

**HISTORY 302**  
**Black Popular Culture and Civil Rights**  
**Spring 2019**

TTH 10:30-11:45 AM  
University Hall 219

Instructor: Cornelius L. Bynum, Ph.D.                      Email: [bynum@purdue.edu](mailto:bynum@purdue.edu)  
Office: University Hall 024                                      Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-2:00 PM or  
by appointment

Course Description:

From pseudo-scientific racism at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the Rodney King and O. J. Simpson trials of the 1990s, African American artists, athletes, and activists have sought to address racial discrimination and injustice in all their forms. This class examines the connections African Americans forged between sports, music, and other aspects of black popular cultures and the broader civil rights struggle from the 1890s to the present.

Assigned Texts:

Baldwin, Davarian L. *Chicago's New Negroes: Modernity, the Great Migration, and Black Urban Life* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).  
ISBN: 978-0807857991

Boyd, Todd. *The New H. N. I. C. (Head Niggas in Charge): The Death of Civil Rights and the Reign of Hip Hop* (New York: New York University Press, 2004).  
ISBN: 978-0814798966

Smelthurst, James. *The Black Arts Movement: Literary Nationalism in the 1960s and 1970s* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005).  
ISBN: 978-0807855980

Course Requirements and Policies:

There will be three (3) short papers (5-7 pages) and a final project for this course. Each paper will focus on one of the assigned books listed above. The final project will focus on a subject of the student's choosing (and approved by the instructor) and will consist of a ten minute (10) in-class presentation. Each essay is worth 20% of the overall course grade and the final exam is 40%.

Attendance:



Assigned Reading:  
Baldwin, *Chicago's New Negroes*.

Tuesday, January 29, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, January 31, 2019                  Film: "Scottsboro: An American Tragedy"

Week 5:

Assigned Reading:  
Smelthurst, *The Black Arts Movement*.

Tuesday, February 5, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, February 7, 2019                  Film: "Eyes on the Prize"

**Essay 1 Due by 5:00 PM Friday, February 8, 2019**

Week 6:

Assigned Reading:  
Smelthurst, *The Black Arts Movement*.

Tuesday, February 12, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, February 14, 2019                  Film: "Eyes on the Prize"

Week 7:

Assigned Reading:  
Smelthurst, *The Black Arts Movement*.

Tuesday, February 19, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, February 21, 2019                  Film: "Eyes on the Prize"

Week 8:

Assigned Reading:  
Smelthurst, *The Black Arts Movement*.

Tuesday, February 26, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, February 28, 2019                  Film: "Eyes on the Prize"



Week 9:

Assigned Reading:

Boyd, *The New H. N. I. C. (Head Niggas in Charge)*.

**Final Project Subject Approval Deadline**

Tuesday, March 5, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, March 7, 2019                      Lecture

**Essay 2 Due by 5:00 PM Friday, March 8, 2019**

Week 10:

Assigned Reading:

Boyd, *The New H. N. I. C. (Head Niggas in Charge)*.

Monday, March 11 – March 16, 2019

Week 11:

Assigned Reading:

Boyd, *The New H. N. I. C. (Head Niggas in Charge)*.

Tuesday, March 19, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, March 21, 2019                      Lecture

Week 12:

Assigned Reading:

Boyd, *The New H. N. I. C. (Head Niggas in Charge)*.

Tuesday, March 26, 2019                      Lecture

Thursday, March 28, 2019                      Lecture

Week 13:

Tuesday, April 2, 2019                        Lecture

Thursday, April 4, 2019                        Lecture

**Essay 3 Due by 5:00 PM Friday, April 5, 2019**

Week 14:

Tuesday, April 9, 2019                      No Class (Final Projects Preparation Time)

Thursday, April 11, 2019                      No Class (Final Projects Preparation Time)

Week 15:

Tuesday, April 16, 2019                      Final Projects

Thursday, April 18, 2019                      Final Projects

Week 16:

Tuesday, April 23, 2019                      Final Projects

Thursday, April 25, 2019                      Final Projects