

*Black Marxism*  
Prof J. James [jjamesoshum@gmail.com](mailto:jjamesoshum@gmail.com)  
Teaching Assistant L. Rocha

MWF 2-3pm, PAR 101  
Office hrs: Mon/Fri 9-10am; 471-4189  
Office hrs: TBA; 471-1784

This course uses: texts by academics, economists, legal scholars, political prisoners; as well as online oral history interviews, documentaries, film, and popular culture (Marvel comic *Black Panther*); and, archival research in a the LBJ presidential library. We examine the boundaries of “Black Marxism;” and its relationship to civil rights, human rights, radicalism and black liberation.

•Mondays and Wednesdays lectures/discussions on assigned readings. Fridays often reserved for film screenings or LBJ Library research. Grades: attendance/participation 10%; 2 individual 3-5pg essays 30% (15% each); 2 group presentations 20% (10% each); 1963-1968 collective research portfolio 20%; and final individual paper 20% analyzing 1963-1968 portfolio. Please establish group protocols of accountability/productivity. Course Requirements: Attend/participate in every class; complete work on time.

#### I. “Captivity & Democracy”

•Jan 14. Class Intro

16. C. Harris, *Whiteness as Property*, Pt. I (*Harvard Law Review*, Vol. 106, No. 8)

18. F. Wilderson, “Unspeakable Ethics,” “The Narcissistic Slave,” *Red, White & Black:*

...*U.S. Antagonisms* (Blkboard); James, “Democracy & Captivity,” *New Abolitionists* (Blkboard)

**Prescreen** *Ill-Gotten Gains* (R: racial-sexual violence; Film Library Reserve; “I Luv Video”; Netflix)

•Jan 21: **MLK Holiday:** Pick up SAC tickets for LBJ Library **Jan. 31 Andrew Young**

23. Wilderson, “Prison Slave...Hegemony’s (Silent) Scandal”; D. Rodriguez, “Forced Passages” (Blkboard)

25. Frantz Fanon, “Concerning Violence,” *The Wretched of the Earth*; James, “Fanon...Black Cyborg”

#### II. “Black Marxism”

**Prescreen** *Social Genocide* (documentary Film Library Reserve)

Guest lectures; student collectives analyze, lead class discussions and Q/A on the text *Black Marxism*.

•28. “Black Marxism, Genocide & Brazil,” guest lecture: Ana Flauzina, J.D., Ph.D.

30. C. Robinson, *Black Marxism*, chap 10, “CLR James,” lecture: Prof. Minkah Makalani

\***Class Thurs Jan 31. 6pm** Andrew Young Lecture @ LBJ Library Auditorium;

Young online Interview @ LBJ Library

Feb 1. *Blk Marxism*, chap 11; “The Novel & Politics,” lecture: Prof. Stephen Marshall

•4. *Blk Marxism* Foreword, Preface, Intro, chap 12: Collective #1

6. *Blk Marxism* chaps 1-2: #2

8. *Blk Marxism* s chap 3: #3

•11. *Blk Marxism* chaps 4-5: #4

13. *Blk Marxism* chaps 6-7: #5

15. *Blk Marxism* chaps 8-9: #6

**16. Essay #1 Due: Critique of C. Robinson’s *Black Marxism***

#### III. LBJ Archives: “The ‘Great Society’/Rebellion & Repression, 1963-1968: Countering Black Marxism”

Student collectives’ archival research at the LBJ Presidential Federal Library: civil rights, civil unrest, anti-communism, police surveillance and repression. After LBJ tour, designated Friday class sessions are devoted to facilitating student access to the LBJ Presidential Library (limited seating, student groups may utilize the designated class hour Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm; anticipate additional visits to the Library).

•18. K. O’Reilly, LBJ, *Racial Matters*, chap 7 (Blkboard)

20. Thurgood Marshall, A. Phillip Randolph Interviews;

**Group 1 LBJ Presidential Library Tour;** Grp 2 screens *A Nation of Law?*

22. Charles Evers Interview; **Group 2 LBJ Tour;** Grp 1 screens *A Nation of Law?*

•25. MLK, *Racial Matters*, chap 4

27. BPP, Surveillance, *Racial Matters*, chaps 9-10  
Mar 1. Dorothy Height, Barbara Jordan Interviews; *At the Dark End of the Street* (excerpt Blkboard);  
**LBJ Library** research w/collective

### III. Women and Political Imprisonment

- 4. *Angela Y. Davis Reader* Intro-chaps 3
- 6. *AYD Reader* chaps 4-6
- 8. Screen *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975* (PT I)

### **Spring Break**

- 18. *AYD Reader* chaps 7-10
- 20. *AYD Reader* chaps 11-14;
- 22. *AYD Reader*, chaps 15-20; screen *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975* (PT II)

- 25. *Imprisoned Intellectuals*, Intro-chaps 6 (online tdl.htlc.org)
- 27. *Imprisoned Intellectuals*, chaps 7-13 (online tdl.htlc.org); excerpt
- 29. Screen animated *Black Panther*

- April 1. Assata: An Autobiography
- 3. *Assata: An Autobiography*
- 5. *Assata: An Autobiography*; **LBJ Library**

- 8. *Assata: An Autobiography*
- 10. "Framing the Panther" (Blkboard)
- 12. **Essay #2 Women, Revolution & Political Imprisonment; LBJ Library**

### Collective Presentations: "1963-1968"

Primary source: LBJ Library archival research (photograph with cell phone/camera relevant pages, then provide a written analysis). Secondary sources: course materials. Group portfolio (25+ images grouped in visual narrative (does not have to be chronological); individual 3-5 page written synopsis and analysis. Post April draft on Blackboard; May final version @ HTLC. Group presentations: 30min analysis; 20min Q/A. Review each portfolio and read all student draft papers prior to presentation.

- 13. Class small group meetings; **portfolio drafts and individual essays upload to Blackboard**
- 15. Class small group meetings.
- 17. Presentations #1
- 19. Presentations # 2
- 22. Presentations #3
- 24. Presentations #4
- 26. Presentations #5
- 29. Presentations #6
- May 1. Presentations #7
- 3. Discussion
- 10. Post final "Countering Black Marxism: 1963-1968" portfolio and final paper @ Blackboard (portfolios/papers may be uploaded to the HTLC UT Digital Human Rights Library).

### Course Texts:

C. Robinson, *Black Marxism*; A. Davis, *The Angela Y. Davis Reader*; A. Shakur: *An Autobiography*.

Films: *Eyes on the Prize, Pt. II, A Nation of Law?*; *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975*; Marvel Comics/BET, *Black Panther*; *Social Genocide*; *Ill-Gotten Gains*.