Intro to Africana Studies
Lehman College AAS 166
Prof. Williams

Intro to Black Studies Chapter 5: Africana Religion
Dr. John Henrik Clarke: “Image and Mind Control in the African World”
Spring 2021 Week 7
Zoom wait music: Alice Coltrane “Blue Nile”

From *Ptah, The El Daoud*, Impulse! Records 1970

**Personnel:** Alice Coltrane: harp, piano; Pharaoh Sanders, Joe Henderson: tenor sax, alto flute; Ron Carter: bass; Lawrence E. Vann: drums; Ben Riley: drums.

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Week 7 Agenda: Wednesday March 17, 2021

• Introduce agenda
• Course announcements
  • Book reminder
  • Website update (Zoom audio posted) + comments reminder
• BRIEF REVIEW: last week’s topics
• DISCUSSION: Dr. John Henrik Clarke’s “Image and Mind Control in the African World”
• DISCUSSION: Introduction to Black Studies chapter 5
• BREAK: Listening: “Rise, Vision, Comin” by Haki Madhubuti
• CONTINUE DISCUSSION: Introduction to Black Studies chapter 5
• Intro next week’s topic
• END
• Individual Q&A

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CEMOTAP OHIO AND CEMOTAP NY PRESENT
“Black Women Who Hold Up Half The Sky”

Meeting ID: 817 6391 6941    Passcode: 004997
Saturday March 27, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Sister La Frances Rogers Rose
Founder and CEO of the International Black Women’s Congress. Clinical sociologist, professor, community leader, consultant and author.

Sister Betty J. Dopson
Sis. Betty Dopson Founder of CEMOTAP. Former Director of Public Relations Harlem Hospital

Sister Gloria Browne-Marshall
Writer, Professor, Playwright, Producer, Radio/Podcast Host, and Executive Producer of “Law of the Land” AWARD WINNER London Film Awards

YOU MUST RSVP BY TEXTING 347-907-0629 or By Email at Bashlefi@gmail.com
Week 7 announcement: Wednesday March 17, 2021

Workshop: Interviewing for Graduate School Admissions
What to say...What not to say...What to expect

Join us on Wednesday, March 24 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM [via Zoom] to get some tips about interviewing for graduate school admissions. If you are applying to a program that requires an interview as part of their admissions procedure, this session is for you! Come and get some tips to help you prepare. See course website for Zoom link

Keith Happaney and Suzanne Yates
Pre-Graduate School Advisors
Office hours on Thursdays/Fridays

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Week 6 Review: some key points

Chapter 4, Black History: Africans in America, Part 2

- Civil Rights Movement
  - Context, key events, legacy
- Black Power Movement
  - Context, key events, legacy

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3 Major Modal Periods of African History (151)

1 Classical period of Nile Valley Civilization
African commitment to knowledge; moral and spiritual grounding and cultural excellence; introduces basic disciplines of human knowledge; definitive contribution to forward flow of human history

2 Holocaust of Enslavement (Maafa)
Tests & tempers African people; demonstrates adaptive vitality & capacity to prevail; reinforces commitment to human freedom & dignity* (Key point! Shapes role in US, Caribbean, Central/South Am)

3 1960s Reaffirmation
Re-affirms Africanness and Black social justice tradition with commitment to struggle at core.

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Summary of Nationalist influence: (164-165)

1 Separate economic institutions
2 Alternative educational institutions
3 Black Student Unions/ Black Student Movement
4 Black Studies Programs
5 Global relinking of African people
6 Exploration of armed struggle & self defense
7 Redefinition of world in Black images/interests
8 Foundation of 1970s benefits and beyond

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Week 6 readings/focal points

Dr. John Henrik Clarke: “Image and Mind Control in the African World”

*Introduction to Black Studies*, chapter 5: Black Religion

- Dogon Tradition
- Maat
- Social ethics of MLK, Malcolm X, Nation of Islam
- Black Power and religion (from chapter 4)

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“The Bible is an effective part of the European controlled media that is often misused as a form of mind control” (343)
“In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, during the rise of the Atlantic slave trade, the Europeans not only began to colonize the minds of the people of the world, they also colonized information about the world” (343)
“In redesigning the world, the Europeans decided that whosoever controls the world, it’s going to be one of them.” (332)
Ideology

Thomas Dye definition: "an integrated system of ideas that provides society and its members with rationalizations for a way of life, guides for evaluating "rightness" and "wrongness," and emotional impulses to action."

From *Blueprint for Black Power*

*Amos N. Wilson*
Similarities in African Religious Traditions (191)

- Single supreme god
- God is near/far
- Ancestor veneration
- Balance between individual/society
- Respect for nature
Listening: “Rise, Vision, Comin” by Haki Madhubuti

From *Rise, Vision, Comin* Third World Press 1975

**Personnel:** Haki Madhubuti: vocals.

Approx. 13 minutes

**Break:**

15 minutes

*(Be right back! 7:45 PM)*

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Dogon Key Concepts:

African dialectic
Nommo (power of the word)
Yurugu (disorder)
Dogon Theological Insights (195)

Creation narrative as dialectic tension
God as cosmic womb
Fertility/productivity as central to God conception
Humans as indispensable element in the world
Maat Key Concept

**serudj ta**: constant repair, healing, and restoration of world to become more beautiful than inherited

from Declarations of Virtues: “to raise up and restore that which is in ruins, to restore that which is damaged, to rejoin that which is severed; to replenish that which is lacking; to strengthen that which is weakened; to set right that which is wrong and to make flourish that which is fragile and undeveloped”
Basic Tenets of MAAT (199-203)

- Humans as Divine image of God
- Dignity of human being
- Standing worthy before God and the people
- Worthiness before nature
- Essentiality of service
- Practice of the declarations of innocence
- Judgment, justification, and immortality
Rightness in the spiritual and moral sense in three realms: **Divine, natural, social**

Seven Cardinal Virtues:
- Truth
- Justice
- Propriety
- Harmony
- Balance
- Reciprocity
- Order
US Organization: Posits African Value system

Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles)

Umoja (Unity)
Kujichagulia (Self Determination)
Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)
Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)
Nia (Purpose)
Kuumba (Creativity)
Imani (Faith)

Positive turn to Africa

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MLK’s Social Ethics

1 social situation prepares Black people for restructuring/ respiritualizing US society
2 moral right/ responsibility to disobey unjust laws
3 Immoral/cowardly to collaborate in one’s own oppression
4 necessity of social and spiritual function to religion
Nation Of Islam (232)

Elijah Muhammad’s theology as liberation theology

1 Liberation theology
2 Islam is true religion of Black people
3 Black people are divine beings (“the Chosen of God”); White oppressors are evil
4 Challenge of building new world
Nation of Islam Contributions to Black Power (159)

1 Breaks White monopoly on God
2 Breaks Arab/Asian monopoly on Islamic interpretation
3 Establishes socio-historically specific form of Islam for Blacks
4 Challenges Christian redefinition/ relevance
5 Cements personal historical significance
(6) Establishes longstanding institution/organization

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Malcolm X (234-236)

1 Liberatory potential of truth/knowledge
2 Cultural revolution
3 Social roots/responsibility of religion
4 Women’s respect/equality
5 Self-transformative capacity of struggle

Contributions to Black Power Mvt (chap. 4):
Black Unity
Pan Africanism/Third World Solidarity
Civil Rights > Human rights
Cultural revolution
Self Defense