ENGL 2260: Topics in Contemporary African American Cultural Texts

Black Cinema Past & Present

- **GE: Humanities!!**
- **DD: Domestic Diversity!!**
- **Alternative textbook class (i.e. no textbook expenses)!!**

**Instructor:** Amanda Ann Klein <kleina@ecu.edu>
**Times Offered:** Tuesday & Thursday, 2pm—3:15pm
**Film screenings:** Streaming titles watched outside of class

This class explores the construction of race, racial difference, and other intersecting identities in contemporary Black media, literature and/or folklore. This specific iteration of the course explores how race and racial difference is constructed in American cinema and to what effect, using cinema as a framework for understanding political, social, and cultural history of American race relations and racial difference. The course will be structured around multiple interlinked questions about race and representation such as: what is a Black film? Is it defined by the race of its director, its actors or its thematic concerns?

We will also address issues of authorship, stardom, and audience. We will discuss if and how filmic representations have the ability to impact the way audiences understand race, but also gender, sexual orientation, religion, and physical ability. We will ask how and why cinematic representations of race change over time.