-public-seminar-

revolution-13-13

(2021-2022)

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wednesdays 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
13 sessions spread over the 2021-2022 academic year

seminar description

each year, this seminar focuses on a different set of topics at the heart of contemporary critical thought. during the 2015-2016 academic year, the seminar focused on michel foucault's collège de france lectures and produced the foucault 13/13 series. during the 2016-2017 academic year, the seminar focused on critical readings of friedrich nietzsche and produced the nietzsche 13/13 series. during the 2017-2018 academic year, the seminar focused on modalities of uprisings and produced the uprising 13/13 series. during the 2018-2019 academic year, the seminar focused on the relationship between critical theory and praxis, and produced the praxis 13/13 series. during the 2019-2020 academic year, the seminar returned to the fundamental texts of critical theory, and produced the critique 13/13 series. during the 2020-2021 academic year, the seminar went completely virtual due to the pandemic and focused on the history, theory, and future of abolition, and produced the abolition democracy 13/13 series.

the upcoming seminar for 2021-2022 will focus on the ideas and manifestos of 13 “worldly philosophers” who ignited revolutions. the new series is designed in conversation with the literary critic and cultural theorist, professor biodun jeyifo, who will open the series on september 22, 2021. in a review essay on the broad project of these 13/13 seminars, published recently in the british journal of sociology (vol. 73, issue 3, june 2021), biodun jeyifo
urges us to turn our attention to these “worldly philosophers” because, by contrast to the more academic critical philosophers, “they have not been studied enough as a historic, global and comparative phenomenon.” As he rightly insists, there is a difference between returning to Sartre and Foucault, or instead turning to Kwame Nkrumah and Ho Chi Minh. How is it that some ideas and manifestos, more so than others, have ignited, animated, or galvanized people to rise in revolution? What is it about these ideas and their theoretical moves—and not others? What can they tell us about critique and praxis? These are the questions we will explore this year in Revolution 13/13.

This year’s 13/13 seminar will be a public seminar open to Columbia University faculty, students, and staff in-person and to non-CU affiliates virtually. If you are interested in signing-up for the seminar (to get all the information and readings, to participate actively in the conversation, and to write or provide resources for the blog), please sign-up on the Google form.

We will be holding the formal 13/13 seminars on Wednesday evenings this coming year, generally from 6:00pm to 8:00pm EST. The seminars will begin with a short introduction, followed by guest presentation(s) (15-20 minutes) and a commentary, and then open discussion with participants for over an hour.

**Books and Texts**

The texts for the course will be assigned readings, mostly available at Book Culture or on the Revolution 13/13 website. All digital materials will be posted to the Revolution 13/13 website. Books and articles will include, for instance:

- C.L.R. James, *Nkrumah and the Ghana Revolution* [1977].
- Rosa Luxemburg, *Reform or Revolution* [1899].
- Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, ed. *How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective* [2017].
SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND READINGS


Wednesday, September 22, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Columbia University

Guest: Biodun Jeyifo (Harvard University)

Please read:

James Baldwin, “Princes and Powers” [1956].

Frantz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks (1952).

Frantz Fanon, “Racism and Culture“ [1956].

Frantz Fanon, “Reciprocal Bases of National Culture and the Fight for Freedom” [1959].

Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (1961).


Additional Primary Resources:


Public Seminar: Revolution 13/13 (Bernard E. Harcourt)

2021-2022


Additional References:


2/13 KWAME NKRUMAH, C.L.R. JAMES, AND GEORGE PADMORE

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 6:00-8:00 pm at Columbia University

Guest: Adom Getachew (University of Chicago)

Please read:


Kwame Nkrumah, Towards Colonial Freedom [1947].


Adom Getachew, Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination [2019].
3/13 ANTONIO GRAMSCI, JEAN-PAUL SARTRE, AND THE “ENGAGED” PHILOSOPHER

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:00-2:00 pm

Guest: Étienne Balibar (University of Paris, Nanterre)

Please read:


Sartre, Jean-Paul. Presentation des Temps Modernes [1945].

Sartre, Jean-Paul. Qu’est ce que la littérature in Situations II [1948]; What is Literature?, trans. Bernard Frechtman [1950].


