

AFR 374D/ HIS 350R/ WGS 340

Women, Gender, and Black Power

UT-Austin, Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Ashley D. Farmer
She/ Her/ Hers

Course Description

The Black Power movement has not only shaped how we think of American society and race relations, but also how we think about gender roles and gender equality. This course examines the movement through the experiences of African American women activists as well as gender and sexuality constructs that prevailed during the second half of the twentieth century. The class will familiarize students with the history of the Black Power movement and examine scholarship about how femininity, masculinity, and sexuality shaped and were shaped by the struggle. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the leading female figures of the movement as well as be able to engage in critical debates about the intersection of gender, sexuality, and African American activism.

Required Texts

1. **Dayo Gore, Jeanne Theoharis, Komozi Woodard eds.,** *Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*
2. **V.P Franklin and Bettye Collier-Thomas,** *Sisters in the Struggle: African American Women in the Civil Rights-Black Power Movement*
3. **Ashley D. Farmer,** *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era*
4. **All other texts are available via CANVAS unless otherwise indicated**

Course Breakdown

Class Attendance:	10%	Revision Memo:	10%
Class Participation:	15%	Final Project:	20%
Response Papers (3x15%)	45%		

Course Requirements

Class Attendance:

Regular attendance in class is very important. Furthermore, you are expected to come to class having read the material and prepared to engage with the assigned texts. Multiple absences will count against you. Please notify me in advance (if possible) if you know that you will need to be absent from class. **After one unexcused absence, I will begin deducting 1/3 of a letter grade off your final participation grade for every missed class provided.** This policy can be updated on a case-by-case basis for students with accommodations.

Class Participation:

Your participation grade will be calculated based on your contributions to in-class discussion, critical engagement in our group activities, and thoughtful participation during our in-class practicums. Often times, we will perform written tasks or activities that will be collected and recorded as part of your participation grade.

Response Papers: Due Feb 14th, March 14th, and April 11th

You will complete three 5-page response papers over the course of the semester. Each paper will ask you state a position on a question about the major debates in the history of Women, Gender, and Black Power. These papers are designed to help you identify the major questions in the field as well as develop your argumentative writing skills. ***All Response Papers are to be submitted via CANVAS on the due date listed on the syllabus. Papers submitted late without prior approval will be marked down 1/2 grade per day.***

Revision Memo: Due on or before May 6th

A key part of historical writing is continually revising one's ideas and writing on a subject. For this assignment, you will write a revision memo for **one** of the response papers of your choosing. This 1-page, single-spaced document should consist of **one paragraph** on how you would revise your argument, **one paragraph** on how you would revise your use of evidence, and **one paragraph** on how you would revise your writing style for the essay in question. ***The Revision Memo must be submitted via CANVAS and can turned in before or by May 6th. Memos submitted late without prior approval will be marked down 1/2 grade per day.***

Final Project: Activist Profile: Due May 6th

For the final project you will do an extended profile of a female black power activist. This could be an activist we studied in the course, one who we did not discuss, a local activist, or one on UT's campus. You will research the activist in depth including their motivations, how they defined women and gender roles, and their experiences as a black woman activist. You will present your findings on the last week of class in a **5-minute presentation**. You will also create a **1-page primer** on the activist for submission and distribution to the class along with your presentation.

Rules, Regulations, and Respect

Late Assignment Policy:

Please contact me advance of an assignment's due date if you think that you will have difficulty meeting a particular deadline. ***All assignments submitted late without permission will automatically be marked down one half grade per day.***

Academic Integrity:

The University's *Institutional Rules* (Section 11-802(d)) define plagiarism as including, "but not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any other means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source . . . and presenting that material as one's own academic work offered for credit." In other words, "**handing in someone else's work and taking credit for it as if it were your own.**" (Source: History Department statement on Academic Integrity). Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

Accessibility:

This course is intended for all students at UT Austin. This includes those with mental, physical, or cognitive disabilities, illness, injuries, impairments, or any other condition that tends to negatively affect one's equal access to education. If, at any point in the semester, you find yourself not able to fully access the space, content, and experience of this course, you are welcome (but not required!) to contact me by email, phone, or during office hours to discuss your specific needs. I also encourage you to contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

Preferred Names and Pronouns:

Courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor by the university. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Religious Holy Days

Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class. Students will be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. University policy required students to notify each of their instructors as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made.

