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## Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2024

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Classics  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Classics - D0509  
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences  
Level/Career Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 3210  
Course Title Classics and African American Political Thought  
Transcript Abbreviation Clas & AfrAm Pol  
Course Description To explore ideas of citizenship and political life in ancient Greek and Roman texts (focusing on the 5th century BCE-1st century CE) and in African American texts (with attention to the 18th to 20th centuries). To examine recent developments in scholarship on Black Classicisms. To understand political thought to shed light on the challenges that US-American democracy faces today.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Lecture  
Grade Roster Component Lecture  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, Wooster

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites English 1110.xx, or completion of GE Foundation Writing and Information Literacy Course, or permission of instructor  
Exclusions  
Electronically Enforced No

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 16.1200  
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course  
Intended Rank Sophomore, Junior, Senior

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## Requirement/Elective Designation

Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### **Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes**

- Learn how African American scholars have interpreted, made use of, & revised the Classics in their own work. Learn how African American scholars develop traditions of political inquiry & debate that have historically been traced to ancient Greece.

### **Content Topic List**

- - Citizenship and enslavement.
  - Education for citizenship and leadership.
  - Political conflict and change.

### **Sought Concurrence**

Yes

## Attachments

- CLAS 3210 GE Theme course submission worksheet.docx: GE themes submission form  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Jama, Khalid M)*
- Classics Undergraduate Curriculum Map.xlsx  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Jama, Khalid M)*
- Complete\_with\_DocuSign\_Ohio\_State\_Course\_Review\_Concurrence\_Form.pdf: Signed by AAAS Chair Prof. Adeleke Adeeko  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Jama, Khalid M)*
- CLAS 3210 Syllabus.docx: Revised 4/28/2023  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Jama, Khalid M)*
- Panel feedback email sent 04.27.2023.pdf  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Jama, Khalid M)*

## Comments

- Revised syllabus attached to address panel feedback email requests. *(by Jama, Khalid M on 04/28/2023 09:43 PM)*
- Please see Panel feedback email sent 04/27/2023. *(by Hilty, Michael on 04/27/2023 05:58 PM)*
- Please request concurrence from AAAS. *(by Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal on 03/28/2023 08:56 PM)*

**COURSE REQUEST**  
3210 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette  
Chantal  
04/30/2023

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Jama, Khalid M	03/28/2023 04:39 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Fullerton, Mark David	03/28/2023 04:54 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	03/28/2023 08:58 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Jama, Khalid M	03/29/2023 09:50 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Fullerton, Mark David	03/30/2023 03:37 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	04/06/2023 11:21 AM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Hilty, Michael	04/27/2023 05:58 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Jama, Khalid M	04/28/2023 09:43 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Fullerton, Mark David	04/30/2023 01:54 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	04/30/2023 02:14 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin, Deborah Kay Hilty, Michael Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Steele, Rachel Lea	04/30/2023 02:14 PM	ASCCAO Approval

**Classics 3210: Classics and African American Political Thought (Spring 2024 T/TH 9:35-10:55)****GE Theme: Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World****Instructor:** Prof. Harriet Fertik**Email:** fertik.1@osu.edu**Office Hours:** University Hall 426, Wednesday 1-3pm and by appointment**Format of instruction:** In-Person Lecture 3 credit hours**Land Acknowledgement**

We would like to acknowledge the land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and Cherokee peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greeneville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. As a land grant institution, we want to honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.

**Description**

In this course, we explore ideas of citizenship and political life in ancient Greek and Roman texts (focusing on the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE-1<sup>st</sup> century CE) and in African American texts (with attention to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). We will follow recent developments in scholarship on Black Classicisms, which considers how peoples from Africa and across the African diaspora have understood and reimagined the literatures, arts, and cultures of antiquity. As we will see, these two traditions of political thought—Greco-Roman and African American—have long been in conversation with each other, and studying them side by side can shed light on the challenges that US-American democracy faces today.

