This course is designed for students interested in examining African-American intellectuals and intellectual life from the mid-nineteenth century up until today. We will examine the lives and thought of a variety of thinkers and writers, including political theorists, social scientists, philosophers, economists, social critics, novelists, and artists. Our goal will be to situate their political ideas, ethical dilemmas, and aesthetic sensibilities in their broader historical contexts. We will look at concerns that were not exclusive to African-American intellectuals, but were regarded by many as particularly pressing to them: race and racism, the (sometimes competing) desires for self-expression and group solidarity, and the negotiations between intellectual objectivity and social activism. Though this class focuses on African-American intellectuals, it does not assume that they speak with one voice or that they constitute a discrete intellectual tradition in American history. Nor does it assume that they were interested exclusively in African-American experience. Rather, it aims to see how African-American intellectuals have contributed to our understanding of issues facing African-American communities, Americans more broadly, and people around the globe.

Assignments and Grading
The main assignment in this course is a 20-25 page research paper on a topic in African-American intellectual history. In preparation for this final paper, students will have several weekly readings, as well as short writing, oral, and research assignments.

Each week, you will be expected to write paragraph-length questions based on the assigned texts. Writing your weekly questions is a very useful strategy for synthesizing the reading, distilling authors’ arguments into economical and clear prose, and focusing your thoughts before coming to class. Paragraph-length questions are to be posted to our Learn@UW course webpage no later than 7 p.m. Thursday night (as in, the night before class). (You are encouraged to read through and be prepared to comment on your classmates’ paragraphs.)
All reading and writing assignments listed on the syllabus are mandatory. In addition, attendance is mandatory. If for any reason you are unable to come to class, please email me in advance to let me know. Unexcused absences and/or tardiness will result in a poor participation grade.

Grading will be based on the following:

1. **Participation & Attendance.** Informed and engaged contribution to class discussions, and weekly questions. 20%

2. **Primary/Secondary Source Exercise.** 5%

3. **Contributions to the Companion to African-American Thought and Culture Exercise.** 10%

4. **Proposal and Bibliography for Final Paper.** Proposal should be 2-3 double-spaced pages/bibliography of primary and secondary sources should be roughly ½ page single spaced. 10%

5. **Final Paper.** 20-25 page final research paper with bibliography. 55%

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Students with Disabilities: Please notify me early in the semester if you have a documented requirement for accommodation in this course. If you have any questions about this or require any assistance, feel free to contact me or the McBurney Disability Resource Center at 263-2741.

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**Readings**

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore:


Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre (1961)

Lawrence Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought From Slavery to Freedom* (1978)


All other required readings (essays, articles, and book chapters) are on e-reserves. All of the required books are available on 3-hour reserve at the College Library.

**Preparation for First Class Meeting on Jan. 21:**

In order to hit the ground running, your assignments for the first class meeting are:

1. Do all the readings assignments for week 1 listed below
2. Think about what area of African-American intellectual history interests you
3. Review the course syllabus and come with any questions you may have about it
Course Outline:

**Week 1 (Jan. 21) Course Introduction**
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“Black in America,” New Yorker, Apr. 29, 1996 Special Issue. Read 3 articles of your choosing. {History Office}
Visit www.theblackscholar.org. Browse the Website
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*Mandatory: Library Workshop. Sign up for one of the following workshops using this link (ASAP):*


*Tuesday, Jan. 25th 6-7:15 p.m.*
*Wednesday, Jan. 26th, 6-7:15 p.m.*

**Week 2 (Jan. 28) The Figure of the African-American Intellectual and African-American Intellectual Production**

Harold Cruse, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* (1967) [selections] {R}

**Week 3 (Feb. 4) African-American Social Scientific Thought, in and of the World**


*Primary/Secondary source exercise due at the beginning of class (Feb. 4)*

**Week 4 (Feb. 11) African-American Print Culture with James Danky**


Henry Louis Gates, Jr. “Foreword,” and James Danky, “Brief History of the Project,” and

1-Paragraph distillation of research paper plans/interests due 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10th. Email to me and jpdanky@wisc.edu.

