HIST 75900 The Black Radical Tradition

Mondays 2 PM - 4 PM
Prof. Spencer
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Appointments available on Mondays between 10 and 2.

This course will trace the contours of the Black Radical Tradition in the twentieth century. Although the focus will be the US, some readings will take a transnational approach and include Diasporic actors, movements and focal points. We will focus on the dialectic between Black intellectual thought and social movement organizing to consider how Black radicalism impacted movements for change. Students will interrogate the works of some of the major historians defining the field of Black radicalism and learn about the organizational and intellectual frameworks that black radicals created.

Assessments:

25%: Participation/Discussion

All students are expected to be prepared to actively participate in our weekly discussions. Additionally, students are expected to be prompt for every class, and be present in class unless they have extenuating circumstances and have communicated with me beforehand.

Each student will sign up to serve as discussion leader for one session. This involves submitting a 1,000 word book review of the book and creating 5-7 discussion questions to guide the discussion. Discussion leaders will present a 5-minute summary of their book review and then guide the class discussion using their questions. Both the questions and the review are due to the professor the day before you present. Please bring hard copies of the questions to class for your peers.

75%: Research Paper

Students will be required to work on a research project over the course of the semester. As we read each book consider whether there are issues that merit deeper examination. Are researchable questions emerging as you read, write, and speak about these texts for our class? Students will write a 30 page research paper due on Monday, May 21. Please note that topics and preliminary bibliographies are due on March 26.
Reading Schedule:

January 29: Introductions/Course Overview


