The Black Radical Tradition of the Americas

Instructor: Dr. Tanya L. Saunders

When: W | Period 11 - E2 (6:15 PM - 9:10 PM)

Where: LIT 127

Office Hours: Weds 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and by appointment

Office: 386 Grinter Hall

E-mail: tanyasau@latam.ufl.edu

Course Description

Karl Marx was not the only person who developed an influential theory of social revolution. A cadre of theorists from the Global South have extensively theorized about the issues facing their nations, and they have developed social theories that have challenged social and global inequality. This course is a theory based course that will focus especially on the anti-colonial and postcolonial thought of radical Black intellectuals from the U.S, the Caribbean and Latin America. We will critically engage these theorists, and consider how their work represents, and has influenced the revolutionary social movements of the latter half of the 20th century.

Textbooks

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<th>Cover</th>
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Course Assessment

Attendance  20 points
Participation  20 points
Two Exams  40 points
Reaction papers  20 points

I. Attendance & Participation (20%)

Attendance and participation is very important for this class: class discussion is very important. Twenty percent (20%) of your total grade has been allocated to your presence in the classroom throughout the whole class period. Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of every class meeting. It is your responsibility to make sure you come to class prepared to participate in class discussions. Active participation includes asking and answering questions, participating in group exercises, and doing the reading before class. Attendance is an important requirement of the class. If you constantly arrive to class late, you will be marked absent – I will give you notice. More than two unexcused absences will result in a zero for the attendance requirement. More than five unexcused absences will result in an automatic “F” for the course.

If you need to be absent due to a medical situation, your absence will only be excused if you present a doctor’s note. Notes from doctors will be initially accepted, but subject to verification- so be sure that they have specific contact information. University documentation is required for special situations such as “field-trips” to participate in competitive sports representing University of Florida, and other professional, educational events or other official University events. Please talk to me if you have any questions about your particular situation. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx) and require appropriate documentation.

II. Weekly Reaction Essays (20%)

Weekly reaction essays are due every week. Students who are leading discussions are required to post a question in the Chat section addressing the upcoming week’s reading assignments and themes by Friday, 5 pm the week before. Classmates are to respond to the online posts by 12 pm on Wednesday (before the class discussion). The question should address the upcoming week’s reading assignments and themes. Students are upload their responses
in the Assignment's section. If you do not directly engage the reading and the conversation that is happening in your response, you will not get credit for your online post.

The post should read: "Discussion Question Due on [Date] ex: August 27th," then post your question.

Follow the MLA, APA or Chicago Style format. 500 - 1000 words.

No late assignments will be accepted.

III. In-Class Discussions (20%)

Given that this is a seminar course, this semester we take turns leading class discussions. Each Wednesday students will be responsible for leading in-class discussion for the first 30 minutes of class (15 minutes each student). Outside of class you should contact your partner for the week and determine which part of the reading you will focus on in class. Come to class prepared give a brief summary of what you read, name three key points you think we should take away from what we have read, and prepare questions to ask your classmates.

IV. Exams

Exam I: Midterm Exam (20%)

The Midterm Exam is an opportunity to use some of the concepts we have discussed in class to critically engage the theoretical content of the course. Always support your answers with citations from the course texts - no outside materials. The prompt for the first Exam will be given during the Week of October 7th. The exam is due by Friday, 5 pm of Feb 18th.

Be sure to follow the following format:

Typed,

1 inch margins.

Double-spaced

Use 12 point Times New Roman font.

Follow the MLA, APA or Chicago Style format.

5 pages (undergraduates)/6 pages (graduate students (sources cited should be listed on and additional page)

The Final Exam (20%)

The Final Exam is cumulative in the sense that the questions for the exam will be drawn from the topics covered over the entire semester. Again, always support your answers with citations from the texts covered in class. The exam is due date is due December 6th at 5 pm. The prompt for the final will be given on November 25th.
The Final Exam Is Due December 6th at 5 pm - uploaded on Canvas

No Late Exams Will Be Accepted

Final Grade Policy

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Additional Information

Make-ups will only be given with a documented, valid excuse as per University of Florida’s guidelines (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx). Lecture will begin promptly. Please allow sufficient time to settle in and review the previous day’s lecture notes before lecture begins.

- Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Persons whose electronic devices sound off in class will be asked to leave.
- Do not talk with others during lectures or while others are speaking.
- Express disagreement respectfully and be reflexive about your conduct and opinions - this is a learning environment and we should all be respectful of each other's learning process.
- Do not pack up your belongings before the end of class, as this makes it difficult for others to hear, think, and concentrate.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Alternative Learning Accommodations

Students who have documented request for alternative learning accommodations must meet with me and present their official University documentation before the end of the second week of class. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty
Do not cut and paste summaries found online or copy each other’s work. All work must be your own. A case of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. More than one case of plagiarism will result in an F for the course. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

(https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Materials and Supplies

There are no additional fees for this course.

