How has the meaning of racial justice transformed over the course of the 20th and early 21st century in America? What political changes, forms of resistance and societal shifts have contributed to and produced these variations? In polarizing political times, how can we more closely approximate a more racially just world? This course is an effort to understand the contemporary web of social, political, economic, and direct actions operating under the broad theme of Black Lives Matter. Drawing on broad, interdisciplinary approaches, this class will contextualize the long history of racial justice, non-violent, and anti-racist political movements within academic historical, social scientific, and legal frameworks. The course also seeks to develop the critical questioning, writing, and engagement skills of students.

Course Objectives
Students will critically engage a wide range of scholarly and popular texts focused on social constructions of blackness, policing and incarceration, and contemporary social movements operating as part of Black Lives Matter activism.
Students will become familiar with broad themes and approaches to social science research about race and contemporary writing by and about activists.
Students will develop skills of critical analysis and practical problem solving.
Students will be introduced to multiple, contested ideas for understanding race, incarceration, and policing.

Required Texts
Readings marked with a * are available as links from the course website.

Megan Ming Francis, Civil Rights and the Making of the Modern American State
Khalil Gibran Muhammad, The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern America
Assata Shakur, Assata: An Autobiography
Beth Ritchie, Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America’s Prison Nation
Martha Biondi, The Black Revolution on Campus
Introduction

Week 1: Introduction to class themes

Watch videos linked on Sakai for Week 1.

Historical Perspectives

Week 2: 20th Century Black Lives Matter Manifestos


*Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

*Ida B. Wells, On Lynching “Southern Horrors”


Assata Shakur, Assata: An Autobiography. This is an autobiography and best read as a whole, but you can focus on Chapters 10-20

Blackness and Criminality

Week 3: Social Construction of Blackness as Criminality

Khalil Gibran Muhammad, The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern America

Week 4: Constructing Black Women and Criminality

*Harris-Perry, Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes and Black Women in America. Introduction, Chapters 1, 4, 5


Week 5: How the 20th Century BLM Movements Made America
Megan Ming Francis, *Civil Rights and the Making of the Modern American State*

**Race and Policing**

**Week 6: Racial Disparities in Policing: Systems and Statistics**


**Web Resource**

Center for Policing Equity
http://cpe.psych.ucla.edu

**Week 7: Race and Policing at the Intersections**


**“The Sexual Assault to Prison Pipeline: The Girls Story”**

**“Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Overpoliced, and Underprotected”**

**“Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women”**

**“A Conversation with Black Women on Race”**

**Locating the Movement**

*Non-violent Social Change in Winston-Salem*

**Week 8:**

**Readings TBA**

Rev. John Mendez, Policing and Winston-Salem
**Week 9: The Cities: Ferguson, Baltimore and Beyond**

*The Ferguson Report*

*Nikole Hannah-Jones,* “School Segregation, the Continuing Tragedy of Ferguson.” *ProPublica*


*Brittney Cooper,* “In Defense of Black Rage: Michael Brown, Police and the American Dream.” Salon.com

*Carol Anderson,* “Ferguson isn’t about black rage against cops. It’s white rage against progress.” The Washington Post


**Web resources:**

Interactive Timeline Ferguson:  

Interactive Timeline Baltimore  

**Week 10: The Web: New Media Activism**

*Paulo Gerbaudo,* “Introduction” from Tweets and the Streets: Social Media and Contemporary Activism.


*Bijan Stephen,* “How Black Lives Matter Uses Social Media to Fight the Power.” From Wired.com


**Week 11: The Campus**

Martha Biondi. The Black Revolution on Campus. University of California, 2012

*Roxane Gay. “Student Activism Is Serious Business: The protesters at Mizzou and Yale need to be heard, not laughed off.” The New Republic

*Conor Friedersdorf, “Yale's Activists Deserve Constructive Criticism.” The Atlantic

**Blackness in Power**

**Week 12: When the power structure is also black**

*Final Report of President’s Task Force of 21st Century Policing

*Testimony of Professor Jennifer Eberhardt at 21st Century Policing Taskforce

*July 19, 2013 President Obama Remarks on Trayvon Martin

*June 26, 2015 Remarks by the President in Eulogy for the Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney

*President Obama on Black Lives Matter

*AG Eric Holder at the DOJ African American History Month Program “Nation of Cowards”

*City of Cleveland Consent Decree

*The FBI Director’s Troubling Comments on the ‘Ferguson Effect’

*Secretary Jeh Johnson on Black Lives Matter

**Global Perspectives**

**Week 13: DR-Haiti, Brazil, Paris, France**

*Bayard Rustin “A US Coalition on Human Rights” (1977)
Conclusions

Week 14: FLEX WEEK

Week 15: CLASS PRESENTATIONS of GROUP PROJECTS

Groups will present their actions plans.

**BTCE**
Advancing Equity for Women and Girls of Color
Anna Julia Cooper Center Conference
APRIL 29