



**THE BLACK PERSPECTIVE: HISTORICAL AND STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE TO
THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores evidence (past and present) of violence committed against African Americans in the United States and why The University of Utah should take concrete steps to decrease racism and make cultural changes. Addressed first is a brief summary of selected research on historical and structural violence against the Black community in the United States. The topics include slavery, Jim Crow laws, ethnic cleansing, the formation of ghettos, police brutality, mass incarceration, and the need to focus on intersectionality and Black Feminism. The paper then points to the racial problems facing the country and The University of Utah specifically. It also addresses the white centered counterarguments students at The University of Utah could bring up in opposition to focusing on the Black community, like the “All Lives Matter” movement, the idea of living in a post-racial America, the concept of disrespecting police, and the true seriousness around these issues. It also addresses why to view this need through a peace and conflict studies lens. The paper concludes with a sample syllabus of a proposed Praxis Lab centering on bringing awareness to the historical and structural violence African Americans face in this country and creating positive and effective change on the racial climate for Black people in our community. It can be concluded from the historical and structural violence committed against the African American community over centuries, that it is necessary to bring a Praxis Lab targeting the racism toward Black people to the Honors College in order to build bridges between African Americans and other races and ethnicities, and work toward positive and effective solutions and peace.

Course Outline and Reading List

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that the instructor may modify it for any reason with reasonable notice to you. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.

[Please note: Readings will be discussed on the day corresponding to the day they appear on this schedule.]

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	August 22	Introduction to History, Peace and Conflict Studies, Racism, and Praxis Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Screening: <i>The Danger of a Single Story</i> 	Read: Review the Course Syllabus and Canvas Page
2	August 29	Africa and the Atlantic World, and The Transatlantic Slave Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Screening: clip from <i>Amistad</i> 	Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i> , Ch. 1 Read: Fields, "Slavery, race and ideology in the United States of America" Read: Excerpts from Thornton, <i>Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World</i> Read: Rediker, "Life, Death, and terror in the Slave Trade"
3	September 5	Slavery in Colonial America, African Americans in the American Revolution, and Slavery in the New Republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Screening: <i>Egalité for All</i> 	Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i> , Ch. 2-3 Read: Excerpts from Melish, Disowning Slavery Read: Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox" Read: Bay, "See Your Declaration Americans!" Read: Morgan "Towards Racism"
4	September 12	Life in the Cotton Kingdom, and Free People of Color in Antebellum America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Screening: clip from <i>Twelve Years A Slave</i> 	Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i> , Ch. 4-6 Read: Excerpts from Baptist, <i>The Half That Has Never Been Told</i> Read: Excerpts from Berry, <i>The Price for their Pound of Flesh</i> Read: Lighter and Ragan, "Were African American

			Slaveholders Benevolent or Exploitative” Read: Shulz, “The Perilous Lure of the Underground Railroad”
5	September 19	The Civil War, Slavery in Memory, and Legacies of Slavery in America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Screening: 13th 	Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i> , Ch. 7 Read: Yacovone, “The Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Regiments, The Pay Crisis, and the ‘Lincoln Despotism’” Read: Grimsley and Paul, “Free At Last: Emancipation during the Civil War” Read: Excerpts from Miles, <i>Tales from the Haunted South</i> Read: Gay, “I don’t Want to Watch Slavery Fan Fiction” Read: Coates, “The Case for Reparations”
6	September 26	Reconstruction, Lynching, Disenfranchisement, Jim Crow and the Formation of the Ghetto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 1 Due 	Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i> , Ch. 9-10 (first part) Read: Wiegman, “The Anatomy of Lynching” Read: Litwack, “Hellhounds” Read: Firebaugh & Acciai, “For blacks in America, the gap in neighborhood poverty has declined faster than segregation” Read: Massey & Denton, “The construction of the ghetto”
7	October 3	The Harlem Renaissance, Blacks in the Depression Era, WWII, and the Cold War	Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i> , Ch. 10 (second part)-11 Read: Excerpts from Baldwin, <i>Notes of a Native Son</i> Read: Excerpts from Wright, <i>Native Son</i> Read: Schuyler “The Harlem Renaissance: George Schuyler Argues against ‘Black Art’” Read: Hughes, “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain” Read: Williams, <i>Eyes on the Prize</i> , Chapters 1-2
8	October 10	Fall Break – No Class	N/A

