This course examines the Black Power Movement in American society from 1954-1975. It explores the relationship between an African American-led social movement and the larger American society through an examination of the era’s urban upheavals, political organizations, national controversies, and leaders and icons.

Classes will be a combination of lectures and group discussion. Students will be responsible for paying close attention to assigned readings and preparing discussion questions for future classes. Each student should be prepared to engage in a good amount of sophisticated, yet highly readable intellectual and historical material. Finally, documentaries, films, and recordings will be presented during the semester when relevant.

Absences: Class attendance is crucial. Any student who misses more than 4 classes will receive an automatic F. When students miss class they miss important information in lectures and critical questions and commentary contained in classroom discussions. Poor attendance will result in a failing attendance grade and may result in failing the course. Of course, unexpected crises and setback do occur during every semester, which is why you are given two unexcused absences. However, your participation grade will be docked for each subsequent absence. My hope is that you learn from reading, lectures, and a critical and informed exchange of ideas with fellow students. Poor attendance will result in a failing grade for class participation. Any student who misses a third of the classes will fail the course.

Lateness: I expect every student to come to class on time. There will be a 5-minute grace period at the start of class. After this time, I reserve the right to bar a student from entering class.

Requirements: Students are expected to keep up with the reading assignments. This is imperative since assignments will require written essays based on an understanding and conceptualization of the assigned readings. All students are expected to be prepared for class and contribute to discussion in an informed manner. Students are required to keep detailed notes of the readings and lectures. Notes based on the reading assignments will be collected periodically.
Book Review of In the Shadow of the Son and Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour 25%
Book Review of Stokely Carmichael, Ready For Revolution: The Life and Struggles of Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) 25%
Participation (includes group discussion and notes) 15%
Attendance 10%
Take Home Final Exam 25%

Required Reading


Michael Simanga, In the Shadow of the Son

Peniel Joseph, ed., *Neighborhood Rebels: Black Power at the Local Level*

Stokely Carmichael with Ekueme Michael Thelwell, *Ready for Revolution: The Life and Struggles of Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture)*

James Smethurst, *The Black Arts Movements: Literary Nationalism in the 1960s and 1970s*

Recommended Reading
Komozi Woodard, *A Nation Within A Nation: Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) and Black Power Politics* (1999)

Class Schedule

Week 1, September 7, 2009
The Roots of Black Power/The Civil Rights Movement’s Heroic Years
Week 2, September 14  
Forerunners/Between Political and Cultural Worlds  
Midnight Hour, pp. xiii-xiv and 1-34.  
Black Power, New Preface and Intro.  
The Black Arts Movement, Into and Ch. 1.

Week 3, September 21  
The World of Malcolm X/Waging War Amid Shadows  
Midnight Hour, pp. 35-67.  
Black Power, Chapter 1  
Neighborhood Rebels, Intro and Ch. 1  
Ready For Revolution, Ch. 1-7

Week 4, September 28  
Black Power in the Age of Civil Rights/ Pan-Africanism in the Age of Integration  
Midnight Hour, pp. 68-94.  
The Black Arts Movement, Ch. 3  
Black Power, Ch. 2  
Ready For Revolution, Ch. 8-14

Week 5, October 5  
Strange Alliance/Restless Coalitions  
The Black Arts Movement, Ch. 4  
Black Power, Chapter 3  
Neighborhood Rebels, Ch. 5  
Ready For Revolution, Ch. 15-21

Week 6, October 12  
Riot Politics/Rebellions, Race, and Radicalism  
Midnight Hour, pp. 95-117  
Black Power, Chapter 7  
Neighborhood Rebels, Ch. 4  
Book Review #1 Due

Week 7, October 19  
Stokely Carmichael and the Meredith March  
Midnight Hour, pp. 132-173.  
Black Power, Ch 5-6  
Ready For Revolution, Ch. 22-23

Week 8, October 26  
Storm Warnings/Domestic and Global Implication of Black Power  
Midnight Hour, pp. 174-204  
The Black Power Movement, pp. 251-277  
Ready For Revolution, Ch. 24
Black Power, Ch. 8

Week 9, November 2
Black Power and the Radical Politics of the late 1960s
Midnight Hour, pp. 205-240
Black Power Chapter 4-5
Neighborhood Rebels, Ch. 7
Ready For Revolution, 25-27

Week 10, November 9
No Class, Thursday Schedule
Complete Ready For Revolution

Week 11, November 16
The Black Panthers/Racial Symbols and Racial Politics
The Black Arts Movement, Ch. 5
Black Power, Chapter 7
Book Review # 2

Week 12, November 23
The Politics of Culture Across Race/ Black Power Feminism
The Black Arts Movement, Ch. 2
Neighborhood Rebels, Ch. 10

Week 13, November 30
Dashikis and Democracy/The Cultural Politics of Race
Midnight Hour, pp. 276-295.
The Black Arts Movement, Ch. 6

Week 14, December 7
From Black Power to Barack Obama: Reconsidering the Movement’s Contemporary Legacy
The Black Power Movement, pp. 229-249.
Midnight Hour, pp. 296-304
Final Take Home Assignment Due
Notes

Any student that has documented requirements for special needs can contact me in private.

Class discussion is encouraged. As a group of intellectuals in the process of becoming a scholarly community debate and discussion is encouraged. However, these individuals must maintain civility and respect toward one another at all times.

Academic Integrity
ALL CASES OF PLAGIARISM OR OTHER ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL BE REPORTED. You should know that it is very easy to catch papers or portions of papers downloaded from the internet. Direct quotes must be openly acknowledged through the use of quotation marks. You need to provide proper footnote citations and bibliography for any material taken from another source whether quoted or paraphrased. I will pass out a sheet showing the format I would like you to use for footnotes and bibliography. You may seek help with papers at the Writing Center, or from the instructors in this course, or you may discuss projects with student colleagues in the course, but the final product must be your own.

Statement on Disabilities
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work or perform effectively on timed examinations, we recommend for you to contact the staff who will review your concerns and determine, in consultation with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation of disability is confidential. The instructor can only respond to requests for disability accommodation if they have gone through that office.