#### PHIL 4190 / AFRS 4050 / AMST 4050 — W. E. B. Du Bois

UNC Charlotte, Spring 2018

Wednesdays, 5:30-8:15pm, Winningham 107

**Instructor:** Trevor Pearce Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm or by appt

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#### Description

W. E. B. Du Bois is one of the most famous activists in American history, serving as founding editor of the NAACP magazine *The Crisis* from 1910 to 1934 and giving voice to both Marxism and Pan-Africanism until his death in 1963. Du Bois has been claimed by many disciplines: his book *The Souls of Black Folk* has been studied as literature and philosophy; *Black Reconstruction* is still seen as a watershed in the history of that period; and he founded the first American school of sociology at Atlanta University. In this course, we will try to do justice to this broad range of intellectual interests, examining not only Du Bois's theories of race—the usual focus of philosophers—but also his sociology, his views on education and evolution, his polemics on the role of art, his novel *Dark Princess*, his treatment of reconstruction, and his account of Africa and colonialism. Along the way, we will read all three of the autobiographical works that Du Bois published in his lifetime, each of which combines personal narrative with philosophical history.

#### Required Texts

Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, ed. Blight and Gooding-Williams (Boston: Bedford, 1997) [ISBN: 9780312091149]

Du Bois, Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil (New York: Dover, 1999) [ISBN: 9780486408903]

Locke (ed.), The New Negro (New York: Touchstone, 1997) [ISBN: 9780684838311]

Du Bois, Dark Princess: A Romance (Jackson, MI: Banner Books, 1995) [ISBN: 9780878057658]

Du Bois, Dusk of Dawn (New York: Schocken, 1968) [out of print, no ISBN; available used]

Du Bois, The World and Africa (New York: International, 1979) [ISBN: 9780717802210]

Apart from *The Negro* and *Dusk of Dawn*, these books should be available for purchase at the university bookstore, though it's likely cheaper to purchase them used online. All other texts will be available at the course website via <a href="https://canvas.uncc.edu/">https://canvas.uncc.edu/</a>.

#### **Evaluation**

5%	Participation	
10%	Attendance	
20%	Summaries	January 24 to April 11
20%	Paper 1 (1500 $\pm$ 250 words)	February 25
15%	Presentation (10 minutes)	April 25 or 26
30%	Paper 2 (2000 $\pm$ 500 words)	May 6

Your attendance grade is calculated by dividing attended classes by total classes. I automatically excuse one absence. Requests for additional excused absences due to medical emergencies, family emergencies, military orders, or court orders should be made to the Dean of Students Office (<a href="http://unccdso.uncc.edu/academic\_accommodations">http://unccdso.uncc.edu/academic\_accommodations</a>), and not to me directly.

'Participation' means making comments and asking questions that reflect your having read and thought about the text under discussion. Your participation grade cannot be higher than your attendance grade. I often call on individual students following the small-group discussion or the summary write-up. You must bring a copy of the reading to each class, or you will not be able to effectively participate.

Each class, you must hand in a summary of the reading for that week, which must include (a) the overall claim or thesis of the reading and (b) a summary of the arguments or evidence the author gives to support this claim or thesis. (Sometimes I will ask you to do this for a debate between two different authors; sometimes you will have to pick only one of several readings.) Your summary should be no more than two double-spaced pages (one-inch margins, 12-point font). In preparing your summaries, use only the assigned readings. Late summaries will not be accepted. Summaries submitted via e-mail will not be accepted. Absence from class is not a valid excuse for not turning in a summary unless you receive accommodation from the Dean of Students office (see above). The lowest summary grade will be dropped.

The topic(s) for Paper 1 will be circulated by e-mail on **February 14**. You must pick your own topic for Paper 2. I encourage you to talk to me about your paper before you submit it. I am happy to give feedback on outlines or introductory paragraphs. **The two papers must be submitted by 7pm on the due date at the Canvas site.** Papers that are too long or too short will be penalized a minimum of half a grade point. Late papers will be penalized half a grade point per day.

Your presentation will be on April 25 or 26. You will take 10 minutes to summarize the thesis and arguments of your second paper, and then respond to questions from the rest of the class for 5-10 minutes. It might be helpful to have your paper completely drafted by the time you present.

The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class except in emergencies. Students are permitted to use computers during class for note-taking and other class-related work only.

The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by e-mail notice.

#### **University Policies**

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or at <a href="http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407">http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407</a>.

As a condition of taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review through VeriCite for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the UNC Charlotte VeriCite library solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Students who miss classes, examinations or other assignments because of a religious practice or belief must provide reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a Request for Religious Accommodation Form (<a href="http://goo.gl/I1Ncv0">http://goo.gl/I1Ncv0</a>) to the instructor prior to January 22, 2018.

Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services (<a href="https://ds.uncc.edu/">https://ds.uncc.edu/</a>) and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations.

# **Reading Schedule**

# Jan. 10 – Introduction

Du Bois, "Strivings of the Negro People," *Atlantic Monthly* 80 (August 1897): 194-198 [a copy will be circulated in class, but also online at <a href="https://goo.gl/VD8wXz">https://goo.gl/VD8wXz</a>]

## Jan. 17 – SNOW DAY

### Jan. 24 – Race and Races

Crummell, "The Need of New Ideas and New Aims for a New Era," in *Africa and America: Addresses and Discourses* (Springfield, MA: Wiley, 1891), pp. 11-36

Crummell, "The Race Problem in America," in *Africa and America: Addresses and Discourses* (Springfield, MA: Wiley, 1891), pp. 37-57

Cooper, "Has America a Race Problem; If So, How Can It Be Solved?" in *A Voice from the South* (Xenia, OH: Aldine, 1892), pp. 149-174

Du Bois, "The Conservation of Races" (Washington, DC: American Negro Academy, 1897)

#### Jan. 31 – SICK DAY

### Feb. 7 – Urban Sociology

Du Bois, "The Study of the Negro Problems," Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 11 (1898): 1-23

Du Bois, "General Summary," in Some Efforts of American Negroes for Their Own Social Betterment, ed. Du Bois (Atlanta: Atlanta University Press, 1898), pp. 42-44

Du Bois, *The Philadelphia Negro* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1899), Preface; Chapters 1-2; Chapters 13-18)

#### Feb. 14 – Education

Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, ed. Blight and Gooding-Williams (Boston: Bedford, 1997), Fore-Thought and Chapters 1-6 [1903]

Washington, "Industrial Education for the Negro," in *The Negro Problem* (New York: James Pott, 1903), pp. 9-29

Du Bois, "The Talented Tenth," in *The Negro Problem* (New York: James Pott, 1903), pp. 33-75

#### Feb. 21 - Culture

Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk, Chapters 7-14 and After-Thought

#### Feb. 28 - Evolution

Du Bois, Heredity and the Public Schools [1904 pamphlet]

Farrand, "Race Differentiation—Race Characteristics," in *Proceedings of the National Negro Conference* (New York: 1909), 14-21

Dewey, "Address," in Proceedings of the National Negro Conference (New York: 1909), pp. 71-73

Du Bois, "Evolution of the Race Problem," in Proceedings of the National Negro Conference, pp. 142-158

Luschan, "Anthropological View of Race," in *Papers on Inter-Racial Problems*, ed. Gustav Spiller (London: King, 1911), pp. 13-24

Myers, "The Permanence of Racial Mental Differences," in *Papers on Inter-Racial Problems*, ed. Gustav Spiller (London: King, 1911), pp. 73-79

Boas, "Instability of Human Types," in *Papers on Inter-Racial Problems*, ed. Gustav Spiller (London: King, 1911), pp. 99-103

Du Bois, "Races," The Crisis (August 1911), pp. 157-158

Du Bois, "Results of the Congress," The Crisis (September 1911), p. 209

## Mar. 14 – Autobiography I

Du Bois, Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil (New York: Dover, 1999) [1920]

#### Mar. 21 – Art

Du Bois, "Negro Art," The Crisis (June 1921): 55-56

Locke (ed.), *The New Negro* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992), pp. xxv-xxvii, 3-18, 47-56, 199-213, 254-270 [1925]

Du Bois, "The Social Origins of American Negro Art," Modern Quarterly 3 (1925): 53-56

Du Bois, "[Review of The New Negro]," The Crisis (January 1926): 140-141

Du Bois, "A Questionnaire," The Crisis (February 1926): 165

Du Bois, "Krigwa Players Little Negro Theatre," The Crisis (July 1926): 134-136

Locke, "The Drama of Negro Life," Theatre Arts Monthly (October 1926): 701-706

Du Bois, "Criteria of Negro Art," The Crisis (October 1926): 290-297

Locke, "Art or Propaganda?" Harlem 1 (November 1928)

# Mar. 28 - Romance

Du Bois, Dark Princess: A Romance (Jackson, MI: Banner Books, 1995) [1928]

# Apr. 4 – Reconstruction

Du Bois, "Reconstruction and Its Benefits," *American Historical Review* 15 (1910): 781-799 Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1935), Chapters 7, 16-17

## Apr. 11 – Autobiography II

Du Bois, Dusk of Dawn (New York: Schocken, 1968) [1940]

## Apr. 18 – Africa

Du Bois, The World and Africa (New York: International, 1979) [1947]

# Apr. 25 (Wednesday, 5:30-8:15pm)

[presentations]

# Apr. 26 (Thursday, 5:30-8:15pm)

[presentations]