

AMST 580: Readings in Cultural Studies - Black Cultural Studies

Black Cultural Studies

This seminar begins with an introductory overview of the development of Cultural Studies as an area of scholarly research and teaching from its British origins through its local manifestations in other geographic contexts, with a particular focus on the impact of Marxist analysis on the historical development of Black Cultural Studies in the United States. From that foundation, the course will investigate questions regarding blackness, culture, and power; the intersections and complexities of race, class, gender, and sexuality; and the abiding focus in cultural studies on the specificity of media, communication, and power.

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Course Requirements

Students are required to complete two class presentations, two 2-page response papers, a final paper proposal, and a final 15-20 page essay. The response papers must be posted to the course web site by 5 p.m. on the Monday before the class session to which they are responding. A response paper cannot be submitted for a session for which a presentation is due. All students are expected to review the response papers as part of their preparation for each week's meeting.

Grades

Class Participation (includes response papers and presentations): 40%

Final Paper and Proposal: 60%

Required Books

(Additional Required Readings are Listed in the Reading Schedule Below):

Turner, Graeme. *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*. Routledge, 2002.

Williams, Raymond. *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford University Press, 1978.

Morley, David, Ed. *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. Routledge, 1996.

Gramsci, Antonio. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. International Publishers Co, 2008.

Bhaba, Homi. *The Location of Culture*. Routledge, 1994.

Gilroy, Paul. *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Harvard UP, 1993.

Spillers, Hortense. *Black, White, and In Color*. U of Chicago Press, 2003.

Bobo, Jacqueline and Randall Curren, Eds. *Black Feminist Cultural Criticism*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2001.

Barrett, Lindon. *Blackness and Value: Seeing Double*. Cambridge UP, 1998.

Sexton, Jared. *Amalgamation Schemes: Anti-Blackness and the Critique of Multiculturalism*. U of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Moten, Fred. *In the Break: The Aesthetics of the Black Radical Tradition*. U of Minnesota Press, 2003.

Keeling, Kara. *The Witch's Flight: The Cinematic, the Black Femme, and the Image of Common Sense*. Duke UP, 2007.

Hong, Grace Kyungwon. *The Ruptures of American Capital: Women of Color Feminism and the Culture of Immigrant Labor*. U of Minnesota Press, 2006.

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Date	Topic	Reading for Class Session	Due
14-Jan	Intro to Cultural Studies	Turner, <u>British Cultural Studies: An Introduction</u> , Chapters 1-2, 7-8	
21-Jan	Marxism 1 Raymond Williams	Williams, <u>Marxism and Literature</u> "Introduction" to <u>Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues</u>	
28-Jan	Marxism 2 Antonio Gramsci	Gramsci, Selections from <u>Selections from the Prison Notebooks</u> Hall, "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity"	
4-Feb	Marxism 3 Ideology and Problems	Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception" Hall, "The Problem of Ideology" Hall, "Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies" Hall, "Race, Articulation, and Societies Structured in Dominance"	

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Date	Topic	Reading for Class Session	Due
11-Feb	Blackness and the Nation	Gilroy, "Race, Nation, and Ethnic Absolutism" from <u>There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack</u> Mercer and Julien, "De Margin and de Centre" West, "The New Cultural Politics of Difference" West, "The Dilemma of the Black Intellectual" hooks, "Black Woman Intellectuals"	
18-Feb	Postcolonialism	Selections from Bhaba, <u>The Location of Culture</u>	
25-Feb	The Black Atlantic	Gilroy, <u>The Black Atlantic</u>	
4-Mar	NO Class	Brent Edward Hayes, <u>The Practice of Diaspora</u>	
11-Mar	Hortense Spillers and Black Feminisms	Selections from Spillers, <u>Black, White & In Color</u>	
18-Mar	NO Class	Spring Break	
25-Mar	Feminisms, Gender, and Sexuality	Brunsdon, "A Thief in the Night" Lorde, "The Masters Tools" Alexander, "Erotic Autonomy as a Politics of Decolonization" Hammonds, "Black (W)holes" Part 1 of Ed. Bobo, <u>Black Feminist Cultural Criticism</u>	
1-Apr	Recent Black Cultural Studies	Barrett, <u>Seeing Double: Blackness and Value</u> or Sexton, <u>Amalgamation Schemes</u>	

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Date	Topic	Reading for Class Session	Due
8-Apr		Moten, <u>In the Break</u>	
15-Apr		Keeling, <u>The Witch's Flight</u>	
22-Apr		Hong, <u>Ruptures of American Capital</u>	
29-Apr	Meetings about Final Papers		Final Paper Proposal
May 8, 2008			Final Papers Due