We examine 1) how African American thinkers have interpreted, made use of, and revised the Classics in their own work and 2) how African American thinkers contribute to and develop traditions of political inquiry and debate that have historically been traced to ancient Greece and Rome.

We will engage with new scholarship in Classics and work with new resources for the study of African American thought. No knowledge of Greek or Latin is required for this course: we will read all ancient sources in English translation. After an introduction to key materials and approaches (unit 1), we will focus on three themes crucial for both ancient Greek and Roman and African American political thought: citizenship and enslavement (unit 2); education for citizenship and leadership (unit 3); and political conflict and change (unit 4). You will have opportunities, both in class and in writing, to reflect on how materials we study in this course can help us to understand political activity on our campus and in our local communities.

## Goals & Expected Learning Outcomes for GE Theme: Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World

### Goals:

1. Successful students will analyze an important topic or idea at a more advanced and in-depth level than in the Foundations component. [Note: In this context, "advanced" refers to courses that are e.g., synthetic, rely on research or cutting-edge findings, or deeply engage with the subject matter, among other possibilities.]
2. Successful students will integrate approaches to the theme by making connections to out-of-classroom experiences with academic knowledge or across disciplines and/or to work they have done in previous classes and that they anticipate doing in future.
3. Successful students will explore and analyze a range of perspectives on local, national, or global citizenship and apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that constitute citizenship.
4. Successful students will examine notions of justice amid difference and analyze and critique how these interact with historically and socially constructed ideas of citizenship and membership within society, both within the United States and around the world.

### Expected Learning Outcomes:

Successful students are able to:

- 1.1. Engage in critical and logical thinking about the topic or idea of the theme.
- 1.2 Engage in advance, in-depth, scholarly exploration of the topic or idea of the theme.
- 2.1. Identify, describe, and synthesize approaches or experiences as they apply to the theme.
- 2.2. Demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner through reflection, self-assessment, and creative work, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.
- 3.1. Describe and analyze a range of perspectives on what constitutes citizenship and how it differs across political, cultural, national, global, and/or historical communities.
- 3.2. Identify, reflect on, and apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required for intercultural competence as a global citizen.
- 4.1. Examine, critique, and evaluate various expressions and implications of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and explore a variety of lived experiences.
- 4.2. Analyze and critique the intersection of concepts of justice, difference, citizenship, and how these interact with cultural traditions, structures of power, and/or advocacy for social change.

### Additional Expected Learning Outcomes for this Course

- Explore and analyze primary sources for ancient Greek and Roman and African American political thought, with attention to genre and historical context
- Explore and analyze new scholarship on ancient Greek and Roman and African American political thought
- Examine and analyze (through primary sources and scholarship) relationships between ancient Greek and Roman and African American ideas of citizenship and political life
- Describe and critique diverse approaches to and perspectives on political participation, political education, and political change from antiquity up to today
- Reflect on political conversations and political activity in our local communities and analyze them within a broader historical context

## How We Will Meet these Goals in this Course

- The reading and writing assignments will give you opportunities for critical and logical thinking, both when you work independently and when we meet together. The readings include an extensive range of primary sources and types of scholarship. Low-stakes writing assignments will help you to practice critical thinking skills in preparation for larger assignments. (ELO 1.1)
- We will explore cutting edge scholarship in the field of Black Classicisms and use new resources for the study of African American thought. (ELO 1.2)
- You will identify, describe, and synthesize 1) approaches to citizenship in scholarship and 2) experiences of citizenship in primary sources and in your own lives. (ELO 2.1)
- Assignments in this course are designed to culminate in a final essay/project of your choice and to help you reflect on your progress as a learner, reader, thinker, and writer: these include low-stakes written assignments (in-class writing exercises and forum posts), the reflection paper (focused on analysis of selected passages from assigned readings), brainstorming session on project topics (in class after the midterm exam), formal proposal on your topic, and “elevator speech” to your classmates. (ELO 2.2)
- Discussion, readings, and written assignments will allow you 1) to compare and contrast Greco-Roman and African American ideas of and debates about citizenship and 2) to reflect on your own values and ideals. (ELO 3.1)
- The range of reading assignments will help you to reflect on concepts and experiences of citizenship in diverse cultures and time periods, and the campus/community event report requires you to apply these reflections to your own experiences. (ELO 3.2)
- We will assess sources from Greco-Roman antiquity and African American interpretations of them with an eye to whose voices and experiences are and are not represented, and we will discuss scholarly approaches to working with or accounting for these absences or silences. (ELO 4.1)
- Throughout this course we study critiques of Greco-Roman traditions of citizenship and political life, both in Classical scholarship and in African American thought. Readings and discussion will encourage you to focus on the historical-, social-, and cultural-situatedness of thinkers who engage with abstract concepts like difference, citizenship, and justice. (ELO 4.2)

