

**Theories of Black America (AFA 4135/POS 4931)**

**Spring 2018**

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**Office Hours:**

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**Course Description:**

This interdisciplinary class examines some of the important theories and concepts used to explain Black social, political and cultural behavior in the United States for the past 150 years. We will examine the following theories – the moralist framework, nationalism, coalition politics, participatory democracy, social movements, the negritude movement, jane crow theory, communist theories, black Marxism, the theory of difference, intersectionality, and black masculines theory.

You will not only learn information about the backgrounds of the individuals who espoused these theories, but will also learn the reasons why they believed that these were the best theories for African Americans to pursue to become politically and economically empowered.

**Required Readings:**

There are no required textbooks. All required readings are on reserve on the [www.uflib.ufl.edu](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu) web site. To read or print these articles, click on the course reserves link, type in my last name, and click on the article's title.

**Missed Work Policy:**

The policy for missed work in this class is consistent with the university's policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). All discussion posts, quizzes, and papers must be uploaded on the correct date before 11:59pm.

**Your Grade will be Based on:**

**1) Introduction Post (3%)**

In one of two paragraphs, introduce yourself and explain why you have registered for this course.

**2) Syllabus Acknowledgment and Acceptance (2%)**

Please sign and date the information below and upload it to canvas by January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. I

\_\_\_\_\_ have carefully read the syllabus in its entirety and agree with the requirements, policies, and all other terms. I have asked clarifying questions to ensure that I understand what I read. Typed Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **3) Participation in the 5 Open-Book Discussion Modules (35% or 7% each)**

You must post your comments on the questions on or before the dates they are due. Also, your grade will be based on your ability to support your opinions with references from the readings. Do not use profanity or slang terms when commenting on the discussion questions.

### **4) Three Open-Book Examinations (60% or 20% each)**

**Each of the exams will consist of two or three essay questions.** Your grade will be based on your knowledge of the readings and other materials and your ability to analyze them. None of the tests, including the final, will be comprehensive.

#### **Grading Scale:**

94-100 A	90-93 A-	87-89 B+	84-86 B	80-83 B-	77-79 C+
74-76 C	70-73 C-	67-69 D+	64-66 D	60-63 D-	Below 60 E

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** You can have five points added to your lowest grade if you attend one of the activities below. Each will also be live-streamed.

- 1) January 25, 2018, 6pm, the Ocora of Pugh Hall, Lecture by Dr. Gerald Smith, Martin Luther King Jr. Research Scholar at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Smith will discuss King's legacy during the 50<sup>th</sup> year of his assassination.
- 2) February 8, 2018, 6pm, Smathers 100, Lecture by Dr. Miriam Harris, Chair and Professor of American Studies at Macalester College. Dr. Harris will discuss her book *Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA*.

#### **Disabilities Statement:**

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student's office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Student's office will provide documentation, which the student will then give to the instructor. For more information, see [HTTP://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)

#### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating on examinations. The penalty for cheating is a grade of 0 on the exam or paper. In addition, the Dean of Student's office may choose to administer a harsher punishment such as a temporary suspension from this class or a permanent expulsion from the university.

#### **Course Evaluation:**

You will have the opportunity to evaluate the class on the last day. You can also fill out an evaluation on [evaluations.ufl.edu](http://evaluations.ufl.edu) during the last two weeks of class.

## **Class Schedule:**

### **Introduction (Classes begin Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>)**

- 1) Read the “Course Tools and Technology” information.
- 2) Watch the Introduction lecture.
- 3) The introduction post is due on Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm. In one of two paragraphs, introduce yourself and explain why you have registered for this course by January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.
- 4) The syllabus acknowledgment and acceptance information below is due January 12<sup>th</sup>. Please sign and date the information below and upload it to canvas by January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. I \_\_\_\_\_ have carefully read the syllabus in its entirety and agree with the requirements, policies, and all other terms. I have asked clarifying questions to ensure that I understand what I read. Type your signature and include the date.

### **Module One: Moralism Theory**

#### **Objectives:**

- Explain the definition and tactics of the moralism theory by demonstrating knowledge of the required readings in the discussion board.
- Explain how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s views were shaped by his beliefs in moralism theory.
- Describe the way in which Dr. King’s views changed from his earliest years as a pastor-activist to the final years of his life.

#### **To Do List:**

- 1) January 15<sup>th</sup> (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)
- 2) Read Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam.
- 3) Read Martin Luther King and Moralism
- 4) Watch Martin Luther King Jr. and Civil Rights Act of 1968.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5EW5e86OBc>
- 5) Respond to the first discussion post before 11:59pm on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Module Two: Moralism Theory Continued, Coalition Politics, Participatory Democracy, and Social Movements**

#### **Objectives:**

- Discuss the way in which the background and experiences of Bayard Rustin shaped his belief in moralism theory.
- Define participatory democracy theory and explain its practice.
- Prioritize the effectiveness of black power and coalition politics.

