

PHIL 198: Social and Political Philosophy of the American Inner City

- This course retraces the development of African American philosophy, up to the present, with a special eye to the social, political, and moral questions most central to the modern inner city. One of our primary sources will be individuals impacted by mass incarceration and institutional inequities.
- We'll begin by discussing its relevance, taking a crash-course in philosophical writing and argumentation, and by recounting the historical progression of Black psychological and philosophical thought in the United States up through the Second Great Migration.
- We'll then shift gears to the contemporary context, drawing on urban sociology to explore philosophical questions surrounding agency, identity, self-respect, and governmental influence.
- One of our guiding themes throughout will be the “double consciousness” of (especially, disadvantaged) Black Americans identified by Du Bois – the tension between integration and separatism still central to debates in social and political philosophy today.

Course Requirements: In addition to attendance and reading/viewing requirements, there will be two 3 page papers. Each of the paper is worth 40% of the final grade and class participation 20%.

Class, which will consist of lecture, discussion, and occasional guest presentations, will meet every Friday (TBA), location TBA.

Student Facilitator: Charles Phillips (c8phillips@berkeley.edu)

Academic Support: Raymond Banks (vet_ontology@outlook.com), ASC Tutor
Daniel Moreno (dsmoreno@berkeley.edu), Student Mentor

Instructor of Record: Niko Kolodny (kolodny@berkeley.edu), Philosophy Professor

Course Schedule:

Date	Reading	Link to Reading	Assignment	Speaker
01/26	–Introductory Discussion–	N/A		
02/02	Prompt-- Deconstruction Reading: “African Philosophy: Foundations for Black Psychology”—Wade W. Nobles	N/A		N/A

02/09	Reading: “African Philosophy: Foundations for Black Psychology”—Wade W. Nobles Philosophical Writing/Analyzing Articles			TBA
02/16	– Reading: ““Way Down in the Hole’: Systemic Urban Inequality and The Wire” Anmol Chaddha and William Julius Wilson	http://criticalinquiry.uchicago.edu/uploads/pdf/Chaddha_and_Wilson_on_The_Wire.pdf	N/A	N/A
03/02	– Reading: “Do We Have An African Philosophy”—Henri Maurier	N/A		TBA
03/09	–Ray’s Letter’s	N/A		N/A
03/16	– Reading: Ubuntu Philosophy: Memory and Reconciliation	N/A	Prompt 1 Distributed	TBA
03/23	– Reading: “The New Negro” – Alain Locke	http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/mai3/migrations/text8/lockenewnegro.pdf		N/A
03/30	Spring Recess			
04/06	– Reading: “I. Of Our Spiritual Strivings” and “III. Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others” from The Souls of Black Folk – W. E. B. Du Bois	N/A	Essay 1 Due	N/A
04/13	– Reading: “A Humanistic Approach to Black Psychology”, by Adelbert Jenkins	N/A		TBA
04/20	“Unknown Women And Unknowing Research” by Vanessa	N/A	Prompt 2 Distributed	N/A

	Bing and Pamela Reid			
04/27	— Reading: “Unknown Women And Unknowing Research” by Vanessa Bing and Pamela Reid	N/A		TBA

05/04	– Reading: Brothers and Keepers, by John Edgar Wideman	N/A	Essay 2 Due	N/A