## Course Materials

You are required to obtain copies of:

- Course Pack from UniPrint (includes most primary sources)
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (available from the OSU bookstore)
- Sophocles, *Theban Plays*, translated by Paul Woodruff and Peter Meineck. Hackett. (available from the OSU bookstore)

All other assigned materials will be available through Carmen, with links to the OSU Library. We will make frequent use of digital resources from the OSU Library, including *African American*

*Political Thought: A Collected History* (edited by Melvin L. Rogers and Jack Turner, 2022). If you have concerns about obtaining or accessing the course materials, please contact me as soon as possible.

### **Expectations, Assignments, and Assessments**

**Attendance:** Attending class is essential to success in this course. I will take attendance occasionally (and without advance notice). If you must be absent, email me as soon as possible. You can make up missed classes by attending office hours.

**Participation:** Class time is an opportunity to learn from each other, and I look forward to learning from and with you. Please take a moment to consider whether you are usually more of a listener or more of a talker in class discussion. If you are more of a listener, make sure you are challenging yourself to share your ideas. If you are more of a talker, make sure you are allowing space to hear what others have to say.

**Daily Reading:** This course requires a substantial amount of reading: you are expected to read the texts assigned for each day before class (unless the reading is marked “in class”) and to have the texts available to consult during class time. It takes practice to develop strengths and skills as a reader, and this course is an opportunity to do that. Allow yourself time to read carefully and take notes as you go. What do you find most striking, strange, compelling, or funny? What did you find confusing or unclear? What connections do you notice with previous reading assignments for the course or other courses you have taken? What more would you like to know? You will have opportunities to ask questions and share your impressions during class.

**Small-Group Writing Exercises and Forum Posts:** You will complete number of low-stakes writing assignments throughout the semester: some of these will be completed in small-groups during class and others will be forum posts which you must complete by a certain date. Dates for these assignments are listed in the schedule: more details will be shared in class and via Carmen.

**Reflection Essay:** You will write one 1000-word essay focused on texts assigned in Unit 3 (Education for Citizenship and Leadership). You will be given a choice of passages from the text and will use these to discuss **your** views of the aims of education. Specific guidelines will be distributed 2 weeks in advance of the due date. This essay will be graded on a 10-point scale:

- Basics (up to 1 point): Does the author focus on the texts selected for the assignment? Does the paper meet the word count requirements?
- Evidence (up to 3 points): Does the author cite evidence from the selected passages to support their views? Does the author choose evidence that is relevant to the discussion and avoid evidence that is not relevant? Does the author account for the wider context of the evidence cited?

- Analysis (up to 4 points): Does the author provide a clear statement of the main point of the essay (i.e., a thesis)? Does the author provide an interpretation of the text(s), instead of simply summarizing them? Does the author focus on issues in the text(s) that are debatable or open to different interpretations? Does the author go beyond the most general or obvious observations and express their own point of view?
- Polish (up to 1 point): Is the writing clear and easy to understand? Does the author choose words thoughtfully and carefully (i.e., do the words chosen make sense in context)?

You do not need, and should not consult, any sources to complete this essay other than the assigned readings and your class notes, and the reflection you submit must be your own work.

