

MODERN CULTURE AND BLACK PEOPLE

Taught By

Afro-American Studies Program
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

1973 - 1974

Course Designed by

Peoples College
P.O. Box 5747
Nashville, Tn. 37208

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MODERN CULTURE AND BLACK PEOPLE

1. PURPOSES OF THE COURSE

- A. To challenge every student to be a serious Black intellectual, (knowledgeable about himself and his people, and committed to make the world a better place to live in).
- B. To study the development of modern society and culture, and the role Black people have played in it.
- C. To investigate and discuss the historical origins and development of the contemporary Black community in the USA.
- D. To systematically examine the development, basis, and make-up of several important social institutions in the Black community.
- E. To explore the relevancy of various ideologies concerning the social position of Black people (past, present and future).

2. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Class attendance.
- B. Take good class notes.
- C. Reading required materials.
- D. Full participation in class discussions.
- E. Writing a short paper (2-3 typed double-spaced pages) every week, and turning it in on time.

3. GRADES

- A. 40% weekly papers (due the first session of each week) and class participation.
- B. 20% mid-term exam (middle of October).
- C. 40% final exam (middle of December).

4. OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT

WEEK

1. What's it all about? (INTRODUCTION)

Black people in the USA have to develop a scientific approach to understanding and changing this society and themselves. Our focus on problems must start with Colonialism and Slavery (because all subsequent social developments are related to Colonialism and Slavery) and then turned to Liberation (because all current social action must be based on bringing Liberation about).

2. What was Africa like before the European came? (COLONIZATION)

Africa as "the dark continent full of savages" is an image only recently corrected in most history books. But while that negative image has been replaced by a strong positive image and identification with Africa, we have not developed a full understanding of the peoples and cultures of Africa before European penetration. Until we do so we can have little appreciation of the full impact of that which we often intuitively condemn--"how the white man exploited Africa" in terms of slavery, colonialism, and imperialism. What was Africa like before the coming of Europeans? What was the state of its economy, its politics, its art, its music, its dance, and its religion?

3. What was slavery all about? (SLAVERY)

Black labor from Africa provided white landlords in the Americas with agricultural and mineral produce which provided the raw materials for industrial revolutions in England and the United States during the 19th century. Black societies in the New World, being deprived of ownership of land and capital, were thus unable to develop economically, socially, or politically.

4. What is modern? (CAPITALISM)

All societies develop in historical stages based upon the ways in which people are organized to develop and distribute the goods and services needed to survive. In general, the modern period is based on a revolution of science and technology and corresponding revolutions in the social organization of society. In sum, modernity is a social phenomena after the fall of feudal society and is the result of urbanization, industrialization, and bureaucratization.

5. Are all Black people the same? (SOCIAL CLASS)

Social classes are formed when people are organized on the basis of inequality, i.e., some people own and control the resources of the society while others are forced to work for them in order to make a living. Black people in the USA have been forced to play different social roles and have developed different relationships with the ruling class. In sum, this has resulted in a middle class and a working class, with marginal groups such as welfare recipients, the unemployed, and the lumpen-proletariat. However, none of these differences are as great as that between the ruling class and all class elements of Black people.

WEEK

6. Can Black people get a "piece of the American Pie"? (POLITICAL ECONOMY)

Monopoly capitalism, nationally and internationally, places control of the means of production outside the reach of Black people in the United States, in the Caribbean, and to a large extent in Africa. This essential fact has made reformist, integrationist, and separatist proposals from Black capitalism to Black nationhood less than effective in improving the relative welfare of the vast majority of oppressed Blacks.

7. What kinds of political power do Black people have in the USA? (GOVERNMENT & THE POWER OF THE STATE)

Black people are participating in politics in greater numbers than ever. As appointed officials, as elected politicians, and through voting, some degree of power is yielded. In addition, Black community groups play an important political role. What gains have been secured through Black political activity? Have there been any long-lasting gains? Or have the rules of the game been changed when meaningful Black political power becomes a possibility?

8. Why is religion so strong in the Black community? (CHURCH AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION)

The church has been the most stable institution in the Black community. It has functioned as the basis of social life, developed civic leadership and provided an ideological orientation for the masses of Black people. The historical stages of its development reflect the basic experiences of the total Black community.

