THE IDEOLOGY OF BLACK LIBERATION: 1948-1975

THE SIX ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

“WHEN WE REVOLT IT IS FOR NO PARTICULAR CULTURE. WE REVOLT SIMPLY BECAUSE, FOR MANY REASONS, WE CAN NO LONGER BREATHE.”  FRANTZ FANON

This class is focused on the ideas that underpinned Black liberation movements from the end of World War Two until the mid-1970s. Much time is spent in academic settings exploring the classical (or the “good”) phase of the civil rights movement – peaceful demonstrations, church centered protests, sits ins, etc. Black Nationalism and other Black liberation movements such as the Black Power movement are taught largely as a reaction to the failure of the earlier phase of the civil rights movement to make good on its promises. While there is some truth in this claim it is important to understand that even before the passive resistance phase of the civil rights movement began a parallel far more radical...
A strand of Black politics existed. The Black Panther Party did not spring suddenly from the brains of Huey Newton and Bobby Seale. The ideas of armed struggle, Pan-Africanism, and anti-colonial revolution had been simmering in the radical Black community long before the eruptions of the Black Power movement in 1966.

The class is designed to give students grounding in the context out of which the Black Panther Party and other Black liberation movements emerged as well as an in-depth study of the rise and fall of the BPP.

In this class each student will be required to attend EVERY class session, take an active part in discussions, lead a discussion of an article or book, participate in a group project focused on an aspect of the course, and write a draft of a research paper on a topic related to the material we have studied. You will be responsible for including a detailed bibliography and proper footnotes or endnotes. This paper will be due at the end of finals week. Participation is the key to success in this class.

**BOOKS:**
ELAINE BROWN, *A TASTE OF POWER*
MANNING MARABLE, *MALCOLM X: A LIFE OF REINVENTION*
BLOOM & MARTIN, *BLACK AGAINST EMPIRE* (BAE)
PENIEL JOSEPH, *STOKELY*
PENIEL JOSEPH, *WAITING 'TIL THE MIDNIGHT HOUR*
*THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS* (FURNACED)

**OUR FIRST CLASS MEETING IS ON MARCH 30TH. PRIOR TO THAT MEETING I WOULD LIKE ALL OF YOU TO READ THE FORUM ON BLACK STRUGGLE AND BLACK POLITICAL EDUCATION PUBLISHED THIS MONTH IN THE BOSTON REVIEW. READ AT LEASTG SOME OF THE RESPONSES TO PROF. KELLEY’S ESSAY AND PRINT OUT THE ARTICLE AND BRING IT TO CLASS SO WE CAN DISCUSS IT. LINK IS BELOW:**

http://bostonreview.net/forum robin-d-g-kelley-black-study-black-struggle

**WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION**
INSERT LINK; ROBIN KELLEY, *FREEDOM DREAMS*, pp 61-108
WAITING ‘TIL THE MIDNIGHT HOUR, PP 9-67
WATCH Frantz Fanon Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4fQ7KwKgFA
*THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS* (FURNACED)

**WEEK TWO: HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A PROBLEM?**
READING: WAITING ‘TIL THE MIDNIGHT HOUR, pp.132-173
JAMES BALDWIN, EXCERPT FROM THE FIRE NEXT TIME); SNCC: BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS POSITION PAPER; BAE, pp. 1-64;
WEEK THREE: THE RISE OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
PAPER: TOPIC DUE

WEEK FOUR: PANTHERS. CONTINUED
FILM: GREG EVERETT’S 41ST & CENTRAL OR THE MURDER OF FRED HAMPTON
READING: BAE 99-160
PAPER: BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

WEEK FIVE: PANTHERS, AND THEIR PROBLEMS
READING: CHRIS BOOKER, "LUMPENIZATION: A CRITICAL ERROR OF THE BPP,” (INSERT SCANNED MATERIAL); WINSTON A. GRADY-WILLIS, THE BPP: STATE REPRESSION AND POLITICAL PRISONERS (INSERT SCANNED MATERIAL); BAE, pp. 179-246

WEEK SIX: BLACK FEMINIST DREAMS
READING: ROBIN KELLEY, THIS BATTLEFIELD CALLED LIFE, PP 135-156; REGINA JONES, WHY I JOINED THE PARTY (SCANNED MATERIAL); TRACYE MATTHEWS, “NO ONE EVER ASKS WHAT A MAN’S PLACE IN THE REVOLUTION IS.” (SCANNED MATERIAL); ANGELA LE BLANC-ERNEST, “THE MOST QUALIFIED PERSON TO HANDLE THE JOB.” (SCANNED MATERIAL); BAE, pp. 269-308

WEEK SEVEN: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? NEGROES WITH GUNS, PART TWO.
READING: BAE, pp. 341-371
FILM: THE SPOOK THAT SAT BY THE DOOR
PRESENTATION ELAINE BROWN, GROUP

WEEK EIGHT: WRAP UP
PRESENTATION: MALCOLM X GROUP

WEEK NINE: LAST WORDS
PRESENTATION OF TOPICS
FILM: BLACK POWER MIX TAPES

WEEK TEN
PARTY!