

Freedom and Domination in Black Political Thought, Spring '24, AAAS 282-1/PPSCI 296-1

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Office hours: M/W: 1:00-2:00

F: 1:00-3:00

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Class times: MWF 11:50-12:40

This course is a survey of some of the canonical and some of the most exciting contemporary works in the field of Black political thought. We begin with *Frantz Fanon's Black Skin, White Masks*.

4. Style. I expect your papers to be well-written. Your sentences should be simple and clear. You should avoid obvious errors; use spell check. You should write more than one draft. And you should proofread them before handing them in.

5. Guides. There are a number of excellent guides for good writing. Strunk and White *The Elements of Style* is a classic, especially for grammar and word usage; it also offers a useful set of “principles of composition.” I especially recommend Joseph Williams, *Style: Toward Grace and Clarity*. His work is particularly helpful in offering examples of how awkward passages can be rewritten, using rules or principles that are fairly concrete and address specific issues such as clarity, cohesion, emphasis, etc. (these are all chapter headings in his book). Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*, offers a helpful discussion of how to develop (and express) an argument in a tight, logical way.

6. Grading. “B” papers will fulfill the foregoing criteria adequately. “A” papers will do more. They will not only be clearly and forcefully written, but they will show evidence of deep engagement with the issues. They will argue something interesting, and thought-provoking.

How Perusall Works

I have not placed any book orders with the bookstore. I will be supplying the books for this course (with a few exceptions – in some courses, there will be one or two books you need to buy) through an online reading software package called “Perusall.” All of the reading assignments for the semester must be completed through this online software package, which you can access by clicking on the Perusall link on the bottom of the course’s Blackboard homepage.

Reasons I am doing this: *Perusall* helps you master readings faster, understand the material better, and get more out of the class. To achieve this goal, you will be collaboratively annotating the readings with others in the class. The help you’ll get and provide your classmates (even if you don’t know anyone personally) will get you past confusions quickly and will make the process more fun. While you read, you’ll receive rapid answers to your questions, help others resolve their questions (which also helps you learn), and advise me, the instructor, how to manage class

How many annotations do I need to enter?

When I look at your annotations I want them to reflect the effort you put in your study of the text. It is unlikely that that effort will be reflected by just a few thoughtful annotations per assignment. At the other extreme, 30 per assignment is too many, unless a number of them are superficial or short comments or questions (which is fine, because it is OK to engage in chat with your peers). Somewhere in between these two extremes is about right and, thoughtful questions or comments that stimulate discussion or thoughtful and helpful answers to other students' questions will earn you a higher score for the assignment. Note, also, that to lay the foundation for understanding the in-class activities, you must

Jan 17

Jan

Feb 21

Barbara Fields, "Whiteness, Racism, and Identity"

Marcus

Feb 23

Feb 26

Feb 28

Mar 1

Mar 4

Mar 6

Mar 8

Mar 9-17

Mar 18

Mar 20

Mar 22

Mar 25

Mar 27

Mar 29

Mar 31

Apr 1

Apr 3

Apr 5

Apr 8

Apr 10

Apr 12

Apr 15

Apr 17