

Black Social Movements: A Transnational Perspective
AFRC 5015.401

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This course invites graduate students and advanced undergraduates with prior authorization to explore scholarship and primary materials on the transnational dimensions of black social movements. Recent phenomena such as the world-wide protest against the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd and the political assassination of Rio de Janeiro city council member Marielle Franco are two examples of the ways in which events involving black death in one locale resonate in multiple sites across the globe. Uprisings and demonstrations seemingly divided by language, culture and nation-state find common cause in collective action in response to patterns and instances of injustice and inequality. Course materials provide documentary evidence and analysis of the transnational circuitry of black social movement networks that have arisen in response to racisms targeting black and brown population. Members of scheduled castes in India, aboriginal populations in Australia and New Zealand, and Afro-descendent populations in the Americas and Europe, have become agents of change and forged substantive alliances and strategic coalitions with other social movement tendencies. Scholarship from social movement theory, Black Studies, comparative history and political theory help constitute the core reading for this course. Film, documentary narrative and autobiography will supplement reading assignments.

Format: Seminar

Grading Criteria: Three short review papers: 12-15 pp. each in length, 60%; Class participation, 25%; seminar presentation, 15%.

Method: Close reading, textual analysis, conceptual compasses. Papers must provide succinct overviews of reading assignments across several seminar meetings, and are not full fledged research papers of course materials, nor of materials outside the course reading list. The goal of papers is not to express personal likes or dislikes but to identify core arguments, backed up by textual references that will provide the basis for students' conclusions. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the distinction between modes of analysis and objects of analysis. Late papers will not be accepted except in cases of documented emergency (accident, sudden illness, death of family members). Class participation means informed discussion of core texts and related course materials. Seminar presentations are designed to prepare students to deliver presentations at academic conferences, symposia and workshops, with a strict time allotment of 20 minutes.

Readings (Tentative, subject to change):

Black Movements in America, Cedric J. Robinson. New York and London: Routledge, 1997;
Reckoning: Black Lives Matter and the Democratic Necessity of Social Movements, Deva R. Woodly. Oxford University Press, 2022; *1 Million Roses for Angela Davis*, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Germany; *Building an Anti-Slavery Wall: Black Americans in the Atlantic Abolitionist Movement, 1830-1860*, Richard Blackett. Louisiana State University, 1983.

