

University of Florida, Fall 2016
AFA3930, Section 182B: The Black Power Movement in America (ONLINE)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 7-8pm (via Skype, username: k.allenkent) or by appointment

Objectives:

The Black Power Movement is one of the most interesting and often misunderstood movements in US history. Popular narratives and many scholarly works paint this movement as violent, racist, exclusionary, and comprised of groups dedicated to the overthrow of American society. It is often seen as a reactionary movement that halted the progress of a passive, integrationist Civil Rights Movement. However, historians are revising ideas about the Black Power Movement, especially drawing connections between Civil Rights and Black Power and examining how Black Power organizing continued into the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. This course will examine this movement, its major themes, its roots in previous black organizing strategies, different groups and figures associated with Black Power, and how this organizing continued into an era of conservative national politics. The Black Power Movement was certainly something different than its predecessors; but in order to understand how this movement developed, we must explore its foundations in the black freedom struggle, as well as how Black Power advocates altered their techniques in a society greatly changed by the Civil Rights Movement. This cultural, political, and social movement encompassed many different groups and ideas, and the purpose of this course is to examine the concept of Black Power and situate it within the narrative of American History.

History is a chain of events; what happened yesterday shapes today, and today's decisions will definitely affect tomorrow. To decipher the economic, social, and political climate of today's world, it is necessary to understand this building narrative of history. The other important thing to remember is that these topics are open for discussion. Dates, facts, and people are definitely important; however, the main objective is to be able to have a conversation about historical ideas and events and to place them into context. Undoubtedly, students completing this course will enhance their reading, writing, and verbal communication skills, as well as their ability to create and sustain an argument, using evidence to support their case.

Required Texts:

The following books should be available at the UF Bookstore. You can also purchase new and used copies online through most bookselling websites. If you have trouble finding the books, let me know sooner rather than later.

Peniel Joseph, *Waiting til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America*

Timothy Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power*

Manning Marable, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*

Clayborne Carson, *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*

Stokely Carmichael and Mark Hamilton, *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation*

Hasan Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*

Curtis Austin, *Up Against the Wall: Violence in the Making and Unmaking of the Black Panther Party*

Course Requirements and Expectations:

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. Staff at the Disability Resource Center and the instructor will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Please register with the Dean of Students and contact me promptly to make any arrangements.

Plagiarism or any other type of cheating plainly and simply will not be tolerated. Any range of things, from copying other people's work to having people do your work for you, can count as cheating. The University of Florida sets strict guidelines on this sort of thing, and it could affect more than just your grade in this course. Don't do it. Talk to me if you have questions.

Complete all work for each module. You are here to learn, and someone is paying for you to be here. Your final grade will reflect the time you spent working with the videos and readings and how much you engaged with the material.

Respect is a very important part of any college class. Respect your fellow students, respect me, and respect yourselves. This class is based on discussing the events of American history, and while people will certainly disagree, part of what you are learning here is how to have civilized and productive conversations about personal and contentious topics.

All assignments are due at the end module date. There is a built in two-day window to turn in late assignments; however, you will be penalized 10% for every day that an assignment is late.

Grade breakdown is as follows:

Quizzes	15%
Writing Assignments	30%
Discussion Boards	35%
Final Project	20%

Grade Scale:	A (4.0) = 93 - 100
	A- (3.67) = 90 - 92
	B+ (3.33) = 87 - 89
	B (3.0) = 83 - 86
	B- (2.67) = 80 - 82
	C+ (2.33) = 77 - 79
	C (2.0) = 73 - 76
	C- (1.67) = 70 - 72
	D+ (1.33) = 67 - 69
	D (1.0) = 63 - 66
	D- (.67) = 60 - 62

Assignments:

Grades will be based on the above breakdown.

- Quizzes are either multiple choice, matching, or short answer. They will test your knowledge of specific information, such as dates, names, and places.
- Writing assignments will range from one to two paragraphs to multiple pages. They will challenge you to elaborate on certain events or concepts in this movement.
- Discussions are crucial to a college class; the information presented in lectures serves as contextual information to assist in talking about these topics with me and your classmates, to understand why these events and ideas mattered, both then and now. Some will consist of recorded video clips; others will simply use message boards. Instructions for how much to post will be provided.
- A final project will challenge you to further examine an idea, group, or individual associated with the Black Power Movement. You will use outside sources to write a 3-5 page paper and craft a presentation for your classmates.

Course Schedule and Module Breakdown

Module One (August 22 – September 4)
The Roots of Black Power

Module Two (September 6 – 18)
Armed Self-Defense and Robert F. Williams

Module Three (September 19 – October 2)
Black Separatism, the Nation of Islam, and Malcolm X

Module Four (October 3 – 16)
Student Involvement and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

Module Five (October 17 – November 6)
SNCC and the Transition to Black Power

Module Six (November 7 – November 27)
The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense

Module Seven (November 28 – December 7)
Black Arts, Black Pride, and Black Power Legacies

Final Assignment due December 11