

Tommie Shelby (tshelby@fas.harvard.edu) and Walter Johnson (johnson2@fas.harvard.edu)

Class Meetings: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00; Barker Center 218 (W.S. Fong Room)

Prof. Shelby's office hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:00; Barker Center, Room 242, 496-8546

Prof. Johnson's office hours: TBA

Course Description: This course will treat the historical, sociological, and political writings of W.E.B. Du Bois—historian, activist, philosopher, and social theorist, one of the foremost intellectuals of the twentieth century, and arguably the founder of the field of African and African American Studies. From *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America* (1896) to *The World and Africa* (1947), Du Bois traced a course across many of the most important currents of global, black, and intellectual history: Pan-Africanism, Marxism, and Anti-imperialism, in particular. An intensive reading course, the primary aim will be to comprehend the development of Du Bois's ideas, placing them in historical context. The approach will be interpretive and critical; that is, we will be concerned with *understanding* and *assessing* Du Bois's thought.

We will examine his views about black identity and Pan-Africanism, the meaning of American citizenship, the role of social science in social progress, slavery and resistance, democratic theory and practice, racial prejudice and "whiteness," urban poverty and crime, the race concept, black advancement and group solidarity, the relationship between aesthetic and political ideals, self-respect and social protest, black gender relations and family structure, civil rights and political leadership, education and human development, women's equality and political self-determination, colonialism and global capitalism, war and peace, Africa and modern development, and capital-labor dynamics and economic justice.

Requirements:

- Class participation (15%). This involves making regular and well-informed contributions to class discussion, which of course requires doing the reading and regularly attending class.
- A 2000-word interpretive and critical essay (roughly 7-8 double-spaced pages) on some aspect of Du Bois's early writings, due by Monday, October 15th at 5:00pm (35%).
- A 2500-word interpretive and critical essay (roughly 8-10 double-spaced pages) on some aspect of Du Bois's later writings (post-1920), due by Wednesday, December 12th at 5:00pm (50%).
- Instead of the two shorter papers, post-graduate students may write one 5000-6000-word term paper (roughly 18-22 double-spaced pages), due by Wednesday, December 12th at 5:00pm (85%). A brief prospectus (300-500 words) should be submitted for approval by early November.

Required Texts (* = available as an e-book from the course reading reserves list):

- W. E. B. Du Bois, *Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States, 1638-1870* (Nabu Press, 2010)*
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Philadelphia Negro* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996)*
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Bedford, 1997)*

- Eric J. Sundquist, ed., *The Oxford W. E. B. Du Bois Reader* (Oxford University Press, 1996). [Note: *The Souls of Black Folk* and *Darkwater* are included in this reader. These two texts are also available as e-books from the course website.]
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *John Brown* (Nabu Press, 2010)*
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *Dark Princess: A Romance* (University of Mississippi Press, 1995)
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Gift of Black Folk* (Square One Publishers, 2009)*
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880* (Free Press, 1999)*
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *Dusk of Dawn* (Transaction Publishers, 1997)*
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The World and Africa* (International Publishers, 1979)*
- Various readings available on the course website.

Reading Schedule:

September 5 (Week 1): Introduction

September 12 (Week 2):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America* (1896)

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Walter Johnson, "White Lies: Human Property and Domestic Slavery aboard the Slave Ship *Creole*", *Atlantic Studies*, 5:2 (August 2008), 237-264
- Suzanne Meiers, *Britain and the ending of the slave trade* (New York: Africana, 1975).
- Keith Hamilton and Patrick Salmon, *Diplomacy and Empire: Britain and the suppression of the slave trade, 1807-1975* (Brighton, UK: Sussex Academic Press, 2009).
- Gerald Horne, *The deepest South: The United States, Brazil, and the African Slave Trade* (New York: New York University Press, 2007).

September 19 (Week 3):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *The Philadelphia Negro* (1898). Focus on Chaps. 1-2; 4, sec. 12; 5-6; 9; 11-12; 13, sec. 37-39; 14, sec. 43; 15, sec. 46; 16-18.

Recommended Primary Readings

- Du Bois, "The Study of the Negro Problems" (course website).

