

Northwestern University
Department of Sociology
476, Special Topics: Race, Gender, Du Bois and Sociological Theory
Spring, 2017
Location: 1812 Room 107
Class Hours: Tuesday 9:30-12:20 PM
Professor: Aldon Morris
Phone: (847) 491-3448
1812 Chicago Ave., Room 102
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30-11:30 AM (or by appointment).
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Purpose of Course

The purpose of this course is to generate an understanding of the sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois and the role of insurgent theory. It will demonstrate why Du Bois was a founder of American sociology and analyze the social and political factors that rendered Du Bois to the margins of the sociological enterprise for over a century. The course will also focus on the ways in which white male privilege enabled white male sociologists to render invisible the sociology of both Du Bois and women sociologists. Attention will be paid to the analytical power of Du Bois' sociology especially in terms of race and power dynamics. The course will also delve into sociological theory from the south referred to as postcolonial thought.

Required Readings

Books:

W. E. B. Du Bois, **The Philadelphia Negro**

W. E. B. Du Bois, **Souls of Black Folk**

Residents of Hull-House, **Hull-House Maps and Papers**

Mary Jo Deegan, **Jane Addams and the Men of the Chicago School**

Aldon Morris, **The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology**

Francille Wilson, **The Segregated Scholars**

Julian Go, **Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory**

Articles:

A) Symposium: Aldon Morris' *The Scholar Denied: W E B Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology* in *Ethnic and Racial Studies Review*, Vol 39, Issue 8, June 2016

“Historical multitasking”

Charles Camic

“Du Boisian sociology and intellectual reparations: for coloured scholars who consider suicide when our rainbows are not enuf”

Marcus Anthony Hunter

“A singular scholar and writer in a profoundly racist world”

Martin Bulmer

“W E B Du Bois on the history of empirical social research”

Hynek Jerabek

“Du Bois’s Contested Legacy”

Patricia Hill Collins

“Rejoinder”

Aldon Morris

B) Lawrence D. Bobo “Bringing Du Bois Back In: American Sociology and The Morris Enunciation.” *Du Bois Review*, 12:2 (2015) 461-467.

Jose Itzigsohn and Karida Brown, “Sociology and the Theory of Double Consciousness: W. E. B. Du Bois’s Phenomenology of Racialized Subjectivity.” *Du Bois Review* 12:2 (2015) 231-248.

Kevin Loughran “The Philadelphia Negro and the Canon of Classical Urban Theory.” *Du Bois Review* 12(2): 249-67.

Class Format

This is a graduate seminar. Its content consists of intensive readings and focused classroom discussions. For the discussions to be informed and critical, students must keep pace with the readings and be prepared to analyze them in great depth.

Grading

Grading is based on class participation and a final paper. Each will count for fifty percent of the final grade.

Paper

A twenty-five page final paper of publishable quality will be due following reading week. This paper will address some aspect of W. E. B. Du Bois' approach to sociological issues (e.g., race, class, gender, religion, power, culture, crime rural societies, domination, social movements, globalization, capitalism, identity, postcolonial thought, etc.) The topic for the paper is to be cleared with the instructor. The paper may address theoretical or methodological issues or both.

Topics

I. Foundations of W. E. B. Du Bois Sociological Perspective

March: 28 Introduction to the Course

Read: W. E. B. Du Bois, **Philadelphia Negro** for next class

April: 4 Discuss **Philadelphia Negro**

Read: Du Bois, **Souls of Black Folk** for next class

April: 11 Discuss **Souls of Black Folk**

Read, **Hull House Maps and Papers** for next class

II. Early Influences on Du Bois, Gender and the Chicago School

April: 18 Discuss **Hull House Maps and Papers**

Read Deegan, **Jane Addams and the Men of the Chicago School** for next class

April: 25 Discuss **Jane Addams and the Men of the Chicago School**

Read: Morris, **The Scholar Denied** for next class

May: 2 Discuss, **The Scholar Denied**

Read: Articles in Required Readings sections A & B for next class

III. Sociological Legacy of W. E. B. Du Bois

May: 9 Discuss **Articles**

Read: Wilson, **The Segregated Scholars** for next class

May: 16 Discuss **The Segregated Scholars**

Read: Go, **Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory** for next class

May: 23 Discuss **Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory**

May: 30 Reflections on Mainstream vs Insurgent Sociological Theories

Paper Due

June 6