**Midterm Exam:** Short answer and short essay exam to be completed in class, focused on identification and analysis of selected passages from assigned readings.

**Report on Campus or Community Event:** You will choose one campus or community event relevant to the GE Theme (Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World) to attend during the semester and submit a 300-500 word report on a) what you learned and b) what connections you make between the event and the GE Theme. Possibilities include (but are not limited to) events sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Human Values, the Center for Historical Research, the Center for the Study of Religion, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. I will share information about upcoming events with you and encourage you to share information for any events you learn about. If you are uncertain whether an event will count, please ask.

**Final Essay/Project:** For your final assignment you may choose between an essay (ca. 2000 words) or a project (e.g., a podcast or a creative work) on a topic of your choice: your work must be related to the themes of this course **and** include at least 1 source beyond what has been specifically assigned during the semester (accessed through the OSU Library or with instructor approval). To help you prepare for this assignment, we will spend the class session prior to spring break discussing the guidelines and brainstorming. After spring break, you will sign up for a meeting with me in office hours and bring a 1-paragraph proposal for your project to discuss. In the final class sessions, you will present an “elevator speech”—a three-minute explanation of your essay/project and why it is important to you—to the class.



## Grading

**Attendance:** 5%

**Small-Group Writing Exercises:** 6% (2% each)

**Forum Posts:** 4% (2% each)

**Reflection Essay:** 20%

**Midterm Exam:** 25%

**Report on Campus or Community Event:** 10%

**Final Essay/Project:** 30%

## Course Policies

**Attendance:** Attending class is essential for success in this course, but illnesses and emergencies happen. You should not attend class if you are sick. If you must be absent, please email me to let me know in advance, and plan to attend office hours to get caught up. If you know you must be absent for multiple class sessions, please contact me immediately to discuss accommodations.

**Communication:** All information about the course will be communicated through Canvas. You are responsible for reading all communications sent about this course. If you have a question, email me directly at fertik.1@osu.edu. I do my best to respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week, or 48 hours over the weekend.

**Electronic Devices:** You are welcome to use your computer or tablet for class-related purposes only. Cell phones must be set to silent and put away unless you are using them to access Carmen for an in-class assignment. Using electronic devices for purposes not related to class is distracting, not only to you but to your fellow students: be considerate of your classmates' learning as well as your own.

**Extensions and Make-Ups:** Extensions for the reflection papers must be requested via email at least 48 hours in advance of the due date and are subject to approval. Make-ups for the midterm exam will only be permitted in case of illness or emergency and require approval from me.

**Late Submissions:** If you submit an assignment within 24 hours after the deadline, 0.5 points will be deducted from the grade; 48 hours after the deadline – 1 point; 72 hours after the deadline – 1.5 points; after 72 hours – 2 points.

**Office Hours:** If you need to discuss any course material or assignments, you should plan to attend my office hours. I encourage you to come to office hours to introduce yourself, chat about your academic interests, and discuss further opportunities for studying the ancient world at OSU.

## University Policies

**Academic Misconduct:** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>. Please contact Prof. Fertik if you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct in this course.

**Counseling and Support:** College life can be challenging for many reasons: if you are interested in counseling, you can find more information on what OSU offers here: <https://ccs.osu.edu/>

**Disability Services:** The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Diversity:** The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

## Course Schedule

### Unit 1: Introductions: Materials and Approaches

#### Introduction to the Course

January 9

- **In class:** view selection of Danielle Allen’s 2019 lecture at the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values ([The Meaning of America: Laying a New Foundation for Commitment to American Democracy and One Another](#)) and **small-group writing exercise 1**

#### Classics and Black Classicisms

January 11

- Rachel Poser (2021), ["He Wants to Save Classics from Whiteness: Can the Field Survive?"](#) (*The New York Times*)
- Sarah Derbew (2022), ["Blackness in Antiquity"](#) (*Aeon*)

