

African American Political Thought

Course Syllabus
Fall 2007
Tuesday
7-9:30PM

Melissa V. Harris-Lacewell
609.258.9171 (office)
609.258.1110 (fax)
lacewell@princeton.edu
www.melissaharrislacewell.com

Office Hours:
Corwin 034

This course focuses on the various ideologies and strategies that have informed the African American quest for human fulfillment, self-actualization and equity in the United States of America.

Required Texts

Readings marked with a * are available as links from the course website

Readings marked with a + are available on reserve through e-reserve system

Books are all available through the university bookstore.

Dawson, Michael. *Black Visions: The Roots of Contemporary African American Political Ideologies.*

DuBois, W.E.B. *Souls of Black Folk*

Washington, Booker T. *Up From Slavery*

Taylor, Clarence. *Black Religious Intellectuals: The Fight for Equality from Jim Crow to the 21st Century*

McWhorter, John. *Losing the Race: Self-Sabotage in Black America.*

Shelby, Tommie *We Who Are Dark: The Philosophical Foundations of Black Solidarity*

White, E. Frances. *Dark Continent of Our Bodies: Black Feminism and the Politics of Respectability*

Lubiano, Wahneema. (editor) *The House that Race Built.*

Smith, Kimberly. *African American Environmental Thought: Foundations*

Assessment

Oral presentation of readings and leadership of class discussion (10%)

Each week 1 student will be responsible for developing a written discussion guide and leading group discussion.

Annotated Bibliography for class (20%)

You will develop an annotated bibliography of 10-12 sources that will be shared with your classmates. It should be prepared during the week that you do the oral presentation.

Short paper (6-8 pages) in response to readings (30%)

You must write one short paper focusing on the readings from one week. This can be turned in anytime between week 6 and 8.

Final Paper (15-20 pages) (40%)

Week 1, Introduction to Contemporary Black Thought
September 18

Dawson, *Black Visions* Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2, The classic debate
September 25

DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk*
Washington, *Up from Slavery*

Week 3, Radical Freedom
October 2

Dawson, *Black Visions*, Chapter 6
+Ransby, Barbara. *Ella Baker and Black Freedom Movement::A Radical Democratic Vision*. 2003.Chapters 11 and 12
+West, Cornel. *Race Matters*. 1993. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2
+Kelly, Robin. *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*. 2002. Introduction, Chapter 6 and Conclusion.

Week 4, Sacred Freedom
October 9

Taylor, *Black Religious Intellectuals*

Week 5, Contemporary Conservatism
October 16

McWhorter, *Self-Sabotage in Black America*
+Faryna, et. al, *Black and Right, The Bold New Voice of Black Conservatives in America*. Chapter 1, Chapters 6-10
+Harris-Lacewell, Melissa. *Barbershops, Bibles and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*. Chapter 4

Week 6, Old Nationalism
October 23

Dawson, Chapter 3
+Van Deburg, William (editor). *Modern Black Nationalism from Marcus Garvey to Louis Farrakhan*. New York: New York University, selections of primary documents

****FALL BREAK****

Week 7 **New Nationalism**
November 6

Shelby, *We Who are Dark*.

Week 8, **Policy Thought: Environmentalism**
November 13

Smith, *Black Environmental Thought*

We are attending a Public Lecture with Majora Carter for class on this evening
<http://www.ssbx.org/MajoraCarterStaffBio.htm>

Week 9, **Intersections**
November 20

White, *Dark Continent of Our Bodies*

+Chapter 3 "The Vanguard Center" from Benita Roth, *Separate Roads to Feminism: Black Chicana and White Feminist Movements in America's Second Wave*

Week 10, **Intersections**
November 27

Lubiano (editor), *House that Race Built*

Week 11, **Policy Thought: Social Policy**
December 4

Wilson, *Declining Significance of Race*

Week 12, **Conclusion**

Additional readings may be provided for any or all weeks and will be put on reserve or made available on line.