

BLCK 480 [Fall | 2024]

Course Name

Anti-Blackness and Human Rights

Contact Hours

Lecture: Mondays, 2:30-5:30 p.m.



Creator: Public Service Alliance of Canada

Course Description

On November 18th, 2014, the United Nations adopted a resolution that declared that the years from 2015 to 2024 would be the decade of African Descendent Peoples Rights. In these years, all member nations have been tasked with enhancement of human rights for African descendent people focused on three areas: recognition, justice, and development. During these years, we have witnessed global social movements decrying contemporary violence that has brought about Black death. These social movements have raised philosophical questions about contemporary rights and Black life. Precisely put, these social movements have raised two questions; what relationship does Black life have to democracy and human rights? How does contemporary violence and Black death shape questions of racerelations, intra-communal relations, critiques of State violence and international violence in contemporary Black Political Thought?

This class is a survey course of contemporary Black political critiques of violence and Black death. As such, the class will comprise of readings from various Black intellectual traditions to help us wrestle with our contemporary moment. Students will engage with the work of Black Studies scholars, Africana Philosophers, Anti-colonial theorists, Black feminist, and Black Male Studies scholars. These scholars will help us develop an understanding of the themes and critique of violence within contemporary Black Political Thought as we attempt to understand Black death during the U.N.'s proclamation for recognition, justice, and development for Black life in this decade.

Required Course Materials

- No text is required
- Readings on OnQ



Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Develop detailed knowledge of selected areas, issues, figures, or problems
- Develop familiarity with techniques of philosophical analysis and explanation and related methods of inquiry
- Develop ability to recognize and critically examine specific philosophical arguments, unstated or unargued assumptions, and technical concepts
- Develop ability to write and speak with clarity and precision about complex and subtle philosophical issues
- Develop recognition that critical and analytical skills need ongoing practice and refinement
- Develop skills of self-management with respect to learning

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Course Evaluation

- Assignment 1: Thesis Statement and Research Discussion (25%)
- Assignment 2: First Draft (25%)
- Assignment 3: Full Research Paper (50%)

Topics in Course Outline

- Theoretical Insights on Black Critiques of Human Rights
- German Genocide of the Herero
- Black Views on the World Wars
- The League of Nations and Africa
- Petitions and Addresses to the League of Nations
- Undermining Black Sovereignty

- Critique of Atlantic Charter
- Petitions and Addresses to the United Nations
- We Charge Genocide