

Black Social Movements (ETHN 134)
Fall 2007 Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:45pm-3:30pm Casa 7
Prof. Robin J. Hayes (RHayes@scu.edu)
Office Hours—Tuesdays 4pm-6pm, Ethnic Studies Program, 852 Market Street

Course Description

Black social movements consistently challenge the marginalization of communities of African descent. In the process of contesting the legitimacy and consequences of physical terror, economic exploitation and cultural misappropriation endured by their communities, social movements throughout the African diaspora have created many of the philosophies, repertoires of collective action and aesthetic traditions that lay at the core of our understanding, and imagination, of black life and political dissent. As this course unfolds, we will closely examine the work of two historical social movements in the African diaspora, Black Power and African Liberation, which envisioned freedom, justice and self-determination for black communities. We will learn about the ideas, tactics and legacies of these movements by conducting interviews with Black Power and African Liberation activists. In addition, we will evaluate the work of black social movements that are currently organizing in their communities. Through our research, readings and class discussions, we will interrogate both the iconography and vilification of black social movements and their impact on race and politics in the present-day.

Required Reading

The following texts are available at the Santa Clara University Bookstore:

Methods of Social Movement Research

edited by Bert Klandermans & Suzanne Staggenborg

Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform and Renewal

edited by Manning Marable & Leith Mullings

Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America

by Peniel E. Joseph

Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision

by Barbara Ransby

The Huey P. Newton Reader edited by David Hilliard & Donald Weise

Africa: the Politics of Independence and Unity by Immanuel Wallerstein

Wretched of the Earth by Frantz Fanon

I Write What I Like: Selected Writings by Stephen Biko

Course Requirements/Grading Structure

Informed Class Participation (40 points)—The essential components to informed class participation are spirited class attendance, insightful contributions to class discussions that are grounded in your careful consideration of the required readings and your one paragraph critique of the readings for each class. Critiques should include your opinions about the validity of the author(s)' arguments in the readings and at least one discussion question you would like to pose to your classmates. Your critiques should be posted on the Black Social Movements Reading Critiques Discussion Forum at our course's Angel website by 8pm Mondays and Wednesdays before class meets.

Messages from the Grassroots Presentation (15 points)—A 15-minute in-class presentation in which you describe the political philosophy, objectives, tactics, constituency and leadership of a black social movement organization that is currently working in their community in any area of the African diaspora. Your presentation should include a brief history of this organization and information about upcoming events the organization has planned. Your presentation should also connect the work of this organization with the work of organizations we are considering through that week's required readings. Presentations are due at the beginning of class during your chosen week (out of weeks 3-9).

Interview Proposal (20 points)—Each student will assist me in conducting an in-depth interview with an activist who was involved in one of the Black Power or African Liberation organizations listed below. Both a hard copy of your Interview Proposal, and an electronic copy (emailed to me at rhayes@scu.edu), are due at the beginning of class October 18.

Your interview proposal should include:

- the name and contact information of the person you would like to interview
- a summary of your communication with the potential interviewee
- an explanation of the nature of their involvement with one of the organizations below
- what information about the political philosophy, tactics, leadership and constituency of their organization they may be able to provide
- the confirmed date, time and location of the interview
- whether or not the proposed interviewee agreed verbally or via email to be recorded via video and/or audio

Please note that you should be in contact with me via email once you have identified a possible interview subject before you contact them initially and before you confirm the date, time and location of the interview with the interviewee. Please also note that I am not available to conduct interviews Tuesdays and Thursdays and will schedule them on a first come, first serve basis. Start finding your interview subjects today!

Black Power: Black Panther Party, Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

African Liberation: African National Congress (ANC) or Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) (South Africa), National Liberation Front (FLN) (Algeria), National Congolese Movement (MNC) (Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire), National Revolutionary Movement (MSA-MNC) (People's Republic of Congo), Convention People's Party (Ghana), Democratic Party of Guinea-African Democratic Assembly (PDG-RDA) (Guinea), Tanganyika African National Union (TANU-Tanzania)

Interview Transcript & Field Notes (25 points)—The Interview Transcript should be a full transcription of the interview we conducted. Your Field Notes should be a full, detailed description of the dates and content of your communication with the interviewee before and after the interview as well as your observations and thoughts throughout the day of the interview. Field Notes should also include any observations you made about your experiences during the interview that are not in your transcript. Finally, your Field Notes should describe what information you believe the interviewee provided about the political philosophy, objectives, tactics, constituency and leadership of the black social movement organization in which they were involved. Both a hard copy of your Interview Transcript and Field Notes, as well as an electronic copy (emailed to me at rhayes@scu.edu), are due at the beginning of class November 28.

Lateness Policy—Please note that I do not have a lateness policy, because I do not accept assignments past their due date. No exceptions.

Class Meetings

Week 1 Introduction	9/18	Introduction to Black Social Movements Syllabus Review
	9/20	<i>Methods of Social Movement Research</i> by Klandermans & Staggenborg, Chapters 3-4, 6, 8 Technology & Interview Training
Week 2 “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?:” Foundations of Black Power	9/25	<i>Let Nobody Turn Us Around</i> , Section One—chapters 4-7, 9, 11-16 and Section 2—chapters 13-14, 16-17
	9/27	<i>Let Nobody Turn Us Around</i> , Section 3—chapters 1-6, 10, 15, 17, 19-21
Week 3 “I am a Man”: Frustrations in the Struggle for 1 st Class Citizenship	10/2	<i>Waiting ‘Til the Midnight Hour</i> , Introduction, chapters 1-5 Messages from the Grassroots
	10/4	Screening of <i>At the River I Stand</i>
Week 4 “Black is Beautiful”: Deconstructing the Work of Social Movements	10/9	<i>Waiting ‘Til the Midnight Hour</i> , chapters 6-8 Messages from the Grassroots
	10/11	<i>Waiting ‘Til the Midnight Hour</i> , chapters 9-11
Week 5 “This Little Light of Mine”: Evaluating the Meaning of Leadership	10/16	<i>Ella Baker</i> , chapters 6, 8-9 Messages from the Grassroots
	10/18	<i>Ella Baker</i> , chapters 10-12 Interview Proposals Due
Week 6 “All Power to the People”: Facing CounterInsurgency	10/23	<i>Huey P. Newton Reader</i> , Parts 2-3 Messages from the Grassroots
	10/25	Screening of <i>Eyes on the Prize II: America at the Crossroads</i> , Episode 12, <i>A Nation of Law?</i>
Week 7 Foundations of African Liberation	10/30	<i>Africa</i> , Introduction, chapters 1-4 Messages from the Grassroots
	11/1	<i>Africa</i> , chapters 5-8
Week 8 “We are no Longer Your Monkeys”: Opening the Colonized Mind	11/6	<i>Wretched of the Earth</i> , chapters 1-3 Messages from the Grassroots
	11/8	<i>Wretched of the Earth</i> , chapters 4-5, Conclusion
Week 9 “Nkosi Sikeleli Africa”: Connecting Liberation, Consciousness & Collective Action	11/13	<i>I Write What I Like</i> , chapters 1-11 Messages from the Grassroots
	11/15	<i>I Write What I Like</i> , chapters 12-19
Thanksgiving Break 11/20 & 11/22		
Week 10—Legacies & Future Agendas	11/26	<i>Waiting ‘Til the Midnight Hour</i> , Epilogue <i>Africa</i> , chapter 9
	11/28	Interview Transcripts and Field Notes Due Course Review—What have we learned about Black Social Movements?