January 16

- Patrice Rankine (2006), *Ulysses in Black: Ralph Ellison, Classicism, and African American Literature*, pp. 22-34
- Eric Ashley Hairston (2013), *The Ebony Column: Classics, Civilization, and the African American Reclamation of the West*, pp. 1-24

#### African American Political Thought

January 18

- Melvin L. Rogers and Jack Turner, "Political Theorizing in Black: An Introduction," *African American Political Thought: A Collected History*, pp. 1-29 (AAPT)
- Podcast: ["Out of Africa: Slavery and the Diaspora"](#) (Peter Adamson and Chike Jeffers, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, May 26, 2019)
- **Last day to submit Forum Post 1**

### Unit 2: Citizenship and Enslavement

#### Aristotle

January 23

- Aristotle, *Politics* Book I, Chapters 1-7 & 12-13 (4<sup>th</sup> century BCE)
- *Optional:* Podcast: ["Constitutional Conventions: Aristotle’s Political Philosophy"](#) (Peter Adamson, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, October 2, 2011)

#### Frederick Douglass

January 25

- Sharon R. Krause, "Frederick Douglass: Non-Sovereign Freedom and the Plurality of Political Resistance," *AAPT*, pp. 116-141
- Frederick Douglass (1855), *My Bondage and My Freedom*, Chapters 1-2, 6, 9-11, 23

W. E. B. Du Bois

January 30

- W. E. B. Du Bois (1920), "The Servant in the House," in *Darkwater*
- Podcast: "[Lifting the Veil: Introducing W. E. B. Du Bois](#)" (Peter Adamson and Chike Jeffers, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, December 27, 2020)

Toni Morrison

February 1

- Emily Greenwood (2022), "Reconstructing Classical Philology: Reading Aristotle *Politics* 1.4 After Toni Morrison," *American Journal of Philology* 143.2, pp. 335-357
- **In class:** read selections of Toni Morrison, "Unspeakable Things Unspoken: The Afro-American Presence in American Literature," and **small-group writing exercise 2**

**Unit 3: Education for Citizenship and Leadership**Phillis Wheatley: Poetry

February 6

- Vincent Carretta, "Phillis Wheatley and the Rhetoric of Politics and Race," *AAPT*, pp. 32-51
- Selections from Phillis Wheatley (1771), *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*
  - Preface and To the Public
  - To Maecenas
  - On Virtue
  - To SM a Young African Painter on Seeing his Works
- Selections from Horace, *Odes* (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE)

February 8

- Wheatley, "Niobe in Distress"
- Selections from Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (1<sup>st</sup> century CE)
- Nicole A. Spigner (2021), "Phillis Wheatley's Niobe Poetics," in *Brill's Companion to Classics in the Early Americas*, pp. 320-342
- **In class:** Eve Ewing (2019), "1773" (poem about Wheatley for "The 1619 Project" in *The New York Times Magazine*)

Du Bois: Oratory and Mythology

February 13

- Cicero, *Pro Archia Poeta* ("In Defense of Archias the Poet") (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE)
- Du Bois (1903), "Of the Meaning of Progress" in *The Souls of Black Folk*
- Mathias Hanses (2019), "Cicero Crosses the Color Line: *Pro Archia Poeta* and W. E. B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*," *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 26.1, pp. 10-26

February 15

- Du Bois (1911), *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, Chapters 1-12

February 20

- Du Bois (1911), *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, Chapters 13-26

February 22

- Du Bois (1911), *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, Chapters 27-38
- Jackie Murray (2019), "W. E. B. Du Bois' *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*: The Education of Black Medea," *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 149.2 Supplement, 143-162

**Reflection Essay due by February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:59 pm**

### Ancient History

February 27

- Herodotus, *Histories*, selections from Book 2 (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE)
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, selections from Book 1 (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE)
- Livy, *History of Rome*, preface (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE/CE)