9	October 17	<p>Civil Rights Movement, Black Power Movement, and the Black Arts Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Screening: <i>The Freedom Riders</i> 	<p>Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i>, Ch. 12-13</p> <p>Read: King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."</p> <p>Read: Harper, "The Influence of Malcolm X on Black Militancy"</p> <p>Read: Harris, "Revolutionary Black Nationalism: The Black Panther Party"</p> <p>Read: Maag, "New Push to Capture Woman in '73 Killing of State Trooper"</p> <p>Read: Peterson, "Why the Assata Shakur case still strikes a chord"</p> <p>Read: Neal, "The Black Arts Movement"</p>
10	October 24	<p>Contemporary African American Thought in the 70's, 80's, 90's, 00's</p>	<p>Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i>, Ch. 14</p> <p>Read: Giddings, <i>When and Where I Enter</i>, Chapters 17-20</p> <p>Read: Okiihiro, "Cheap Talk, Er, Dialogue." <i>Souls</i></p>
11	October 31	<p>The Rise of Black Feminism and Intersectionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Screening: <i>WTF is Intersectional Feminism???</i> In Class Screening: <i>Dark Girls</i> (Trailer) In Class Screening: <i>Good Hair</i> (Trailer) In Class Screening: Kimberlé Crenshaw - <i>On Intersectionality</i> - keynote - WOW 2016 Paper 2 Due 	<p>Read: Excerpts from Collins, "The politics of black feminist thought"</p> <p>Read: Hartman, "Seduction and the ruses of power"</p> <p>Read: Excerpts from hooks, <i>Ain't I a woman: Black women and feminism</i></p> <p>Read: Painter, "Soul murder and slavery"</p>
12	November 7	<p>Police Brutality, Mass Incarceration, the School to Prison Pipeline, and Unequitable Treatment</p>	<p>Read: <i>Freedom on My Mind</i>, Ch. 15</p> <p>Read: Gregg, "The new Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in an age of colorblindness"</p> <p>Read: Keller, "David Simon on Baltimore's anguish: Freddie Gray, the drug war, and the decline of 'real policing'"</p>

			<p>Read: Lowery, “Aren’t more white people than black people killed by police? Yes, but no”</p> <p>Read: Martinot, “On the epidemic of police killings”</p> <p>Read: Vega, “For affluent blacks, wealth doesn't stop racial profiling”</p> <p>Read: Vibes, “Freddie Gray’s death reveals a dark history of 'nickel rides' and police van torture”</p> <p>Read: Wald & Losen, “Defining and redirecting a school to prison pipeline”</p>
13	November 14	<p>Recent acts of Racism, Political Influence, and current movements (BLM, Say Her Name, pop culture influence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Screening: Alicia Garza: <i>Why Black Lives Matter</i> (Dangerous Ideas Festival – Sydney) • In Class Screening: Beyoncé Superbowl Halftime Performance • In Class Screening: <i>Lemonade</i> (Beyoncé film) 	<p>Read: Sinclair-Chapman & Price “Black Politics, the 2008 Election, and the (Im)possibility of Race Transcendence Author(s)”</p> <p>Read: Bale, “Beyoncé’s 'Lemonade' Is a Revolutionary Work of Black Feminism: Critic's Notebook”</p> <p>Read: Zaru, “Beyoncé gets political at Super Bowl, pays tribute to 'Black Lives Matter'”</p> <p>Read: Heim, “Recounting a day of rage, hate, violence and death”</p>
14	November 21	No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!	N/A
15	November 28	<p>Practical Applications, Building Bridges, enacting Positive Peace and Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Screening: “Admissions” • Paper 3 Due 	<p>Read: Benford, “Peace movements”</p> <p>Read: Coates, <i>Between the World and Me</i> (finish for end of semester)</p> <p>Read: Baldwin, “The Fire Next Time”</p> <p>Read: Baldwin, “A Talk to Teachers”</p>
16	December 5	Student Presentations	N/A