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Office Hours: Wed, 2-4pm

AFRC 6550-402
The Black Political Imagination
Tuesday, 1:45-4:45pm.

The human imagination is overwhelmingly associated with the arts and sciences, poetry and prose, cinema, theatre, dance, painting, design, AI and other forms of technological innovation. Yet humans deploy their imaginations to produce not only works of art and science, but to solve problems associated with human interaction. Politics, believe it or not, can also be a site of imagination and creativity. This course will examine the ways in which the Black political imagination can be gleaned in Black life-worlds in efforts to resist, elide and evade domination, and to build communities, often against a backdrop of devastation. Social movements, rebellion, naming, the building and transformation of institutions, provide evidence of a black political imagination at work in a range of local, national, regional and transnational contexts. The readings reflect a diverse array of circumstances and formations from which black political thought emerges, as well as distinct perspectives on alliances, conflicts and convergences that constitute black politics.

Requirements: Two synthetic review papers, 15-20pp. each: 60%; Class Participation, 20%; Student-led seminar presentation and discussion: 20%

Texts (A tentative list):

George Lamming, *The Sovereignty of the Imagination*
Walter Rodney, *Groundings with my Brothers*
Richard Iton, *The Black Fantastic*
Wale Adebani, *The State and Everyday Life in Africa*
Zita Nunes, *Dorothy Porter*
Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker*
Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin, *Anarchism and the Black Revolution*, Pluto Press, 2021 4th edition
Paulo Cesar Ramos and Marcia Regina de Lima, *Versus/MNU*,
William C. Anderson, *The Nation on No Map*, AK Press, 2022.
Devora Woodly, *Reckoning*
Adom Getachew, *World-Making After Empire*, Princeton, 2019
Katherine McKittrick, *Dear Science*
Michael G. Hanchard, *Party/Politics*