### American History

February 29

- Shelley P. Haley (1993), "Black Feminist Thought and Classics: Re-membering, Re-claiming, Re-empowering" in *Feminist Theory and the Classics*, pp. 23-38
- Nikole Hannah-Jones (2019), "The Idea of America" (introduction to "The 1619 Project" in *The New York Times Magazine*)

### **Midterm Exam**

**March 5**

### Orientation to the Final Essay/Project

March 7

- **In class:** introduction to options for final essay/project, review of assignment guidelines, brainstorming

### **SPRING BREAK**

### **Unit 4: Political Conflict and Political Change**

#### Demands for Justice

March 19

- Livy, *History of Rome*, selections from Books 2 and 3 (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE/CE)

March 21

- David Walker (1830), *Walker's Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*, Preamble and Articles I and II
- Melvin Rogers, "David Walker: Citizenship, Judgment, Freedom, and Solidarity," *AAPT*, pp. 52-66
- *Optional*: Podcast: "Killed or Be Killed: David Walker's *Appeal*" (Peter Adamson and Chike Jeffers, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, January 5, 2020)

### Anger and Resistance

March 26

- Selections from Seneca, *On Anger* (1<sup>st</sup> century CE)

March 28

- Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger" (1981) and "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (1984)
- Jack Turner, "Audre Lorde's Politics of Difference," *AAPT*, pp. 563-583
- **Last day to submit report on campus or community event**

### Responsibility and Redemption

April 2

- Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (selections) and *Oedipus at Colonus* (complete) (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE)

April 4

- **In class viewing:** *The Gospel at Colonus* (1983)
- **Last day to submit Forum Post 2**

### Think Globally, Act Locally

April 9

- **In class:** Read [Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Columbus \(0095X-2020\)](#) and **small-group writing exercise 3**

### Unit 5: Conclusions

#### Student Presentations

April 11 & 16

- **Elevator Speeches for Final Essays/Projects (attendance required to support and learn from your peers)**

**Final Essay/Project due by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm**

Harriet Fertik

# GE Theme course submission worksheet: Citizenship for a Just & Diverse World

## Overview

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Courses in the GE Themes aim to provide students with opportunities to explore big picture ideas and problems within the specific practice and expertise of a discipline or department. Although many Theme courses serve within disciplinary majors or minors, by requesting inclusion in the General Education, programs are committing to the incorporation of the goals of the focal theme and the success and participation of students from outside of their program.

Each category of the GE has specific learning goals and Expected Learning Outcomes (ELOs) that connect to the big picture goals of the program. ELOs describe the knowledge or skills students should have by the end of the course. Courses in the GE Themes must meet the ELOs common for **all** GE Themes and those specific to the Theme, in addition to any ELOs the instructor has developed specific to that course. All courses in the GE must indicate that they are part of the GE and include the Goals and ELOs of their GE category on their syllabus.

The prompts in this form elicit information about how this course meets the expectations of the GE Themes. The form will be reviewed by a group of content experts (the Theme Advisory) and by a group of curriculum experts (the Theme Panel), with the latter having responsibility for the ELOs and Goals common to all themes (those things that make a course appropriate for the GE Themes) and the former having responsibility for the ELOs and Goals specific to the topic of **this** Theme.

## Briefly describe how this course connects to or exemplifies the concept of this Theme (Citizenship)

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In a sentence or two, explain how this class “fits” within the focal Theme. This will help reviewers understand the intended frame of reference for the course-specific activities described below.

This course explores ideas of citizenship and political life in ancient Greek and Roman texts (focusing on the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE-1<sup>st</sup> century CE) and in African American texts (with attention to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). These two traditions of political thought—Greco-Roman and African American—have long been in conversation with each other, and studying them side by side can shed light on the challenges that US-American democracy faces today. We examine 1) how African American thinkers have interpreted, made use of, and revised the Classics in their own work and 2) how African American thinkers contribute to and develop traditions of political inquiry and debate that have historically been traced to ancient Greece and Rome. The course is organized thematically with readings drawn from Greek and Roman and African American thinkers as well as current scholarship. Primary texts include Aristotle (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE), Cicero (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE), Seneca (1<sup>st</sup> century CE), Phillis Wheatley (18<sup>th</sup> century), Frederick Douglass (19<sup>th</sup> century), W. E. B. Du Bois (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century), Audre Lorde (20<sup>th</sup> century), and many others. We read cutting edge scholarship in Classics, especially by scholars of color, and work with new resources for studying African American thought, including a podcast series on Africana philosophy. Our main topics are citizenship and enslavement, education for citizenship and leadership, and political conflict and political change. No knowledge of Greek or Latin is required for this course.