E-mail Correspondence:

E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. Email communication with should be considered formal, and follow the conventions of professional emails. I will usually be able to answer emails within 24 hours except for weekends and holidays.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introductions

Wednesday, January 23rd

- Overview of the Course

Week 2: What is Black Power?

Monday, January 28th:

- Peniel E. Joseph, "Rethinking the Black Power Era" *The Journal of Southern History* (August 2009): 707-716. **(CANVAS)**
- Rhonda Williams, "Black Women and Black Power" *OAH Magazine* (July 2008): 22-26. **(CANVAS)**

Wednesday, January 30th

- Anatomy of a Response Paper and Revision Memo
 - We will discuss the organization and elements of course writing assignments and explore examples in-class

Week 3: Postwar Radicals and the Foundations of Black Power

Monday, February 4th

- Farmer, *Remaking Black Power*, Chapter 1
- Erik S. McDuffie, "No Small Amount of Change Could Do": Esther Cooper Jackson and the Making of a Black Left Feminist," in *Want to Start a Revolution?*

Wednesday, February 6th

- Dayo Gore, "From Communist Politics to Black Power: The Visionary Politics of Victoria "Vicki" Garvin" in *Want to Start a Revolution?*
- Fanon Che Wilkins, "Beyond Bandung: The Critical Nationalism of Lorraine Hansberry, 1950-1965" *Radical Historical Review* (Spring 2006): 191-210. **(CANVAS)**

Week 4: Neighborhood Rebels & the Early Movement

Monday, February 11th

- Ashley D. Farmer, "All the Progress to Be Made Will Be Made by Maladjusted Negroes": Mae Mallory, Black Women's Activism, and the Making of the Black Radical Tradition," *Journal of Social History* **(CANVAS)**

Wednesday, February 13th

- Sharon Harley, "'Chronicle of a Death Foretold': Gloria Richardson, the Cambridge Movement, and the Radical Black Activist Tradition," in *Sisters in the Struggle*.

Response Paper 1 Due: Thursday, February 14th by 12pm

Week 5: Grassroots Black Power

Monday, February 18th: MFDP

- Vicki Crawford, "African American Women in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party," in *Sisters in the Struggle*
- Chana Kai Lee, "Anger, Memory, and Personal Power: Fannie Lou Hamer and Civil Rights Leadership" in *Sisters in the Struggle*

Wednesday, February 20th : Lowndes County Freedom Movement

- Hassan Kwame Jeffries, "Organizing for More than A Vote: the Political Radicalization of Local People in Lowndes County Alabama, 1965-1966" (CANVAS)

Week 6: "We Are Gonna Start Saying Black Power!"

Monday, February 25th

- Belinda Robnett, "Women in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee: Ideology, Organizational Structure, and Leadership" in *Gender and the Civil Rights Movement*, (CANVAS)
- Tanisha C. Ford, "SNCC Women, Denim, and the Politics of Dress," *Journal of Southern History* (August 2013): 625-658. (CANVAS)

Wednesday, February 27th

- Cynthia Griggs Fleming, "Black Women and Black Power: The Case of Ruby Doris Smith and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," in *Sisters in the Struggle*
- Gwen Patton, "Born Freedom Fighter" in *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*. (CANVAS)

Week 7: The Black Panther Party

Monday March 4th

- Farmer, *Remaking Black Power*, Chapter 2

Wednesday, March 6th

- Tracye Matthews, "'No One Ever Asks What a Man's Role in the Revolution Is': Gender Politics and Leadership in the Black Panther Party, 1966-71," in *Sisters in the Struggle*

Week 8: Cultural Nationalism and the Black Aesthetic

Monday, March 11th

- Farmer, *Remaking Black Power*, Chapter 3

Wednesday, March 13th

- E. Frances White, "Africa on my Mind: Gender, Discourse, and African American Nationalism," *Journal of Women's History* 2:1 (Spring 1990): 73-97. (CANVAS)

