

**Cheikh Thiam (Hadim)**  
**M-W 4:40PM-6:05PM**

**Coli 211M: The treatment of the question of race in African and African American thought**

This course is organized around the core issues of “Negroeness.” We will focus on the invention, representations, and treatments of the Negro body, cultures, and social organizations both in the United States and in continental Africa. We will explore the question of the Negro as an invented individual and collective category situated on the opposite side of the “White Man.” We will think the ways these racial category-ies shift within existing social frameworks, and the ways in which these changing positions have been understood within dominant U.S. cultures by Negroes themselves. We will also insist on the ways a Negro intelligentsia has attempted to redefine the Negro and to represent their civilization invented for Western economical interest by a Western intelligentsia. Thus, we will read comparatively different accounts of the invention of race and the Negro by Negroes in Africa and in America. We will insist on core moments like the civil rights movement in America, and the decolonization movements in Africa.

This course is heavily based on student participation in the form of discussions and presentations, so your presence and active engagement in the classroom are necessary. More than three unexcused absences will result in lowering your final grade or failing the class. **You are responsible for all reading material as assigned on the syllabus before the beginning of class.** This is an essential part of the course. There will be three papers as well as presentations in class. These assignments will be explained in detail before the time of their due date. There will also be smaller assignments counted as participation given in the course of the semester. All assignments should be handed in or presented on time. The syllabus is subject to adjustments according to the discretion of the instructor.

Plagiarism is a bad thing. Don’t do it.

**Syllabus**

Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006: Introduction

**I-Race and the American social order**

Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006: *Race Matters*, Cornell West: p.1 to p.35

Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006: *Race Matters*, Cornell West p.36 to p.90

Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006: Movie, *Ethnic notions*, produced, written & directed by Marlon T. Riggs

Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006: Presentation, Hip-Hop lyrics, African American culture, and mainstream America

*Paper1: How does the hip hop movement participate in the debate on race and race relations in America? Does it enforce the race prejudices or can it be considered as a new Black Nationalism?*

**II-Colonization and the definition of the Negro**

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006:

Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006: *The Ambiguous Adventure*, Cheikh A. Kane

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006: *The Ambiguous Adventure*, Cheikh A. Kane  
Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006: *The Ambiguous Adventure*,  
Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006: Cheikh A. Kane movie, *Keita: Heritage of a Griot*

### III-Revolt or assimilation

#### A-The Negritude movement

Monday February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006: Presentation on colonization and slavery: violence/process of colonization of the minds/ac-culturation/space, place, and displacement.

*Paper2: How can you compare the process of definition, culturation and a-culturation of the Negro in the US and in Africa?*

Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006: Presentation, Cesaire and Negritude – Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006: L.S.S. and Negritude (Reading) “Vue sur l’Afrique noir ou assimiler non etre assimiler”

Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Presentation: Cheikh Anta Diop and Afro-centrism  
Reading “Race, The writing of history and culture wars,” Keita Maghan

Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 Presentation on Fanon

Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Fanon, *The Wretched of the earth*, “**On violence**”

#### B-The civil rights movement and blackness

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Presentations of Malcolm X and his philosophy

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 Malcolm X *The Time has come* produced, directed, and written by James A. DeVinney, Madison Davis Lacy.

Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 *Malcolm X The Time has come* produced, directed, and written by James A. DeVinney, Madison Davis Lacy.

Monday, April 10, 2006 Presentations of Martin Luther King and his philosophy

April 12 to April 17, Spring break

Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, conference

Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006: *The Promised land* by Paul Stekler, Jacqueline Shearer.

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006: “Vindicating Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Road to a Color-Blind Society” by Mary Frances Berry

Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006: Discussion: How does the category of the Negro change from continental Africa to the U.S? Does the Negro exist?

Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006: Movie: *Black Skin White Mask*

Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006: *Black Skin White Mask*, Fanon Franz

Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>: 2006 *Black Skin White Mask*, Fanon Franz

*Paper3: What do you think about the different types of resistance against racism? Is violence a solution? Can it be explained?*

*Paper: Can we talk about the Negro as a category? Why? Why not?*

Books and articles

West. Cornell. *Race Matters*

Kane. Cheikh A. *The Ambiguous Adventure*

Cesaire. Aimee. *Discourse on Colonialism*  
Keita. Maghan. “Race, The writing of history and culture wars”  
Fanon. Franz. *Black Skin White Mask*  
*The Wretched of the earth*  
Senghor. Leopold. “Vue sur l’Afrique noir ou assimiler non etre assimiler”

Visual Materials

*Vindicating Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Road to a Color-Blind Society* by Mary Frances Berry  
*Ethnic notions*, produced, written & directed by Marlon T. Riggs  
*Keita: Heritage of a Griot* by Dani Kouyate  
*The Time has come* by James A. DeVinney, Madison Davis Lacy.  
*The Promised Land* by Paul Stekler, Jacqueline Shearer Movie: *Black Skin White Mask*