Week 5 (Feb. 18) African-American Folk Thought
Lawrence Levine, Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought From Slavery to Freedom (1978)
Mia Bay, “‘Devils and Good People Walking De Road at De Same Time’: White People in Black Folk Thought,” in The White Image in the Black Mind, 1830-1925 (2000) {R}

Week 6 (Feb. 25) Religion in African-American Intellectual Life


Hubert Harrison, “On a Certain Conservatism in Negroes,” (n.d.) available at: http://www.archive.org/stream/negronation00harr#page/40/mode/2up

Martin Luther King, “A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart,” from Strength to Love (1983), 1-10. {R}

 Companion to African-American Thought and Culture exercise due at the beginning of class today (Feb. 25)

Week 7 (Mar. 4) Work on Research Paper Proposal and Bibliography
Class time devoted to working on your research paper proposal and bibliography.

Week 8 (Mar. 9) Comparative Diasporas (Meeting with Prof. Michel’s “Zionism and its Critics” Course, Curti Lounge, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.)

(Plus review: Edwards’s essay at: http://socialtext.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/19/1_66/45.pdf)  


Edward Blyden, “The Jewish Question” (1898), 5-24.


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Research paper proposal and bibliography due on Friday, March 11th at 4 p.m.

Week 9 (Mar. 18) Spring Break

Week 10 (Mar. 25) Independent Research

*Individual meetings to review paper proposals early this week:

(Mar. 24th) Please try to attend Henry Louis Gates, Jr.’s Nellie Y. McKay Lecture in the Humanities, 7:30 p.m. Mills Hall, Mosse Humanities Building

Week 11 (Apr. 1) Black and Blue: From Existentialism to Black Power
Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre (1961)


Week 12 (Apr. 8) Independent Research and Writing

Week 13 (Apr. 15) Primary Source & Trouble-Shooting Workshop
Bring in one of your primary sources to examine together with your classmates. Also, come prepared to discuss any substantive or structural problems you are having with your research and writing. You will be expected to help each other test and reformulate your ideas.

*Submit 2 copies of your 8-page drafts no later than Wednesday, April 20th*

Week 14 (Apr. 22) No class—Passover/Good Friday

Week 15 (Apr. 29) Discussion of Drafts

Week 16 (May 6) Final presentations

*Final papers due Thursday, May 12th at 4:00 p.m. in Professor Ratner-Rosenbagen’s office.*
Major African-American Intellectual and Cultural Figures - 19th & 20th Century