9. Has education paid off for Black people? (THE SCHOOL AS AN AGENCY OF SOCIAL CHANGE)

Tremendous strides have been made since the 1954 Brown Decision of the Supreme Court in improving educational opportunity for Black youth on all levels of education. These strides, however, have not come without great sacrifice and struggle. Still, many contradictions remain to be resolved. Recent studies indicate that income and employment gaps between Blacks and whites are increasing despite Black educational advancements. Others argue that the control of Black higher education rests outside the Black community. If Black people are not benefiting from their education, then who is? How do we assess the past and present struggles of Black people in the educational arena?

10. How and why do we spend our money? (THE CONSUMPTION OF POPULAR CULTURE)

Black culture serves to give identity to the Black community. This identity can be understood in terms of who produces the cultural forms, and who consumes them. Black people tend to be the cultural innovators and consumers, but others control and produce the cultural forms. Examples are clothes, radio stations, movies and music.

WEEK

11. What was the struggle during the 1960's all about? (CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS)

The struggle in the 1960's was a struggle for democracy, civil rights. The different organizations and movements were based on different social classes and groups in the Black community. A great deal of what happened can also be explained by examining the changing interests of the ruling class. The highest point of struggle (based on the motion of the masses of people) can best be discussed in light of Martin Luther King.

12. What are the basic ideas of an integrationist? (THEORY OF ASSIMILATION)

Schools of thought among Black intellectual leaders have had a central dichotomy, integration or separation. It is proper to view these alternatives not as ends in themselves but as alternative tactics to deal with racism in America. The intergrationist position has as its underlying assumption that assimilation is the ultimate solution of all racial conflict.

13. What are the basic ideas of a nationalist? (THEORY OF NATIONALISM)

There is disagreement about whether Black people constitute a nation or a national minority. Numerous organizational activities and protests have taken nationalist forms. How can we characterize the various strains of nationalist thought throughout our history? What factors account for the rise and dominance of any particular form? What are the main tendencies of nationalist thought today?

14. What are the basic ideas of a revolutionary? (THEORY OF INTERNATIONALISM)

Pan-Africanism and concern with Third World problems generally are increasingly becoming the concern of Black intellectuals in search of solutions to the oppression suffered by Black people in the United States. National liberation movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have prompted a renewed interest among Black scholars in the idea of internationalizing the fight against oppression.

5. REQUIRED READINGS

WEEK

1. INTRODUCTION

- A. "Social Science and Black Liberation," Abdul Alkalimat, (mimeographed by Fisk Afro-American Studies Program).
- B. "The Failure of the Negro Intellectual," E. Franklin Frazier, Negro Digest.

2. COLONIZATION

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, Walter Rodney
Chapter 1 - "Some Questions on Development".
Chapter 2 - "How Africa Developed Before the Coming of the European".

3. SLAVERY

Capitalism and Slavery, Eric Williams
Chapter 1, 2 -
Chapter 3 - "Triangular Trade"

4. CAPITALISM

Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx & Frederick Engels, (Peking, Foreign Languages Press).

5. SOCIAL CLASS

Black Bourgeoisie, E. Franklin Frazier, (New York, Collier Books, 1962).
Chapter 1 - "The Roots of the Black Bourgeoisie"
Chapter 2 - "The Economic Basis of Middle Class Status"

- B. The Demand for Black Labor (pamphlet from Radical America), Harold Baron

6. POLITICAL ECONOMY

- A. The Myth of Black Capitalism, Earl Ofari
- B. Monopoly Capital, Paul Baron and Paul Sweezy,
Chapter titled "Monopoly Capital and Race Relations"

7. GOVERNMENT & THE POWER OF THE STATE

- A. "Sub-community Gladatorial Competition: Civil Rights Leadership as a Competitive Process", Gerald McWorter and Robert Crain, (mimeographed by Afro-American Studies Program).
- B. "Two Negro Politicians: An Interpretation," James Q Wilson, (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).

7. C. "The Functions of Disunity - Negro Leadership in a Southern City," Jack Walker, (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).

D. "Black Rule in the Urban South," Lee Sloan and Robert M. French, (Translation, November/December, 1971).

8. THE CHURCH AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION

The Negro Church in America, E. Franklin Frazier.

9. THE SCHOOL AS AN AGENCY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

A. "Education and Employment Status of Blacks and Whites Since 1946: The Growing Disparity," Daniel Kruger, in Racial Crisis in American Education, Robert L. Green, (Follett, 1968), pp. 20-44.

B. "Murder Relentless and Impassive: The American Academic Community and the Negro College," John Sekora.

C. "School Segregation Cases (1953-1955): Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka," in Civil Rights and the American Negro, A. P. Blaustein and R. L. Zangrando, (New York, 1968), pp. 414-424.

10. THE CONSUMPTION OF POPULAR CULTURE

A. Black Bourgeoise, E. Franklin Frazier, Chapters 5,7,9.

B. "The Black Middle Class," (Special Issue of Ebony).

11. CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

A. Peoples Colleges, "Black Liberation and the Student Movement," (mimeographed handout, Fisk Afro-American Studies Program).

B. Dialectics of Black Power, Robert Allen, (New York, Guardian pamphlet).

C. 1967: High Tide of Black Resistance, James Foreman.

D. "On the Role of Martin Luther King," August Meier, (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).

12. THEORY OF ASSIMILATION

A. "Sociological Theory and Race Relations," E. Franklin Frazier, (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).

B. "Review of An American Dilemma," Ralph Ellison, in (Shadow and Act, Ralph Ellison).

13. THEORY OF NATIONALISM

A. "The Nationalist Tradition," E. U. Essien-Udom, (in Black Nationalism: Search for Identity).

B. "Black Nationalism Since Garvey," John Bracey, (in Key Issues in the Afro-American Experience, Nathan Higgins, Harcourt, 1971).

14. THEORY OF INTERNATIONALISM

A. Speeches by Martin Luther King on Vietnam and W.E.B. DuBois.

B. "Message to the Grass Roots," Malcolm X, (an L.P. record).

7. SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

1. INTRODUCTION

- A. Horace Cayton, The Lonely Road.
- B. Harold Cruse, The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual.
- C. W.E.B. DuBois, Autobiography (last one of three he wrote).
- D. W.E.B. DuBois, The World and Africa.
- E. Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man.
- F. Frantz Fanon, Wretched of the Earth.
- G. E. Franklin Frazier, The Negro in the United States.
- H. Melville Herskovits, The Myth of the Negro Past.
- I. Armstead Robinson, Black Studies in the University.
- J. John Williams, The Man Who Cried I Am.

2. COLONIZATION

- A. Robert O. Collins (ed.), Problems in African History.
- B. Phillip Curtin (ed.), Africa Remembered: Narratives by West Africans from the Era of the Slave Trade.
- C. Basil Davidson, The African Past: Chronicles From Antiquity to Modern Times.
- D. W.E.B. DuBois, Black Folk: Then and Now.
- E. Yosef ben-Jochanan, Black Man of the Nile: Contributions to European Civilization and Thought.
- F. Henry H. Johnston, A History of the Colonization of Africa by Alien Races.
- G. John S. Mbiti, African Religions and Philosophies.
- H. B.A. Ogot and J. A. Kieran, Zamani: A Survey of East African History.
- I. Joseph A. Tillinghast, The Negro in Africa and America. (Perhaps the best example of racist scholarship in this area.)
- J. Carter G. Woodson, The African Background Outlined.

3. SLAVERY

- A. Herbert Aptheker, Slave Revolts.
- D. W.E.B. DuBois, The African Slave Trade.
- C. John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom.
- D. Richard Hofstaalter, "U.B. Phillips and the Plantation Legend," (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).
- E. H. Klein, Slavery in the Americas: A Comparative Study of Virginia and Cuba.
- F. Simon Rottenberg, "The Business of Slave Trading," (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).
- G. Robert R. Russell, "Economic History of Negro Slavery," (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).
- H. K. Stamp, Reconstruction.
- I. Richard Wade, Slavery in the Cities.
- J. B. Ward, The Industrial Revolution.

4. CAPITALISM

- A. Marc Bloch, Feudal Society.
- B. Emile Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society.
- C. V. I. Lenin, The State and Revolution.
- D. Lewis Mumford, Technics and Civilization.
- E. David Riesman, The Lonely Crowd.
- F. Joseph Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy.
- G. Alex de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution.
- H. Ferdinand Tonnies, Community and Society.
- I. Richard Wright, Black Boy.
- J. , Man, Machines and Technology, (International Publishers).

5. SOCIAL CLASS

- A. James Dodds, Racism and the Class Struggle.
- B. Kenneth Clark, Dark Ghetto.

5. SOCIAL CLASS

- C. William Davidson, "Our Negro Aristocracy," (Saturday Evening Post, January 13, 1962).
- D. E. Franklin Frazier, "Durham: Capital of the Black Middle Class," in The New Negro, Alain Locke, (ed.).
- E. Novall Glen, "Negro Prestige Criteria," (American Journal of Sociology, Nov. 1963).
- F. Henry Hudson, Black Worker in the Deep South.
- G. Julius Jacobson, (ed.) The Negro and the Labor Movement.
- H. Charles Johnson, The Negro College Graduate.
- I. August Meier and David Lewis, "History of the Negro Upper Class in Atlanta, Ga.: 1890-1958," (Journal of Negro Education, Spring 1959).
- J. Spero and Harris, The Black Worker.

6. POLITICAL ECONOMY

- A. Ron Bailey, Black Business Enterprise.
- B. Daran & Sweezy, Monopoly Capital.
- C. Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth.
- D. Haddad and Pugh, Black Economic Development.
- E. Marshall, The Negro Worker.
- F. D. Mermelstein, Economics, Mainstream Readings and Radical Critiques.
- G. Kwame Nkrumah, Africa Must Unite.
- H. Kwame Nkrumah, Dark Days in Ghana.
- I. Kwame Nkrumah, Neo-Colonialism, The Last Stage of Imperialism.
- J. Vatter & Palm, The Economics of Black America.

7. GOVERNMENT & THE POWER OF THE STATE

- A. Harry A. Bailey, Negro Politics in America.
- B. Stokely Carmichael and Charles Hamilton, Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America.
- C. William Domhoff, Who Rules America?

7. GOVERNMENT & THE POWER OF THE STATE

- D. Lenneal Henderson, Black Political Life in the U. S.
- E. William R. Keech, The Impact of Negro Voting: The Role of the Vote in the Quest for Equality.
- F. V. I. Lenin, The State and Revolution.
- G. Donald Matthews and James Prothro, Negroes and the New Southern Politics.
- H. Hugh Price, The Negro and Southern Politics: A Chapter of Florida History.
- I. Charles Stone, Black Political Power in America, (Bobbs-Merrill, 1968).
- J. Hanes, Walton, Black Politics.

8. THE CHURCH AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION

- A. William Banks, The Black Church in the U.S.
- B. Albert B. Cleage, The Black Messiah.
- C. James H. Cone, Black Theology and Black Power.
- D. Oliver C. Cox, Capitalism as A System (Monthly Review, 1964), Chapter 3, "The Role of Religion."
- E. St. Clair Drake, The Redemption of Africa and Black Religion.
- F. W.E.B. DuBois, The Negro Church.
- G. Benjamin E. Mays and Joseph W. Nicholson, The Negro's Church.
- H. Ira De Augustine Reid, "Let Us Pray," Opportunity, Sept, 1926.
- I. Joseph R. Washington, The Politics of God: The Future of Negro Churches.
- J. Carter G. Woodson, The History of the Negro Church.

9. THE SCHOOL AS AN AGENCY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- A. Africa Research Group, Who Rules Harvard?
- B. Albert P. Blaustein and Clarence Ferguson, Desegregation and the Law: The Meaning and Effect of the School Segregation Cases.
- C. Henry A. Bullock, A History of Negro Education in the South.
- D. John Egerton, Black Public Colleges: Integration or Disintegration, (Race Relations Institute, 1971).

9. THE SCHOOL AS AN AGENCY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- E. Robert L. Green, (ed.) Racial Crisis in American Education.
- F. Federal Interagency Committee on Education, Federal Agencies and Black Colleges, (June 1970), a government report detailing federal support of Black colleges (about \$120 million) as compared to "white" colleges (about \$3.9 billion).
- G. Negro Digest, "Toward a Black University," March 1969, 1969, 1970, Three volumes with articles by Gerald McWorter, James R. Lawson, Vincent Harding, Nathan Hare and others.
- H. Armstead L. Robinson, Black Studies in the University, (Yale University Press, 1969). Articles from a Yale symposium with articles by Harold Cruse, Gerald McWorter, Martin Kilson, Ron Karenga, Nathan Hare, McGeorge Bundy, and others.
- I. Reginald Stuart, "Ford in Black Higher Education," Race Relations Reported (March 1973).
- J. Nathan Wright, What Black Educators Are Saying.

10. THE CONSUMPTION OF POPULAR CULTURE

- A. St. Clair Drake, "The Social and Economic Status of the Negro in the United," (Bobbs-Merrill Reprint).
- B. E. Franklin Frazier, Black Bourgeoisie.
- C. Gibson, The \$30 Billion Negro.
- D. Vatter & Palm, The Economics of Black America.
- E. Black Enterprise, (periodical), all issues.
- F. "The Black Middle Class," Special Issue of Ebony, August 1973.
- G. Baner, Raymond, Scott M. Cunningham and Lawrence H. Wortzel, "The Marketing Dilemma of Negroes," Journal of Marketing, July, 1965, pp. 1-6.
- H. "Black is Beautiful, But Maybe Not Profitable," Media/Scope 13, August, 1969, pp. 31-37.
- I. Henry Allen Bullock, "Consumer Motivations in Black and White - Part I," Harvard Business Review, May-June, 1961.
- J. Henry Allen Bullock, "Consumer Motivations in Black and White - Part II," Harvard Business Review, July-August, 1961.

13. THEORY OF NATIONALISM

- A. Floyd Barbour, The Black Power Revolt: A Collection of Essays.
- B. John H. Bracey, et. al. Black Nationalism in America.
- C. St. Clair Drake, "Hide My Face," in Herbert Hill, Soon One Morning.
- D. A. James Gregor, "Black Nationalism: A Preliminary Analysis of Negro Radicalism," Science and Society, (Fall 1963).
- E. Harry Haywood, Negro Liberation.
- F. Leroi Jones and Larry Neal, Black Fire: An Anthology of Afro-American Writing.
- G. Ernest Kaiser, "Recent Literature on Black Liberation Struggles and the Ghetto Crisis: A Bibliographical Survey," Science and Society, (Spring, 1969).
- H. Bill McAdoo, "Pre Civil War Black Nationalism," Progressive Labor, (June-July 1966).
- I. V. B. Thompson, Africa and Unity: The Evolution of Pan-Africanism.
- J. Theodore Vincent, Black Power and the Garvey Movement.

14. THEORY OF INTERNATIONALISM

- A. Wilfred Burchett, Vietnam Will Win.
- B. Amilcar Cabral, Revolution in Guinea.
- C. Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth.
- D. Robert Lewis Gill and Roberta Louise Gill, "International Implications of Black Power as Viewed by Their Advocates," Quarterly Review of Higher Education among Negroes, (October 1969), pp. 158-176, bibliography included.
- E. Alex Haley, Autobiography of Malcolm X.
- F. Marc Kaminsky, "Radical Affirmatives," American Scholar 36, (Autumn 1967), pp. 621-630; in part, a discussion of Malcolm X's autobiography.
- G. Eduardo Mondlane, The Struggle for Mozambique.
- H. George Padmore, Pan Africanism or Communism.
- I. "Pan Africanism III - The Caribbean," The Black Scholar, February 1973.
- J. Southern Africa, A Monthly Survey of News and Opinion, (March 1972 and all issues).

MODERN CULTURE AND BLACK PEOPLE
SPRING SEMESTER 1974

FOUNDATIONS OF BLACK SOCIAL THOUGHT

PURPOSE

The research papers you will do this semester will enable you to analyze the materials on the Black experience to be covered in course lectures, assigned readings and outside readings, and to present a synthesis of this material in a clearly written paper. Five research papers (10-15 pages each) will be required this semester, all based on intensive treatment of five topics chosen because (1) they represent the "modal" (i.e., most important) experiences of Black people during a particular historical stage of development; and (2) some of the best social analysis about Black people and by Black people--THE BLACK CLASSICS--have been written on the experiences in the historical periods covered.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Wks.</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Paper Due</u>
Jan 14-18	1	The Negro in America: An Overview		Annotated Bibliography Jan 23
Jan 21- Feb 8	3	Reconstruction	<u>Black Reconstruction</u> W.E.B. DuBois	Feb. 15
Feb 11-22	2	Rural Life	<u>Shadow of the Plantation</u> Charles Johnson	March 1
MIDTERN-FEB 25				
Feb 25- March 1	2	Black Workers	<u>The Black Worker</u> Sterling Spero and Abram Harris	
SPRING VACATION MARCH 4-9				
March 11-15		Black Workers (cont)		March 25
March 18- April 5	3	Urban Life	<u>Black Metropolis</u> (Volume I), St. Clair Drake & Horace Cayton	April 15
April 8-26	3	Black Models	<u>Up From Slavery</u> , Booker T. Washington <u>Autobiography of Malcolm X</u>	May 3
FINAL EXAM MAY 6-9				