Writing Studio

Make sure to take advantage of the University’s writing center before turning in your assignments. Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Remember that this course does not provide clear-cut answers to social problems or issues. What it does offer, however, is a framework in which to analyze various social phenomena and understand their interrelationship with each other. You should be prepared to grapple with some issues about race, gender, sexuality and culture that you may have never thought about before, or have very strong opinions about. Be prepared to deal with value judgments and some conceptual ambiguity.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Semester Reading Schedule

Topics in lecture may vary a bit from week to week depending on the pacing of lectures and the interests of the class. However, students should keep up with the reading schedule as noted below, and readings should be completed prior to lecture. I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed to fit student needs.

***Important recommendation for reading for this course***

Please remember that we do not have "one class" per week, but we have two classes that meet one after another. The syllabus is organized around what we will discuss during the two classes that we will have together on Tuesday. I highly suggest that you break the readings up into two settings per week. Do not sit down and try to read it all at once. This is especially the case for some of the we will have during September, at the beginning of the semester. There are some weeks where things are going to be heavily theoretical - I promise after that, things will get easier, way more interesting and you'll see why it was important to engage these materials first. So divide up the texts and read them on different days during the week. You have the reading schedule ahead of time. Feel free to read ahead if you have to plan around a work schedule.
Historical Context, Black Radicalism and Political Economy

Week 1 August 21:

Introduction

The Caribbean, The Haitian Revolution and the Roots of the Black Radical Tradition

Week 2 August 28:

(TEXTBOOK) The Black Jacobins (Chapters: Prologue, I, II)

Introduction Black Cosmpolitanism.pdf

lovejoy.pdf


Howard_Zinn_and_Omi_Winnant.pdf

dubois.pdf

Week 3 September 4:

(TEXTBOOK) The Black Jacobins Chapters IV, VI, VII, X, XIII

Week 4 September 11:

(TEXTBOOK) The Black Jacobins Chapter: Appendix: From Toussaint L'Ouverture to Fiel Castro

(TEXTBOOK) A Discourse on Colonialism by Aime Cesaire read Chapters: A Poetics of Anticolonialism and Discourse on Colonialism

(TEXTBOOK) Black Skin, White Masks read Chapter 1

The Black Radical Tradition Psychological Considerations

Week 5 September 18:
Week 6 September 25:
[TXTBOOK] Black Skin, White Masks - Read Chapters 6, 7, 8
[TXTBOOK] Brazil: Mixture or Massacre? Read Chapters:
Excerpts from Conclusions and Recommendations, First Congress of Black Culture in the Americas
Cultural Revolution and the future of Pan-Africanism

The African Origins of the Modern West

Week 7 October 2:
Read Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4

Week 8 October 9:
Read Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
Read ONLY chapter 6 (there are a bunch of chapters in this download so make sure you only read chapter 6) from [URL]RobinsonCedricJ_2000_6TheHistoricalArchaeo_BlackMarxismTheMaking.pdf[/URL]

Week 9 October 16th:
Read ONLY chapters 9 and 12 (there are a bunch of chapters in this download so make sure you only read chapter 9, 12) from [URL]RobinsonCedricJ_2000_6TheHistoricalArchaeo_BlackMarxismTheMaking.pdf[/URL]

Contemporary Considerations

Week 10 October 23:
[TEXTBOOK] From #BLACKLIVESMATTER to Black Liberation read chapters Introduction, 1, 2, 3, 4,

Week 11 October 30th:

[TEXTBOOK] From #BLACKLIVESMATTER to Black Liberation read chapters Introduction, 5, 6, 7

Black Internationalist Feminism Introduction and Chapter 1

A Black Feminist Statement.pdf

Week 12 November 6:

Agustin Afro-Diasporic Feminisms.pdf

Ochy Curiel.pdf

[TEXTBOOK] Beyonce in Formation Read Introduction

Week 13 November 13:

[TEXTBOOK] Beyonce in Formation Read Chapters Most Bomb Pussy and Calling for Freedom

Excerpt from Ezili's Mirrors (Bridge and Introduction)

Week 14 November 20: Religion and Black Embodiment: a Few Considerations

Pedagogies of the Sacred.pdf

Black queer diaspora jafari.pdf

Excerpt from Queering Black Atlantic Religions [introduction]

Week 15: "Catch-up" Week/General Discussion