Ralph Abernathy
Charles G. Adams
Richard Allen
Maya Angelou
Kwame A. Appiah
Louis Armstrong
Byllyle Avery
Ella Baker
Houston A. Baker
Josephine Baker
James Baldwin
Amiri Baraka (Leroi Jones)
Martin Bernal
Mary McLeod Bethune
James Boggs
Horace Mann Bond
Julian Bond
Marita Bonner
Tom Bradley
Gwendolyn Brooks
Charlotte Hawkins Brown
Sterling A. Brown
Ralph Bunche
Henry Thacker Burleigh
Stokely Carmichael
Julia Carson
George Washington Carver
Shirley Chisholm
Kenneth B. Clark
Eldridge Cleaver
John Coltrane
Will Marion Cook
Anna Julia Cooper
Bill Cosby
Countée Cullen
Stanley Crouch
Alexander Crummell
Harold Cruse
Allison Davis
Angela Davis
Miles Davis
Martin Delany
Father Divine
Emmett E. Dorsey
Frederick Douglass
W. E. B. Du Bois
Duke Ellington
Ralph Ellison
Medgar Evers
Eleanora Fagan (Billie Holiday)
James Farmer
Louis Farrakhan
Jesse Fauset
John Hope Franklin
Edward Franklin Frazier
Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller
Henry Highland Garnet
Marcus Garvey
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Marvin Gaye
Lewis Ricardo Gordon
Archibald Grimke
Alex Haley
Fannie Lou Hamer
Lorraine Hansberry
Michael S. Harper
Abram Harris, Jr.
Hubert Harrison
Richard Gordon Hatcher
Aaron Henry
Lauryn Hill
Pauline Hopkins
Billie Holiday
bell hooks
Benjamin Hooks
Lena Horne
T. R. M. Howard
Langston Hughes
Zora Neale Hurston
Roy Innis
George L. Jackson
C. L. R. James
Charles S. Johnson
James Weldon Johnson
Lois Mailou Jones
Robin Kelley
Alan Keyes
Mae C. King
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Joyce Ladner
Jacob Lawrence
Spike Lee
David Levering Lewis
Hylan Lewis
John R. Lewis
Alain Locke
Rayford Logan
Manning Marable
Wynton Marsalis
Thurgood Marshall
Benjamin Mays
Claude McKay
Terry McMillan
James Alan McPherson
James Meredith
Kelly Miller
Amzie Moore
Toni Morrison
Robert Parris Moses
Wilson Moses
Elijah Muhammad
Albert Murray
Gloria Naylor
 Huey Newton
Barack Obama
Chandler Owen
Nell Irvin Painter
Gordon Parks
Rosa Parks
Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.
Colin Powell
A. Philip Randolph
Jewell Parker Rhodes
Condoleezza Rice
Paul Robeson
Joel Augustus Rogers
Bayard Rustin
Bobby Seale
Charles Sheldon
Fred Shuttlesworth
Carl B. Stokes
Henry Ossawa Tanner
Mary Church Terrell
Clarence Thomas
Howard Thurman
Sojourner Truth
Nat Turner
Alice Walker
Ronald W. Walters
Booker T. Washington
Harold Washington
George Washington Willia
Ida B. Wells-Barnett
Charles H. Wesley
Cornel West
Dorothy West
John Edgar Wideman
Robert F. Williams
William Julius Wilson
Carter G. Woodson
Richard Wright
Malcolm X
African-American Thought Starter Kit

Figure of the Black Intellectual
Harold Cruse, *Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* (1967)
________, *Crisis of the Negro Intellectual Reconsidered* (2007)

Racial Leadership and Uplift


Black Transatlantic Studies/Cosmopolitanism/Pan Africanism
Van Gosse, "'As a Nation, the English Are Our Friends': The Emergence of African American Politics in the British Atlantic World, 1772-1861," *American Historical Review* (October, 2008), 1003-1028.

**Anticolonialism and Postcolonialism**
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952)
______, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1963)
Aime Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (1955)
Homi Bhabha, *The Location of Culture* (1994)

**Black Expatriates**

**Harlem Renaissance**
Alain Locke and Arnold Rampersad, *The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance*

**Black Culture and Religion**
Lawrence Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom* (1977)
Bucklin Moon, *Primer for White Folks* (1945)
Juan Williams, *This Far by Faith: Stories from the African American Religious Experience* (2003)

Segregation and Jim Crow
Grace Elizabeth Hale, Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940 (1999)
C. Vann Woodward and William McFeely, The Strange Career of Jim Crow (1955)
David Oshinsky, Worse than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice (1997)

Civil Rights Movement
Juan Williams, Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965 (1987)
Harvard Sitkoff, A New Deal for Blacks: the Emergence of Civil Rights as a National Issue (1978)
Aldon Morris, Origins of the Civil Rights Movement (1986)
Taylor Branch, Parting the Waters: American in the King Years, 1954-1963 (1989)
David Garrow, Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (1986)
Bruce Watson, Freedom Summer: the Savage Season that made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy (2010)
Doug McAdam, Freedom Summer (1990)
Thomas Sugrue, Sweet Land of Liberty: the Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North (2009)

Black Radicalism and Black Power
George L. Jackson, Blood in My Eye (1972)
Angela Davis, If They Come in the Morning (1971)

Black Studies, Literary Studies, and the Academy


**Gender**


Peter Ling and Sharon Monteith, *Gender and the Civil Rights Movement* (1999)


Claudia Tate, *Black Women Writers at Work* (1984)

**Human Rights**


**Race and American Democracy**


**Miscellaneous**

