts and historical periods, how it might be differently configured today, and what interests various formulations of “blackness” have served or might be made to serve.

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for advanced graduate students to encounter a range of texts and questions that might contribute to existing scholarship on blackness and media without regard for whether those texts and questions have entered that scholarship (yet) or not. Because of this, it is not an introduction to that scholarship. It is not a survey of that scholarship, nor is it an engagement with or production of a canon. It is instead an opening to the possibility of thinking (in)visible blackness.

**Register today!**

Wednesdays, 2:00-3:50 PM SCA 216

Wednesdays, 4:00-5:50 PM SCA 104

Spring 2016, 4 Units

Professor Kara Keeling

*Questions?*

Visit the Critical Studies Office in SCA 320

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USC School  
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THE BRYAN SINGER DIVISION OF CINEMA & MEDIA STUDIES