Additional References:

Weber, Max. “Science as a Vocation“ [1922].


4/13 THE COMBAHEE RIVER COLLECTIVE STATEMENT

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The People’s Forum

Guest: Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (Princeton University)

Please read:

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta, ed. How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective [2017].

Additional References:


5/13 ROSA LUXEMBURG IN CONVERSATION WITH VLADIMIR ILYICH LENIN AND EDUARD BERNSTEIN

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 pm at St. Mary’s Church in Harlem

Guest: Amy Allen (Pennsylvania State University)

Please read:

Luxemburg, Rosa. Reform or Revolution [1899].

Luxemburg, Rosa. Accumulation of Capital [1913].

Lenin, Vladimir. State and Revolution [1917].

Bernstein, Eduard. The Preconditions of Socialism [1899].

6/13 STUART HALL, MANNING MARABLE, AND CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Guest: Kendall Thomas (Columbia University)

Please read:


7/13 GEORGE JACKSON, ALBERT WOODFOX, PAUL REDD, AND REVOLUTIONARY PRISON WRITING AND PRAXIS

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The People’s Forum

Guests: Albert Woodfox (author), Paul Redd (organizer), Darryl Robertson (Culture Editor at Esquire), Joy James (Williams College)

Please read:


Joy James, Writings and Works, https://sites.williams.edu/jjames/police-and-prison-abolitionism/.

Writings on the Short Corridor Collective

High-level Public Seminar:

Revolution 13/13 (Bernard E. Harcourt)

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“Episode 61: August 21, 1971,” Earhustle (podcast),

8/13 BECOMING NUMEROUS: LEGACIES OF QUEER AND TRANS REBELLION

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The People’s Forum

Guests: Che Gossett (IJS, Columbia University) and Jack Halberstam (Columbia University)

Please read:


Primary Sources:


Public Seminar: Revolution 13/13 (Bernard E. Harcourt)

2021-2022


Additional Readings:

José Esteban Muñoz, Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity (New York: NYU Press, 2019).


9/13 HANS-JÜRGEN KRAHL, THE SDS (SOZIALISTISCHE DEUTSCHE STUDENTENBUND) STUDENT MOVEMENT, AND THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Institute for Social Research at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

Guest: Martin Saar (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt).

Please read:


Secondary Readings:


10/13 MALCOLM X WITH BRANDON TERRY AND CORNEL WEST

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The People’s Forum

Guests: Brandon Terry (Harvard University) and Cornel West (Union Theological Seminary)

Please read:


Secondary Readings:


11/13 TONI NEGREI: “PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EMBEDDED IN MY LIFE”

Friday, March 18, 2022 at Toni Negri’s home in Paris.

Guest: Toni Negri (worldly philosopher, activist thinker, leading member of Autonomia Operaia, fugitive, prisoner, and renowned author of now classics of radical philosophy).

Please read:

Max Henninger, “From Sociological to Ontological Inquiry: An Interview with Antonio Negri”: [https://muse.jhu.edu/article/204838/pdf](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/204838/pdf)


Interview in French with France Culture “Toni Negri – Entretien (Les Chemins de la philosophie)” : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkWQrVFzeY


Antonio Negri in English (useful resource with bibliography): https://antonionegriinenglish.wordpress.com/category/interviews/

12/13 ABOLITION FEMINISM WITH SARAH HALEY

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The People’s Forum

Guest: Sarah Haley (Columbia University)

Please read:

13/13 ON “CRITICAL GENEALOGY”: AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION “WHAT GOOD IS GENEALOGY FOR PRAXIS?”

Saturday, June 11, 2022, at the University of Warwick, UK

A Keynote Address by Bernard E. Harcourt (Columbia University/EHESS)

Please read:


**Secondary Readings:**


Revolution 13/13 Bibliography


Kaba, Mariame. We Do This ‘Til We Free Us. Chicago: Haymarket, 2021 [2021].


Lenin, Vladimir. *State and Revolution* [1917].


Nkrumah, Kwame. Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of Imperialism. Available from Marxists.org here. [1965].


Russo, Vito. “*Why We Fight.*” [1988].


Additional Bibliography:
