



## A LENS ON DENZEL WASHINGTON: CRAFTING BLACK & WHITE IMAGES

Award winning actor Denzel Washington has crafted an image both onscreen and off that at times appears to be an endangered species: that of a highly intelligent, strong black male. Denzel's characters are the everyman, the hero, the lover, the villain, the cad, and the list goes on. As a youth growing up during the Blaxploitation film era, just how did he do it and how successful has he actually been in challenging the stereotypical images of blacks portrayed on film?

Join the dialogue as we dive into the world of Denzel Washington and take a look at his work in *Glory*, *Training Day*, *American Gangster* and other notable films.

Coursework will consist of film screenings and supported readings. The main texts used in the course are noted historian Donald Bogle's critically acclaimed *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks: an Interpretive History of Blacks in America* and biographer Douglas Brode's *Denzel Washington: His Films and Career*. Students will be evaluated on their ability to critically analyze the representation and narration of blacks in American film through sound written and oral argument. By the end of the course, you will "view films with a new awareness and an altered sensitivity." (BOGLE)

**Spring 2012**

**AFST 3390/CRN 26124**

**LART Room 301**

**Mondays**

**6:00 - 8:20 PM**



Kathryn Smith-McGlynn, MFA, MPA  
Visiting Lecturer, African American Studies  
Teaching Fellow, Sam Donaldson Communication Center

Course instructor Kathryn Smith-McGlynn is a veteran actress of the stage and screen. She has appeared in feature films, national commercials, corporate videos, soap operas and guest starred on several network television shows and is most known for her portrayal of Kasey Sprows on the ABC television series *Scoundrels* co-starring Virginia Madsen.