READING LIST
Debating Justice, Politics, and Culture in Black America,
From the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter

What follows is a reading list based upon my writing-based history course that I taught in the Fall of 2015. While teaching the course, I relied heavily on primary sources and short secondary sources due to the stringent page limit (45 pages per week).

Here I have gently revised the syllabus. I include a few more readings that enhance the list. The topics are listed in the order that were assigned. I added two topics – one on the Black Panthers and Donald Trump. I have also included a Spotify playlist of music that inspired the class.

White Supremacy and Racial Identity

Civil Rights Movement: Direct Action

Civil Rights Movement and Memory: From Rosa Parks to Selma
- Martin Luther King, Jr., “MIA Mass meeting at Holt Street Baptist Church,” December 5, 1955, from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute.
• Barack Obama, “Remarks by the President at the Dedication of Statue Honoring Rosa Parks – US Capitol,” February 27, 2103.

Racial Violence, Police Brutality, and Urban Uprisings

What We Want is Black Power: Debating the Direction of Black Protest

The Black Panthers

Black Worker Rebellion in Detroit
• Read Selections of Dan Georgakas and Marvin Surkin, Detroit, I Do Mind Dying and Thomas Sugrue’s The Origins of the Urban Crisis.

Challenging the Second Wave: Intersectionality and Black Feminism
• Becky Thompson, “Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism,” Feminist Studies, 28: 2 (Summer 2002): 336-360.¹

Reparations
• Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations” (Read the rest of the essay).

The Hip Hop Generation

Crime and the Carceral State

¹ I had students get into groups and reverse outline Thompson’s article. The activity was successful on two fronts – students learned how scholars articulated and proved their arguments with evidence. They also learned a history of feminism that challenged some of the stereotypes often perpetuated in public discourse.

**Black Sexual Politics**


**Black Politics in the 21st Century**

• Angela Dillard, excerpt from “Malcolm X’s Words in Clarence Thomas’s Mouth” (2001).

**21st-Century Black Feminist Politics**

• Watch: Beyoncé’s 2014 MTV Video Music Awards Performance.
• Melissa Harris-Perry, “Introduction,” from *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America*, 1-23.
• Tamara Winfrey Harris, “All Hail the Queen?,” *Bitch Magazine* (2013).
• Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *We Should All Be Feminists* (2015).
Campus Protest: From #BBUM to #Mizzou

- Selections from Thedemands.org (University of Michigan).

Narrating the Movement: Ferguson and #BlackLivesMatter


Race, Trump, and the 2016 Election


2. I chose Staples’s and Eley’s articles from Blain’s and Connolly’s “Trump Syllabus, 2.0.”