

## ETHN 149 x HIUS 139: 20<sup>th</sup> Century African American History

Professor Widener  
UCSD, Fall 2005  
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"we went from pickin' cotton/to chain-gang line choppin'  
be-boppin' to hip-hoppin'/blues people got the blue chip stock option  
invisible man/got the whole world watchin'  
-mos def

Course Description: Our class traces the history of people of African descent in North American during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Using culture and politics as our primary analytic frames, we will seek to unravel Mos Def's comments, thus following black people on a circuitous journey of migration and struggle. In following migration, social struggle, cultural production, and political debate, we will take African American history as both inherently international and highly local. In the end, we will seek to understand how African Americans have sought to answer the primary question that confronts all peoples: what is to be done?

Requirements: You must be present to learn. As the course materials are designed to function in a complementary manner, you will find that neither stellar attendance nor regular reading is sufficient in and of themselves. You must endeavor to do both. Classroom time will be divided between lecture and discussion, with the assigned readings constituting the primary subject of the latter. Five films will be shown out of class. They will screen Mondays, from 7 to 9 PM. Attendance at the films is required as well.

Reading: The following texts are required. This means you will be expected to purchase all of them. While copies will be placed on reserve at the library, please bear in mind that you may be asked to bring copies of the books to class. Those who elect to rely on the readings held at the library may find themselves doing a great deal of copying.

S. Hahn, *A Nation Under our Feet*  
L. Jones/A. Baraka, *Blues People*  
M. Marable, *Race, Reform, and Rebellion*  
W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folks*

Grading: Your grade will be based on the following:

Midterm Exam #1 (in-class): 25%  
Midterm Exam #2 (in-class): 25%  
Final Paper (take-home): 50%

### course outline

9/22            When the Levee Breaks: course introduction and themes  
read: Baraka, 1; Dubois, Intro (forethought), Hahn, prologue & 1

9/27	from slavery to freedom to slavery: legacies of reconstruction
9/29	the problem of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century: racism and empire read: Baraka, 2-3; DuBois, I-VII; Hahn, 2
10/4	of Mr. Washington and others: rethinking black leadership
10/6	twice the work of free labor: the political economy of racism read: Baraka, 4-5; DuBois, VIII-End; Hahn, 3 film: <i>Rosewood</i>
10/11	blues people in the black belt
10/13	the science and culture of migratin' read: Baraka, 6-7; Hahn, Part II (4-6)
10/18	Garvey's ghost: black leadership and the intewar epoch
10/20	the Harlem renaissance in global perspective read: Baraka, 8-9; Hahn, Part III (7-9)
10/25	a new deal for black America?
10/27	Midterm Exam #1 read: Baraka, 10-12;
11/1	double V, double time: waging war for (cultural) democracy
11/3	freedom is, freedom ain't: what to listen for in jazz read: Marable, Chapters 1-2;
11/8	the black revolution I: civil rights and beyond
11/10	the black revolution II: we own the night? read: Marable, Chapters 3-5 film: <i>Finally Got the News</i>
11/15	the black revolution III: thirdworldism, Marxism, and pan-Islamism
11/17	race, Reagan and reaction: black politics, 1968-2004 read: Marable, Chapters, 6-8 film: <i>Battle of Algiers</i>
11/22	into the fire: black culture after freedom
11/24	No Class—Celebration of Destruction of the Indigenous Population of North America film: <i>Killer of Sheep</i>
11/29	Tomorrow is the Question
12/1	Midterm Exam #2 film: <i>Menace II Society</i>

### **Ethnic Studies Major or Minor at UCSD**

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Ethnic Studies at (858) 534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu)