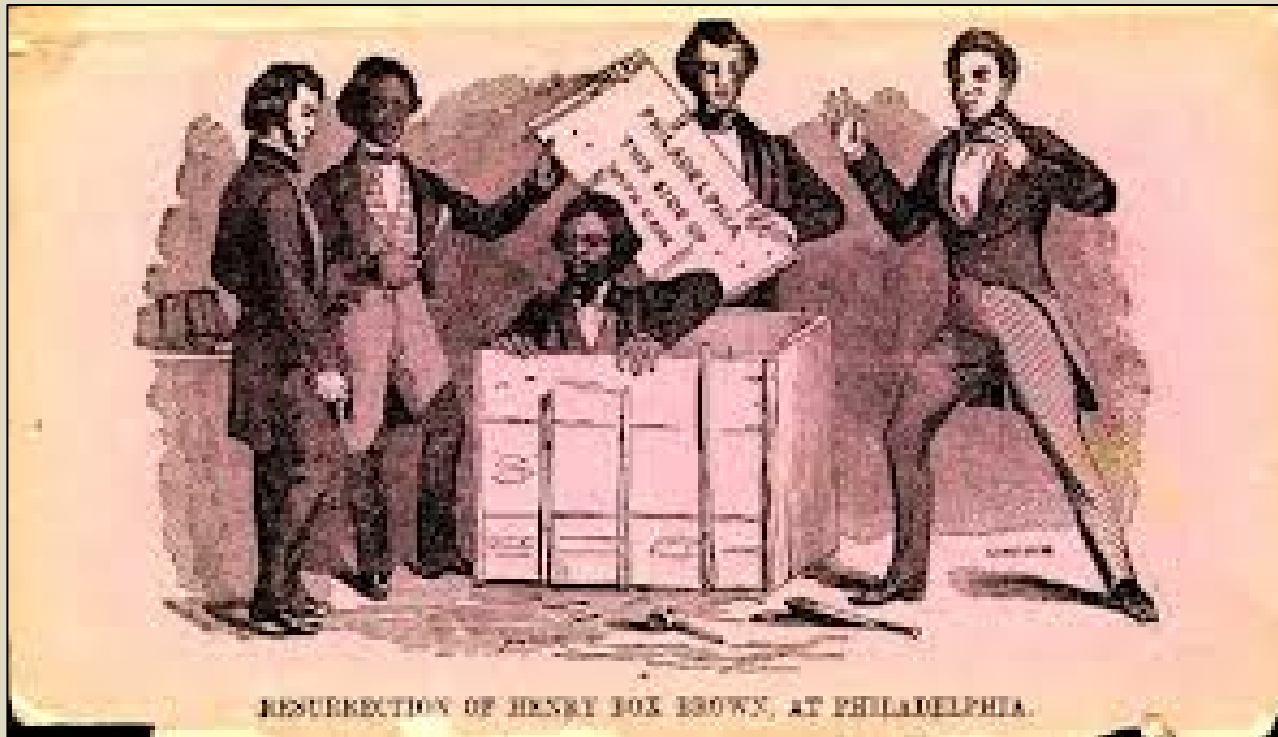


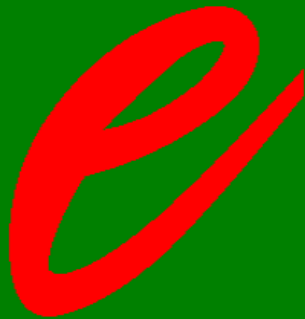
# Rethinking the Black Freedom Movement: The Box Lectures



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**September 11, 2012**

# 2011

## Rethinking Theory in Black Studies



### *Rethinking...* THEORY IN BLACK STUDIES

UIUC Public Lecture Series / Fall 2011

September 13: Ideology

September 27: Methodology

October 11: History

October 25: Tradition

November 8: Debate

### BLACK STUDIES

AS TEXT

MAPPING Black Studies

DEGREE PROGRAMS

CURRICULUM

JOURNALS

eBOOKS

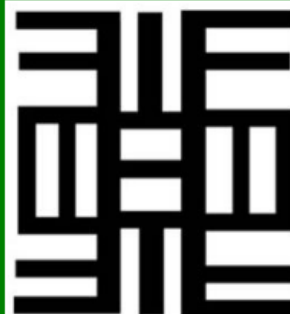
CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

Information Technology Workshop

ORGANIZATIONS

BROTHERMOLM


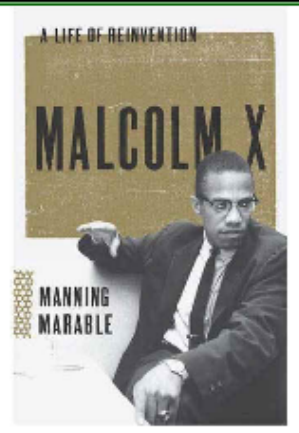
CYBER-CHURCH



Professor Alkalimat presents innovative ideas to promote a rethinking of how to approach theory in Black Studies. Each lecture will present his original ideas developed over forty years of academic activist practice.

# 2011

# Rethinking Malcolm

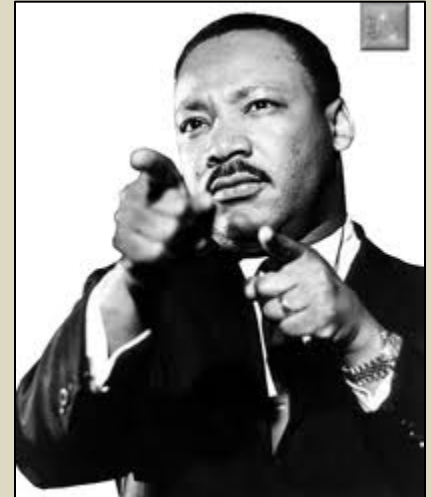
<p>Introduction Index Chronology Family Speeches Photographs Bibliography Webliography Study Guide Conferences Words Search What's New Research Organizations Malcolm X Video Revolution NOI Archives Found</p>	<p><b>MALCOLM</b></p> 	<p><b>RETHINKING MALCOLM X</b></p>  <p>Time to study the recent controversy. First read the <i>Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> - then read this book - then enter the debate.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND on:</b> Malcolm X Manning Marable</p> <p><b>The DEBATE</b></p>
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Our greatest challenge is to



# 2012

# Rethinking Black Freedom



# The Box Lectures

9/11 The Box

10/2 In the Box

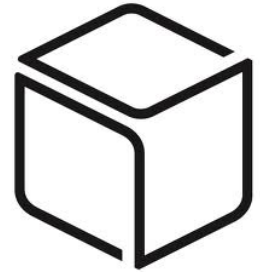
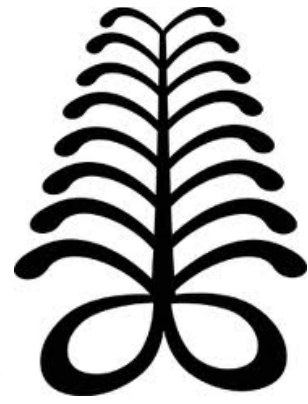
10/23 Out the Box

11/13 New Box

12/4 No Box



2012



**What is a box?**

**A box is what limits freedom.**

**So what is freedom?**

**Freedom is without the limits of a box.**





## Henry "Box" Brown 1815 – 1889

He shipped himself from the slave state of Virginia to the free city of Philadelphia in March 1849. He was 34 years old.

When Brown was released, one of those present remembered his first words as "How do you do, gentlemen?" He then sang a psalm from the Bible he had previously selected for his moment of freedom. But he then had to run from more boxes.

# ***Translation***

**The Box**: the conditions that have always been forced on Black people because of racism and economic exploitation, especially by the government and the corporations in different historical periods.

**In the Box**: The Civil Rights Movement fighting to integrate into the society within the framework of the Constitution.

**Out the Box**: The Black Nationalist and Pan-Africanist Movements that focus on the autonomous self-determination strategies for Black people. There is also the tradition of migrations, moving out.

**New Box**: Revolutionaries of all kinds who fight to transform society, usually from capitalist oligarchy to socialist democracy.

**No Box**: Given the information revolution there is a new beginning, but we also face the digital divide – can we escape boxes?



**Humans are born into many boxes simultaneously. Sometimes boxes are positive and provide a nurturing environment and sometimes not. But that's where we all begin - in boxes.**

**Gender**

**Color**

**Family**

**Neighborhood**

**Community**

**School**

**Church**

**Job**

**Nationality**

**Size and shape**

**Hair**

**Year born**



**None of us are free. The only choice we have is what we do about the boxes.**

# Modes of Social cohesion

# Modes of Social disruption



Africa



Slavery



Rural



Urban



Information

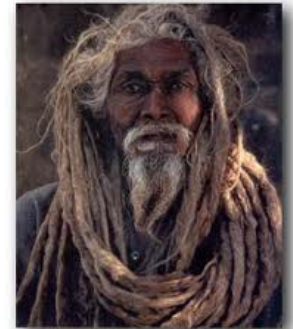


Slave trade

Emancipation

Great migrations

Crisis



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**Black boxes of cohesion have faced multiple disruptions**

# **Theory of the four forms of freedom**

**1. Consciousness**

**2. Individual acts**

**3. Sub-cultures**

**4. Movements for social change**

# **Consciousness: the language, ideology and rituals of freedom**

**We spoke in tongues and made  
music rhythms to old testament  
stories of wars of freedom.**

**Emancipation debate  
Self Determination Debate  
Black Liberation debate**



**Individual acts:**

**Self-defense and disrespect**

# Sub-cultures:

# Resistance as political culture



# Movements for social change: To end slavery

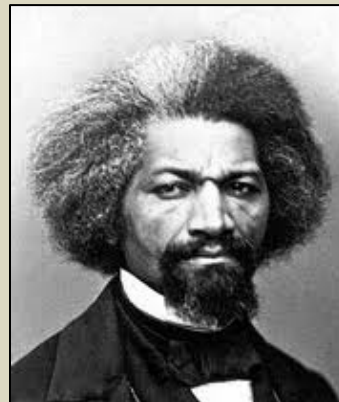
Slave Revolts



Abolitionist Movement

Under Ground Railroad

Civil War



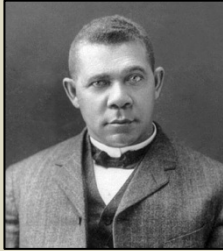
Reconstruction



# Movements for social change: To end oppression

UNIA

NAACP



African Blood Brotherhood

Negro Labor Council

Sharecroppers Union



Communist Party

Black Churches

Southern Negro



Youth Congress

National Negro Congress





# Business Thinking



**This is a motion to become part of the big box, the very box most responsible for the exploitation of Black people, but where a few can get rich.**

# **Dialectics of the African American Freedom Dance**

***The integrationist option:***

**Achieve within the box, and change it**

***The Nationalist/Pan-Africanist Option:***

**Leave the box, create an alternative**

***The Revolutionary option:***

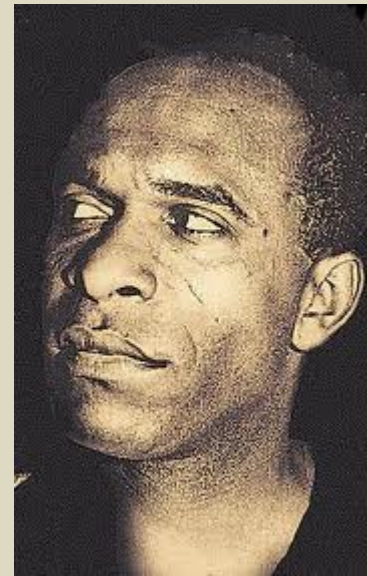
**Take over the box and transform it  
into something new**

# Dialectics of fighting the Box(es)

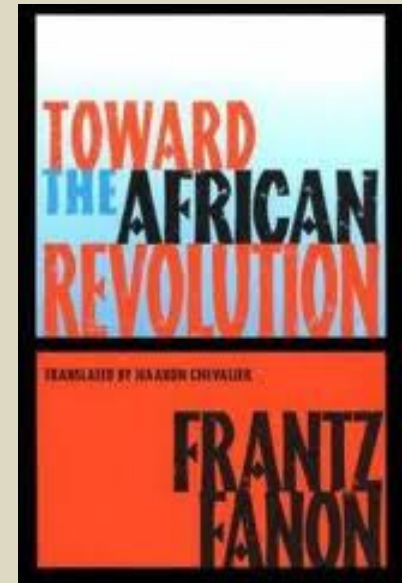
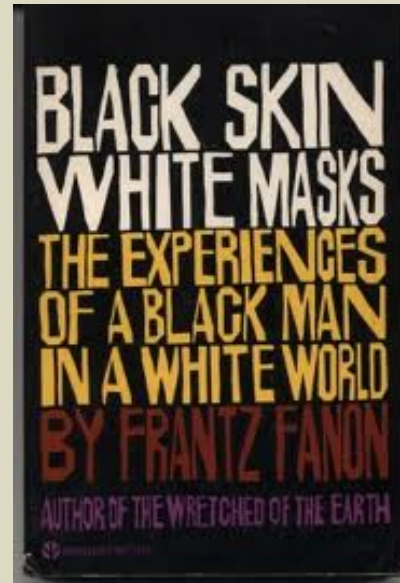
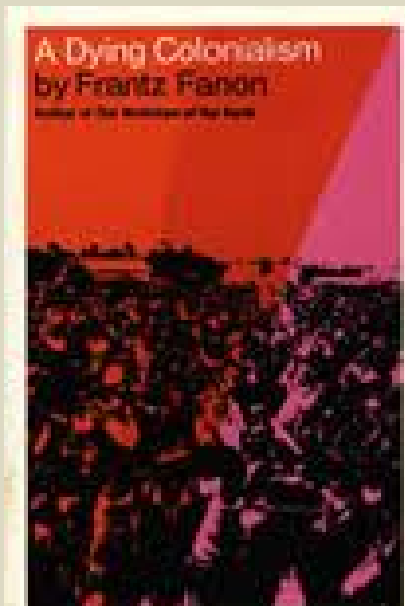
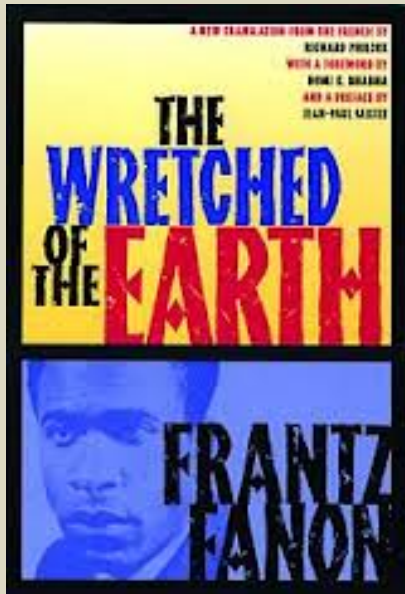
The assimilationist phase: “In the first phase, the native intellectual gives proof that he has assimilated the culture of the occupying power.”

The nationalist phase: In the second phase we find the native is disturbed; he decides to remember who he is.”

The fighting phase: “Finally...the native...will on the contrary, shake the people.”



Frantz Fanon  
1925 - 1961



# **IN THE BOX...**

- 1. What are the rules of the box – laws, customs, and structure?**
- 2. What are the degrees of freedom within the box – any wiggle room?**
- 3. What are the rates of success within the box – anybody able to make it?**
- 4. Are we being polarized within the box - are all Black people in the same box?**

# **OUT THE BOX...**

- 1. What are the opportunities to migrate to a better place?**
- 2. What is the role of liberation in Africa and the African Diaspora?**
- 3. What are viable strategies of self-determination?**
- 4. What is the difference between leaving the box and being put out?**

# **NEW BOX...**

- 1. What is the 21<sup>st</sup> century alternative to capitalism?**
- 2. How can we end racism and national oppression?**
- 3. Who hates this system and can they be united?**
- 4. How much freedom is possible?**

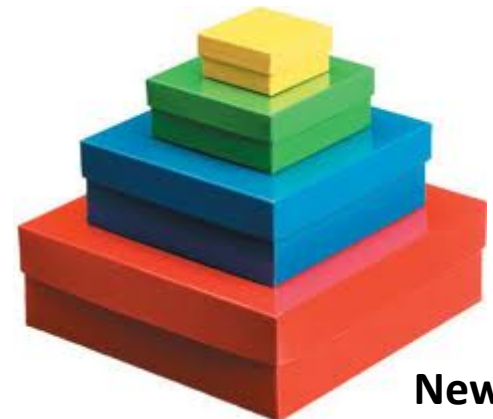
# In sum...



In



Out



New

How do you feel about being in the box?