Course Description: This is a survey of that diverse yet thematically connected set of social philosophies generally classified under the broad rubric “black nationalism.” We will take an interdisciplinary approach to reading the canonical primary documents in the tradition, focusing primarily on black nationalism as a social theory, a political philosophy, and an intellectual tradition. Though some attention will be given to black nationalist organizations and social movements, the main focus will be on black nationalist ideas. We will critically examine the ideas of a few key theorists and iconic spokespersons and take up the core themes of the tradition. Topics to be explored include the varieties of black nationalism; black self-determination; black capitalism; the ideas of “race” and “nation”; racial solidarity and group self-reliance; self-defense and political resistance; the construction of gender roles and configurations of class within black nationalist discourses; the relationship between black identity and black liberation goals; the role of black artistic and cultural expression in black freedom struggles; the significance of Africa for black nationalist ideas; and the relevance of black nationalism for contemporary African American politics. We will also discuss some contemporary critical assessments of the tradition and its legacy.

Requirements:

- Class participation (15%). This involves making regular and well-informed contributions to class discussion and section meetings, which of course requires doing the reading and regularly attending both class and section.
- A 7-8 page critical discussion of some of the ideas articulated during the “classical” period of black nationalism (e.g., those presented by such figures as Martin Delany, W.E.B. Du Bois, or Marcus Garvey), to be placed in Ernie Mitchell’s mailbox in the African and African American Studies Department (2nd Floor Barker Center) by March 5th at 5:00pm (35%).
- A 7-8 page critical discussion of some of the black nationalist ideas articulated during the modern or contemporary period (e.g., those defended by such figures as Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, or Huey Newton), to be placed in Ernie Mitchell’s mailbox in the African and African American Studies Department (2nd Floor Barker Center) by April 30th at 5:00pm (50%).

Required Texts (all of which are on reserve at Lamont Library and available at the COOP):

- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove Press, 2005).
• Various readings available on the course website.

Reading Schedule:

January 24 (Week 1): Introduction

January 31 (Week 2): From Proto-Nationalism to Classical Nationalism

• Robert Alexander Young, “The Ethiopian Manifesto,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• David Walker, "An Appeal in Four Articles” (excerpts), in *Classical Black Nationalism*. If you're feeling ambitious, read the *Appeal* in its entirety (it's not very long): [http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/walker/walker.html](http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/walker/walker.html)
• Maria Stewart, “Address at the African Masonic Hall,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• Martin Delany, *The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States* (excerpts), in *Classical Black Nationalism*. Also available, in full, on the Web: [www.libraries.wvu.edu/delany/home.htm](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/delany/home.htm)

February 7 (Week 3): Emigration and the Discourse of “Civilization”

• Roger Taney, “Obiter Dictum on the Dred Scott Case,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• Alexander Crummell, “The Progress of Civilization along the West Coast of Africa,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• Edward W. Blyden, “The Call of Providence to the Descendants of Africa,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• Frederick Douglass, “African Civilization Society,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• Henry Highland Garnet, “Address at Cooper’s Institute,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• Abraham Lincoln, “Address on Colonization to a Deputation of Colored Men,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.
• Henry McNeal Turner, “The American Negro and His Fatherland,” in *Classical Black Nationalism*.

February 14 (Week 4): Du Bois’s Neo-Nationalism and Pan-Africanism

• W.E.B. Du Bois, “A Negro Nation Within the Nation” (course website).
February 21 (Week 5): Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association

- Booker T. Washington, “Atlanta Exposition Address” (course website).
- Selections from The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey, ed. Amy Jacques Garvey (course website).
- “Universal Negro Improvement Association, Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World,” in Modern Black Nationalism.
- Carlos Cooks, “Hair Conking; Buy Black,” in Modern Black Nationalism.

February 28 (Week 6): Communism and the Black Nation

- Richard Wright, “I Tried To Be a Communist” (course website).
- C.L.R. James, “The Right of Self-Determination and the Negro in the United States of North America” (course website).

March 6 (Week 7): Fanon on Political Violence and National Consciousness

- Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (selections TBA).

March 13 (Spring Break)

March 20 (Week 8): The Nation of Islam and Malcolm X

- View selected speeches of and interviews with Malcolm X (course website).

March 27 (Week 9): Black Power and Its Critics

• Martin Luther King, Jr., “Black Power,” from Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? (course website).
• Harold Cruse, “Postscript on Black Power—The Dialogue Between Shadow and Substance,” from The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual (course website).

April 3 (Week 10): Cultural Nationalism and Black Art

• Jeff Donaldson, “The Role We Want for Black Art,” in Modern Black Nationalism.
• Amiri Baraka, “The Black Arts Movement,” from The LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka Reader, ed. William J. Harris (course website).
• View video of Gil Scott Heron performing “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” (course website).
• View Karenga video where he explains the meaning of Kwanzaa (course website).

April 10 (Week 11): Huey Newton and the Black Panther Party

• Huey Newton, To Die for the People, pp. 3-109, 149-156.
• “Panther Sisters on Women’s Liberation,” in Modern Black Nationalism.
• View Black Panther Party video (course website).

April 17 (Week 12): Leftist Criticisms of Black Nationalism

• Cornel West, “The Paradox of the African American Rebellion,” in Is It Nation Time?
• Adolph L. Reed Jr., “Black Particularity Reconsidered,” in Is It Nation Time?

April 24 (Week 13): Feminist Criticisms of Black Nationalism

• E. Frances White, “Africa on My Mind,” in Is It Nation Time?
• Wahneema Lubiano, “Standing In for the State: Black Nationalism and ‘Writing’ the Black Subject,” in Is It Nation Time?