

### HISTORIANS AND CRITICAL RACE THEORY

This seminar is designed to support the goals of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, that is, to encourage and support students of color as knowledge producers on a path to graduate school. This seminar is intended to provide a space where students can grapple with challenging scholarship, can find their voices in a seminar setting, can develop critical perspectives on the academy and its relationship(s) to communities of color, can explore connections between critical theory and applied research, can build analytical frameworks for their individual research projects, and can build community among themselves, as peer scholars and as mentors of younger students. The seminar will be built around a core reading – Paul Gilroy, *AGAINST RACE*. We will also draw on other readings in connection to this text. And we will take advantage of opportunities to engage knowledge production in the arts as well as the academy, through plays, performances, visual art shows, and guest lectures and presentations.

While there will be no required writing for this two credit seminar, your regular attendance and participation is expected. Responsibility for posing questions for discussion, leading discussions, and introducing additional material will be shared out among all the students in the seminar. Each week two students will be asked to prepare questions (to be posted at least 24 hours before the seminar) and to lead the discussion, while another two students will be asked to introduce, orally in the seminar, the key scholars upon whom Gilroy is drawing in that particular chapter. Thus, our collective store of intellectual capital will grow.

#### Daily syllabus (subject to change)

- 1/25 Preparation for attending newly made film of Bill T. Jones' "Fela!"  
Reading (to be emailed to you):  
Justin Labinjoh, "Fela Anikulapo-Kuti: Protest Music and Social Process in Nigeria," *JOURNAL OF BLACK STUDIES*, 13:1 (September 1982)  
Randall Grass, "Fela Anikulapo-Kuti: The Art of an Afrobeat Rebel," *THE DRAMA REVIEW: TDR* 30:1 (Spring 1986)  
Tejumola Olaniyan, "The Cosmopolitan Nativist: Fela Anikulapo-Kuti and the Antinomies of Postcolonial Modernity," *RESEARCH IN AFRICAN LITERATURES*, 32:2 (Summer 2001)  
Brent Hayes Edwards, "Crossroads Republic," *TRANSITION*, 97 (2007)
- 1/27 Attend screening of newly made film of a performance of "Fela!" at the Guthrie Theater  
Thursday evening, January 27, one time only screening
- 2/1 The Challenges of Knowledge Production in this Historical Moment  
Reading (to be emailed to you):  
Salim Vally, "Reading Edward Said in South Africa – The Slippery Slope of the Academy from Ivory Tower to Market Mill" (unpublished, presented in Fall 2010)  
Ewuare Xola Osayande, "Word to the Wise: Unpacking the White Privilege of Tim Wise,"  
People of Color ORGANIZE! Website (2010)

- 2/8 Setting the stage to engage Paul Gilroy  
 Reading (to be emailed to you):  
 Vikki Bell, "Historical Memory, Global Movements, and Violence: Paul Gilroy and Arjun Appadurai in Conversation," *THEORY, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY*, 16:2 (1999)  
 Tommie Shelby, "Cosmopolitanism, Blackness, and Utopia: A Conversation with Paul Gilroy," *TRANSITION*, 98 (2008)  
 Paul Gilroy, "Sounds Authentic: Black Music, Ethnicity, and the Challenge of a 'Changing' Same," *BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH JOURNAL*, 11:2 (Autumn 1991)  
 Simon Gikandi, "Race and Cosmopolitanism," *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*, 14:3 (2002)
- 2/15 "The Crisis of 'Race' and Raciology," *AGAINST RACE*, 11-53
- 2/22 "Modernity and Infrahumanity," *AGAINST RACE*, 54-96
- 3/1 "Identity, Belonging, and the Critique of Pure Sameness," *AGAINST RACE*, 97-134
- 3/8 "Hitler Wore Khakis: Icons, Propaganda, and Aesthetic Politics," *AGAINST RACE*, 136-176
- 3/15 SPRING BREAK
- 3/22 "'After the Love Has Gone': Biopolitics and the Decay of the Black Public Sphere," *AGAINST RACE*, 177-206
- 3/29 "The Tyrannies of Unanimism," *AGAINST RACE*, 207-238
- 4/5 "'All About the Benjamins': Multicultural Blackness – Corporate, Commercial, and Oppositional," *AGAINST RACE*, 241-278
- 4/12 "'Race,' Cosmopolitanism, and Catastrophe," *AGAINST RACE*, 279-326
- 4/19 "'Third Stone from the Sun': Planetary Humanism and Strategic Universalism," *AGAINST RACE*, 327-358
- 4/26 To be announced
- 5/3 Possible additional seminar meeting (classes end on 5/2)