Response Paper 2 Due: Thursday, March 14th by 12pm

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: The Black Arts Movement

Monday, March 25th

- Larry Neal, "The Black Arts Movement" *The Drama Review* (Summer 1968): 28-39. (CANVAS)
- Cherise A. Pollard, "Sexual Subversions, Political Inversions: Women's Poetry and the Politics of the Black Arts Movement," in *New Thoughts on the Black Arts Movement*, 173-186. (CANVAS)

Thursday March 27th

- James Smethurst, "Retraining Heartworks: Women in Atlanta's Black Arts Movement," in *Want to Start a Revolution?*

Week 11: Grassroots Fighters & Political Prisoners

Monday, April 1st :

- Robyn Y. Williams, "Black Women, Urban Politics, and Engendering Black Power, in *The Black Power Movement -Rethinking the Civil Rights-Black Power Era*, 79-104 (CANVAS)
- Premilla Nadasen, "We Do Whatever Becomes Necessary: Johnny Tillman, Welfare Rights, and Black Power," in *Want to Start A Revolution?*

Wednesday, April 3rd:

- Angela Davis, "Afro Images: Politics, Fashion, Nostalgia" in *Soul: Black Power: Politics and Pleasure*, 23-31 (CANVAS)
- "An Interview with Assata Shakur" in *Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free US Political Prisoners*, 605-620. (CANVAS)

Week 12: Women and Pan-Africanism

Monday, April 8th

- Fanon Che Wilkins, "'A Line of Steel': The Organization of the 6th Pan-African Congress and the Struggle for International Black Power" in *The Hidden 1970s: Histories of Radicalism*, 97-114. (CANVAS)
- La TaSha Levy, "Remembering Sixth-PAC: Interviews with Sylvia Hill and Judy Claude, Organizers of the Sixth Pan-African Congress," *The Black Scholar* (Winter 2008): 39-47. (CANVAS)

Wednesday, April 10th

- Farmer, *Remaking Black Power*, Chapter 4

Response Paper 3 Due: Thursday April 11th by 12pm

Week 13: Sex and Black Power

Monday, April 15th

- Toni Cade Bambara, "On the Issue of Roles" and "The Pill? Genocide or Liberation?" in *The Black Woman: An Anthology* (CANVAS)
- Simone M. Carson, "Birth Control in the Black Community: Genocide or Power Politics?" *Journal of Social History* (Spring 2008):545-569. (CANVAS)
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Wednesday, April 17th :

- Stephanie Dunn, "Black Power and New Baad Cinema" in *Baad Bitches" and Sassy Supermamas: Black Power Action Films*(CANVAS)
- Stephanie Dunn, "Race, Gender, and Sexual Power in *Cleopatra Jones*, in *Baad Bitches" and Sassy Supermamas: Black Power Action Films* (CANVAS)

Week 14: Black Power Feminism

Monday, April 22nd

- Sherie Randolph, "'Women's Liberation or Black Liberation You're Fighting the Same Enemies': Florynce Kennedy, Black Power, and Feminism, in *Want to Start a Revolution?*
- Kimberly Springer, "Black Feminists Respond to Black Power Masculinism," in *The Black Power Movement -Rethinking the Civil Rights-Black Power Era*, 105-118 (CANVAS)

Wednesday, April 24th

- Frances Beal, "Double Jeopardy: to Be Black and Female" (CANVAS)
- Farmer, *Remaking Black Power*, Chapter 5

Week 15: Freedom Fighters Yesterday and Today

Monday April 29th

- Duchess Harris, "From Kennedy Commission to Combahee Collective: Black Feminist Organizing, 1960-1980," in *Sisters in the Struggle*

Wednesday, May 1st

- #FergusonFridays: Not all the Black Freedom Fighters are Men: An Interview with Black Women on the Front Line in Ferguson *The Feminist Wire*, October 3, 2014. **(online)**

Week 16: Activist Profile Presentations

Monday, May 6th

- Activist Profile Presentations

Wednesday, May 8th

- Activist Profile Presentations