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Barrington S. Edwards, "W. E. B. Du Bois Between Worlds: Berlin, Empirical Social Research, and the Race Question," *Du Bois Review* 3 (2006): 395-424.
- Michael B. Katz and Thomas J. Sugrue, "Introduction: The Context of *The Philadelphia Negro*," from *W. E. B. Du Bois, Race, and the City*, ed. Michael B. Katz and Thomas J. Sugrue (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1998), 1-37.
- Lawrence Bobo, "Reclaiming a Du Boisian Perspective on Racial Attitudes," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 568 (2000): 186-202.

- Adolph Reed, Jr., *W. E. B. Du Bois and American Political Thought* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), chap. 3.
- Jacqueline Jones, "'Lifework' and Its Limits: The Problem of Labor in *The Philadelphia Negro*," from *W. E. B. Du Bois, Race, and the City*, ed. Michael B. Katz and Thomas J. Sugrue (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1998), pp. 103-125.
- Thomas L. Haskell, *The emergence of professional social science: the American Social Science Association and the nineteenth-century crisis of authority* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977)

September 26 (Week 4):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903).

Recommended Primary Readings

- Du Bois, "The Conservation of Races," in *Oxford W. E. B. Du Bois Reader (DBR)*, pp. 38-47.
- Booker T. Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address," (course website).
- Du Bois, "The Present Outlook for the Dark Races of Mankind," in *DBR*, pp. 47-54.
- Du Bois, "The Talented Tenth," (course website).
- Du Bois, "The Parting of the Ways," (course website).
- Du Bois, "The Future of the Negro Race in America," in *DBR*, pp. 362-373.
- Du Bois, "The Niagara Movement," in *DBR*, pp. 373-376.
- Du Bois, "The Development of a People" (course website).

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Dickson D. Bruce, Jr., "Du Bois and the Idea of Double Consciousness," *American Literature* 64 (1992): 299-309.
- Hazel V. Carby, *Race Men* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998), chap. 1.
- Robert Gooding-Williams, *In the Shadow of Du Bois* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009), chaps. 1, 2, and 4.
- Adolph Reed, Jr., *W. E. B. Du Bois and American Political Thought* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), chaps. 5 and 7.
- Shamoan Zamir, *Dark Voices* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), chap. 4.
- David Blight and Robert Gooding-Williams, "The Strange Meaning of Being Black: Du Bois's American Tragedy," in *The Souls of Black Folk*, ed. David Blight and Robert Gooding-Williams (Boston: Bedford Books, 1997), pp. 1-30.
- Ernest Allen, Jr., "Du Boisian Double Consciousness: The Unsustainable Argument," *Massachusetts Review* 43 (Summer 2002).
- Cornel West, "Black Strivings in a Twilight Civilization," from Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Cornel West, *The Future of the Race* (New York: Vintage, 1996), pp. 53-112.
- Arnold Rampersad, *The Art and Imagination of W. E. B. Du Bois* (New York: Schocken Books, 1976), chap. 4.

October 3 (Week 5):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *John Brown* (1909).

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Lawrie Balfour, *Democracy's Reconstruction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), chap. 3.
- John Stauffer, *The black hearts of men: radical abolitionists and the transformation of race* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004).

October 10 (Week 6):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *The Gift of Black Folk* (1924)

Recommended Primary Readings

- Du Bois, "Criteria of Negro Art" (course website)

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Shannon Sullivan, "Remembering the Gift: W.E.B. Du Bois on the Unconscious and Economic Operations of Racism," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 39 (2003): 205-225.

Monday, October 15th at 5:00pm: First Paper Due

October 17 (Week 7):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil* (1920).

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Joy James, "The Profeminist Politics of W. E. B. Du Bois with Respects to Anna Julia Cooper and Ida B. Wells Barnett," in *W. E. B. Du Bois on Race and Culture*, ed. Bernard W. Bell, Emily R. Grosholz, and James B. Stewart (New York: Routledge, 1996), pp. 141-160.
- Farah Jasmine Griffin, "Black Feminists and Du Bois: Respectability, Protection, and Beyond," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 568 (2000): 28-40.
- Lawrie Balfour, "Representative Women: Slavery, Citizenship, and Feminist Theory in Du Bois's 'Damnation of Women,'" *Hypatia* 20 (Summer 2005): 127-148.
- Reiland Rabaka, "The Souls of White Folk: W.E.B. Du Bois's Critique of White Supremacy and Contributions of Critical White Studies," *Journal of African American Studies* 11 (2007): 1-15.

