THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR BLACK STUDIES CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
(A Short Bibliography)

Critique of Eurocentrism


Theories of the Black Experience

5. Patricia Hill Collins, Black Feminist Thought (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1990)

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The overall framework constitutes a paradigm of unity in Afro-American Studies. This figure defines a logical space for the entire field of Afro-American Studies. The columns are historical stages marked with letters, and the rows are aspects of the Black experience marked with numbers. Each box (e.g., A-1 or G-4) has a logical connection of experience within a specific historical context. With this analytical tool, it is possible to have a conception of the entire field and begin to identify boxes and sets of boxes to codify and sum up existing research, as well as to chart the path for additional new research.

This is the basis for the organization of the chapters in this book. Chapters 2 and 3 deal with columns A and B. Chapter 4 deals with column C, Chapter 5 with column E, and Chapter 6 with column G. Chapters 5, 6, and 9-13 include columns D and F where appropriate. Chapters 7 and 8 deal with row 3, mainly G-3. Chapters 9, 10, 12, and 13 all deal with row 2, again mainly G-2. Chapter 11 takes an aspect of row 4 (gender) and relates it to other rows, especially row 2. Chapter 14 deals with rows 1 and 2, Chapter 15 deals with rows 1, 2, and 4, and Chapter 16 with rows 1, 2, and 3. In general, the above connection between the paradigm of unity and the chapters is suggestive because no chapter is confined to the specific limitation of a box. But the paradigm is the basis for locating a topic of debate or discussion in such a way that it is comprehensible across ideological lines.

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**Figure B**

**HISTORICAL CHANGE AND THE BLACK EXPERIENCE**

**SOCIAL COHESION**
- Traditional Africa
- Slavery
- Rural Life
- Urban Life

**SOCIAL DISRUPTION**
- Slave Trade
- Emancipation
- Migration
- Crisis

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**Table 4**

**BASIC ASPECTS OF THE BLACK EXPERIENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Human Reality</th>
<th>Key Black Studies Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY</td>
<td>RACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLITICAL ECONOMY</td>
<td>CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIETY</td>
<td>NATIONALITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSCIOUSNESS</td>
<td>IDEOLOGY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>