To Do List:

- 1) Read Black Power and Coalition Politics
- 2) Read Ella Baker and the Origins of Participatory Democracy
- 3) Read Introduction: Resisting the Shadows
- 4) Read Fannie Lou Hamer.
- 5) Read The Failure of Black Separatism
- 6) Read Social Movements and Policy Implementation: The MS Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty, 1965-1971
- 7) Watch Fannie Lou Hamer Speaks (13 minutes).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSxkYBbvGjs>
- 8) Watch Ella Baker: A Legacy of Grassroots Leadership (26 minutes).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68U57yi9F1E>
- 9) Watch Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9NE\\_LzmGU0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9NE_LzmGU0)
- 10) Take the first exam before 11:59pm on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Module Three: The Negritude Movement**

Objectives:

- Define the Negritude Movement and explain its origins.
- Examine the ideology of those who founded and were involved in the negritude movement.
- Explain the role of women and French intellectuals in the movement.

To Do List:

- 1) Read Sartre's Theory of Anti-Racist Racism in his Study of Negritude
- 2) Watch the online lecture on the Negritude Movement.
- 3) Watch Aime Cesaire and the Negritude Movement. (5 minutes)
- 4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0ZFsP82vqc>
- 5) Watch Aime Cesaire and the Negritude Movement.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0ZFsP82vqc>
- 6) Respond to the discussion post before 11:59pm on Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Module Four: Pauli Murray and Jane Crow Theory**

Objectives:

- Explain the background, activism, and legacy of Pauli Murray.
- Define and explain Jane Crow Theory.

To Do List:

- 1) Read Pauli Murray and the Twentieth-Century Quest for Legal and Social Equality.
- 2) Read Toward an NAACP for Women
- 3) Watch the online lecture on Pauli Murray.

- 4) Respond to the discussion post before 11:59pm on Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Module Five: Communist Theory**

#### Objectives:

- Examine the black radical tradition.
- Explain how the Communist ideology of Angela Davis and Assata Shakur led to them being included on “Most Wanted” lists.
- Summarize the reasons for the Communist Party’s appeal to blacks.
- Identify the black women who were proponents of Communist Theory before the 1960s.

#### To Do List:

- 1) Read Black Communist Women Pioneers, 1919-1930.
- 2) Read Communism’s Appeal to Blacks.
- 3) Watch the online lecture on Communist Theory: Charlene Mitchell, Angela Davis, and Assata Shakur.
- 4) Watch the online lecture on Communism’s Appeal to Blacks.
- 5) Watch documentary on Assata Shakur. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hH9sF\\_sg14c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hH9sF_sg14c)
- 6) Watch Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners 1 hour and 40 minutes). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6XUpviC3zg>
- 7) Take the second exam before 11:59pm on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Module Six: Black Marxist Theory**

#### Objectives:

- Define the meaning of black Marxism.
- Examine the influence of Marxism on the life and activism of Frantz Fanon.
- Examine Thomas Sowell’s views about the Marxist ideology.

#### To Do List:

- 1) Read Pitfalls and radical mutations: Frantz Fanon’s Revolutionary Life
- 2) Read Rethinking Black Marxism: Reflections on Cedric Robinson and Others
- 3) Read Thomas Sowell, Economist and Author
- 4) Watch the online lecture on Black Marxism.
- 5) Watch Frantz Fanon: An Introduction, Parts I and II (17 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4fQ7KwKgFA>
- 6) Watch Thomas Sowell (Former Marxist) Dismantles Leftist Ideology (4 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzT21b-BMQk>
- 7) Thomas Sowell-From Marxism to Capitalism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiYH66HznW0>
- 8) Respond to the discussion post before 11:59pm on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Module Seven: Black Feminism, Black Womanism, and the Theory of Difference**

### Objectives:

- Define black feminist theory and womanist theory.
- Examine and explain the Theory of Difference.
- Examine the background and work of Audre Lorde.

### To Do List:

- 1) Read Some Implications of Womanist Theory
- 2) Read The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House by Audre Lorde.
- 3) Listen to the online lecture on Audre Lorde.
- 4) Watch the Audre Lorde documentary. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tkwj0znbuoQ>
- 5) Respond to the discussion post before 11:59pm on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Module Eight: The Theories of Intersectionality and Black Masculinity**

### Objectives:

- Define the theory of intersectionality and distinguish between different types of intersectionality.
- Summarize the negative aspects of black masculine theory.
- Examine the contribution of Professor Kimberle Crenshaw to the field of anti-discrimination law.

### To Do List:

- 1) Read When Multiplication Doesn't Equal Quick Addition: Examining Intersectionality as a Research Paradigm
- 2) Read Scripting the Black Male Athlete: Donovan McNabb and the Double Bind of Black Masculinity
- 3) Listen to the online lecture on intersectionality.
- 4) Take the third exam by 11:59pm on April 25<sup>th</sup>.