October 24 (Week 8):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *Dark Princess: A Romance* (1928)

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Kenneth W. Warren, "An Inevitable Drift? Oligarchy, Du Bois, and the Politics of Race between the Wars," *Boundary 2* 27 (2000): 153-169.
- Alys Eve Weinbaum, "Reproducing Racial Globality: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Sexual Politics of Black Nationalism," *Social Text* 67 (2001): 15-41.
- Bill V. Mullen, "Du Bois, *Dark Princess*, and the Afro-Asian International," *Positions* 11 (2003): 217-239.
- Rebecka Rutledge Fisher, "Anatomy of a Symbol: Reading W. E. B. Du Bois's *Dark Princess: A Romance*," *CR: The New Centennial Review* 6 (2006): 91-128.

October 31 (Week 9):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America* (1935)

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Lawrie Balfour, *Democracy's Reconstruction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), chap. 2.
- Walter Johnson, "Agency: A Ghost Story", in Richard Follet, Eric Foner, and Walter Johnson, *Slavery's Ghost* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010).
- Walter Johnson, "Slavery, Reparations, and the Mythic March of Freedom", *Raritan*, XXVII, number 2 (Fall 2007), 41-67.
- Eric Foner, *Nothing but Freedom: Emancipation and its Legacy* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997).
- Frederick Cooper, Thomas C. Holt, Rebecca J. Scott, *Beyond Slavery: explorations of race, labor, and citizenship in postemancipation societies* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2000).

November 7 (Week 10):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *Dusk of Dawn* (1940)

Recommended Primary Readings

- Du Bois, "The Talented Tenth Memorial Address," (course website).

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Joel Olson, "Du Bois and the Race Concept," *Souls* 7 (2005): 118-128.
- Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000), chap. 9.
- Nikhil Pal Singh, *Black Is a Country* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004), chap. 2.
- Tommie Shelby, *We Who Are Dark: The Philosophical Foundations of Black Solidarity* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005), chap. 2.

- Eric Porter, *The Problem of the Future World: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Race Concept at Midcentury* (Duke University Press, 2010), chap. 1.

November 14 (Week 11):

- Required Reading: Du Bois, *The World and Africa* (1947)

Recommended Primary Readings

- Du Bois, "Africa and the Slave Trade," in *DBR*, pp. 628-637.
- Du Bois, "Africa, Colonialism, and Zionism," in *DBR*, pp. 637-640.
- Du Bois, "Manifesto of the Second Pan-African Congress," in *DBR*, pp. 640-644.
- Du Bois, "The Pan-African Congresses," (course website).
- Du Bois, "The Realities in Africa," in *DBR*, pp. 653-663.
- Du Bois, "Kwame Nkrumah," in *DBR*, pp. 289-294.
- Du Bois, "The Future of Africa," in *DBR*, pp. 664-667.
- Du Bois, "Whites in Africa after Negro Autonomy," in *DBR*, pp. 667-675.

Recommended Secondary Readings

- Kwame Anthony Appiah, *In My Father's House* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), chap. 2.
- Manning Marable, "The Pan-Africanism of W. E. B. Du Bois," in *W. E. B. Du Bois on Race and Culture*, ed. Bernard W. Bell, Emily R. Grosholz, and James B. Stewart (New York: Routledge, 1996), pp. 193-218.
- Segun Gbadegesin, "Kinship of the Dispossessed," in *W. E. B. Du Bois on Race and Culture*, ed. Bernard W. Bell, Emily R. Grosholz, and James B. Stewart (New York: Routledge, 1996), pp. 219-242.
- Wilson Jeremiah Moses, "Africa and Pan-Africanism in the Thought of Du Bois," in *The Cambridge Companion to W. E. B. Du Bois*, ed. Shamoan Zamir (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 117-130.

November 21: Thanksgiving Recess

November 28: No Class Meeting

December 5 (Week 12): Contemporary Critical Reception

- Kwame Anthony Appiah, *In My Father's House* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), chap. 2.
- Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000), chap. 9.
- Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993), chap. 4.
- Hazel V. Carby, *Race Men* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998), chap. 1.
- Robert Gooding-Williams, *In the Shadow of Du Bois* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009), chap. 1.

Wednesday, December 12th at 5:00pm: Final Paper Due

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the [Accessible Education Office](#) (AEO) and speak with the professor(s) by the end of the second week of the term (Friday, September 14). Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although Faculty are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

Collaboration Policy: Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. *However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own ideas and approach to the topic.* You must also adhere to standard citation practices and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc), you must also acknowledge this assistance.