# 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 **Thursday from 2:00PM to 4:00PM; Latimer Hall 122**

Student Facilitators: Charles Phillips

Academic Support: Raymond Banks [(vet\_ontology@outlook.com)](mailto:vet_ontology@outlook.com), ASC Tutor Daniel Moreno (dsmoreno@berkeley.edu), ASC Tutor

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

Course Schedule:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Reading | Assignment | Speaker |
| 8/23 | First Friday of Instruction |  |  |
| 8/30 | **–Discussion**: “African Philosophy: Foundations for Black Psychology”, Wade W. Nobles  -Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.1) |  | TBA |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9/6 | **–Discussion**: “African Philosophy: Foundations for Black Psychology”—Wade W. Nobles  –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.2) |  | TBA |
| 9/13 | **–Discussion:** “Do We Have An African Philosophy”, Henri Maurier  –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.2) |  | TBA |
| 9/20 | **–Discussion:** “Do We Have An African Philosophy”, Henri Maurier  –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.3) |  | TBA |
| 9/27 | **–Discussion:** “Philosophy and The Tribal Peoples”,Vine Deloria Jr.  –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.4) | –Essay 1 Distributed (Assigned Topic) | N/A |
| 10/4 | **–Discussion:** “Philosophy and The Tribal Peoples”,Vine Deloria Jr. |  | TBA |
| 10/11 | **–Discussion**: “Unknown Women And Unknowing  Research”, Vanessa Bing and Pamela Reid  –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.5) |  | N/A |
| 10/18 | **–Discussion**: “Unknown Women And Unknowing  Research”, Vanessa Bing and Pamela Reid |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.6) |  |  |
| 10/25 | **–Discussion** “A Humanistic Approach to Black Psychology”, Adelbert Jenkins  –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.7) | –Essay 1 Due |  |
| 11/1 | **–Discussion** “A Humanistic Approach to Black Psychology”, Adelbert Jenkins  –Rule Book for Arguments (Ch.8) |  | TBA |
| 11/8 | –**Discussion**: Ubuntu Philosophy: Memory and Reconciliation | Prompt 2 Distributed (Topic of  Choice) | N/A |
| 11/15 | –**Discussion**: Ubuntu Philosophy: Memory and Reconciliation |  | N/A |
| 11/22 | Academic and Administrative Holiday |  |  |
| 11/30 | –Essay 2 Topic Discuss |  |  |
| 12/6 | (last day of instruction) | Essay 2 Due |  |