AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES 128: BLACK NATIONALISM

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Mondays 2:00-4:00, Barker Center, Room 230 (Alain Locke Room)
Professor Tommie Shelby
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Course Description: This is an intensive introduction to that diverse yet thematically connected set of African American social and political philosophies generally classified under the broad rubric "black nationalism." We will critically examine the ideas of a few key theorists and iconic spokespersons and take up several of the core themes of the tradition. Topics to be explored include the varieties of black nationalism; black collective self-determination; black capitalism; the ideas of "race" and "nation"; racial solidarity and group self-reliance; the construction of gender roles and configurations of class within black nationalist discourses; the relationship between black identity and black liberation goals; the role of black artistic and cultural expression in black freedom struggles; the significance of "Africa" for black nationalist ideals; and the relevance of black nationalism for contemporary African American politics. We will also discuss a few contemporary critical assessments of the tradition and its legacy.

Requirements:

- Class participation (15%). This involves making regular and well-informed contributions to class discussion and section meetings, which of course requires that you do the reading and regularly attend both class and section.
- A 6-8 page critical discussion of some of the ideas and arguments articulated during the "classical" period of black nationalism (e.g., those presented by such figures as Martin Delany, W.E.B. Du Bois, or Marcus Garvey), to be delivered to the receptionist in the African and African American Studies Department (2nd Floor Barker Center) by March 19 at 5:00 (35%).
- An 8-10 page critical discussion of some of the black nationalist ideas and arguments articulated during the modern or contemporary period (e.g., those defended by such figures as Malcolm X, Huey Newton, or Molefi Asante), to be delivered to the receptionist in the African and African American Studies Department (2nd Floor Barker Center) by May 17 at 5:00 (50%).

Required Texts (all of which are on reserve at Hilles and Lamont):

· George Breitman (ed.), Malcolm X Speaks (New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990). (Available at the COOP.)
· Philip S. Foner (ed.), The Black Panthers Speak (New York: Da Capo Press, 1995). (Available at the COOP.)
· Various readings compiled in a course packet. (Available at Gnomon Copy, 1304 Mass. Ave.)

Schedule:

February 9 (Week 1): Introduction
February 16 (Week 2): President's Day: No Classes
February 23 (Week 3): From Proto-Nationalism to Classical Nationalism
· Robert Alexander Young, "The Ethiopian Manifesto," in Classical Black Nationalism.
· Maria Stewart, "Address at the African Masonic Hall," in Classical Black Nationalism.
· Martin Delany, The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States (excerpts), in Classical Black Nationalism. Also available, in full, on the Web: www.libraries.wvu.edu/delany/home.htm.
March 1 (Week 4): Emigration and the Discourse of "Civilization"
· Roger Taney, "Obiter Dictum on the Dred Scott Case," in Classical Black Nationalism.
· Alexander Crummell, "The Progress of Civilization along the West Coast of Africa," in Classical Black Nationalism.
· Edward W. Blyden, "The Call of Providence to the Descendants of Africa," in Classical Black Nationalism.
· Henry Highland Garnet, "Address at Cooper's Institute," in Classical Black Nationalism.
· Abraham Lincoln, "Address on Colonization to a Deputation of Colored Men," in Classical Black Nationalism.
March 8 (Week 5): Post-Reconstruction Black Nationalist Revival and Pan-Africanism
· W.E.B. Du Bois, "To the World (Manifesto of the Second Pan-African Congress)," in
Modern Black Nationalism.

March 15 (Week 6): Garveyism and the Universal Negro Improvement Association
· Marcus Garvey, "Address at Newport News," in Classical Black Nationalism.
· Selections from The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey, ed. Amy Jacques Garvey in Course Packet.
· "Universal Negro Improvement Association, Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World," in Modern Black Nationalism.
· Amy Jacques Garvey, "I Am a Negro-and Beautiful," in Modern Black Nationalism.
· Carlos Cooks, "Hair Conking; Buy Black," in Modern Black Nationalism.

March 22 (Week 7): The Nation of Islam, Malcolm X, and Louis Farrakhan
· Malcolm X, "Basic Unity Program," in Modern Black Nationalism.

March 29 (Week 8): Spring Recess

April 5 (Week 9): Philosophy of Black Power
· "The Gary Declaration," in Modern Black Nationalism.
· Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), "Speech to the Congress of African Peoples," in Modern Black Nationalism.
· Roy Innis, "Separatist Economics," in Modern Black Nationalism.
· Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael), "Pan-Africanism-Land and Power," in Modern Black Nationalism.
· Martin Luther King, Jr., "Black Power," from Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? in Course Packet.

April 12 (Week 10): The Black Panther Party and Revolutionary Ideals
· Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Eldridge Cleaver, Kathleen Cleaver, and others, The Black Panthers Speak, pp. 1-6, and 39-165.
· "Panther Sisters on Women's Liberation," in Modern Black Nationalism.

April 19 (Week 11): Cultural Nationalism and Afrocentricity
· Molefi Kete Asante, The Afrocentric Idea, entire.

**April 26 (Week 12): Critical Reflections on the Tradition of Black Nationalism**
- Cornel West, "The Paradox of the African American Rebellion," in Is It Nation Time?
- Adolph L. Reed Jr., "Black Particularity Reconsidered," in Is It Nation Time?

**May 3 (Week 13): More Critical Reflections on the Tradition of Black Nationalism**
- E. Frances White, "Africa on My Mind," in Is It Nation Time?
- S. Craig Watkins, "'Black Is Back, and It's Bound to Sell!' Nationalist Desire and the Production of Black Popular Culture," in Is It Nation Time?
- Wahneema Lubiano, "Standing In for the State: Black Nationalism and 'Writing' the Black Subject," in Is It Nation Time?