## Connect this course to the Goals and ELOs shared by *all* Themes

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Below are the Goals and ELOs common to all Themes. In the accompanying table, for each ELO, describe the activities (discussions, readings, lectures, assignments) that provide opportunities for students to achieve those outcomes. The answer should be concise and use language accessible to colleagues outside of the submitting department or discipline. The specifics of the activities matter—listing “readings” without a reference to the topic of those readings will not allow the reviewers to understand how the ELO will be met. However, the panel evaluating the fit of the course to the Theme will review this form in conjunction with the syllabus, so if readings, lecture/discussion topics, or other specifics are provided on the syllabus, it is not necessary to reiterate them within this form. The ELOs are expected to vary in their “coverage” in terms of number of activities or emphasis within the course. Examples from successful courses are shared on the next page.

**Goal 1:** Successful students will analyze an important topic or idea at a more advanced and in-depth level than the foundations. In this context, “advanced” refers to courses that are e.g., synthetic, rely on research or cutting-edge findings, or deeply engage with the subject matter, among other possibilities.

**Goal 2:** Successful students will integrate approaches to the theme by making connections to out-of-classroom experiences with academic knowledge or across disciplines and/or to work they have done in previous classes and that they anticipate doing in future.

	Course activities and assignments to meet these ELOs
<b>ELO 1.1</b> Engage in critical and logical thinking.	The reading and writing assignments are all designed to give students opportunities for critical and logical thinking, both when they work independently and when they meet together. The readings expose students to an extensive range of primary sources (including but not limited to ancient literature, history, speeches, and philosophy, and modern poetry, fiction, memoir, speeches, and political tracts) and types of scholarship (especially from classical reception studies and political theory). Larger assignments (like the reflection paper, midterm, and final essay/project) will encourage students to take the reading assignments seriously, and students will also complete a number of low-stakes writing assignments to practice their critical thinking skills in preparation for those larger assignments. For example, on our first day of class we will watch a selection of a lecture on citizenship that Danielle Allen (an African American political theorist who was trained as a classicist) gave at OSU in 2019: students will interview each other about their reactions to Allen’s proposals for rebuilding American civic culture and assess her argument in light of political developments since 2019. These conversations are intended to prepare students to approach all sources we read in this class with an eye toward critical assessment and analysis.
<b>ELO 1.2</b> Engage in an advanced, in-depth, scholarly exploration of the topic or ideas within this theme.	Students will explore cutting edge scholarship in the field of Black Classicisms, which considers how peoples from Africa and across the African diaspora have understood and reimagined the literatures, arts, and cultures of antiquity. They will also use new resources for the study of African American thought, including the most recent series of the podcast <i>History of Philosophy Without any Gaps</i> , written and produced by academic philosophers and devoted to Africana philosophy, and the 2022 edited volume <i>African American Political Thought: A Collected History</i> . For example, in Unit 2 we focus on the relationship between citizenship and enslavement in political thought in the Greco-Roman and African American traditions. We begin with Aristotle’s <i>Politics</i> , in which enslaved persons are compared to “tools” who are necessary to the functioning of the polity but excluded from participating in it; we then follow critiques of Aristotelian ideas of the enslaved as “tools” and of “natural slavery” in the memoirs of Frederick Douglass and the essays of W. E. B. Du Bois. Throughout this unit, scholarship from philosophy, political theory, and classical reception studies allows students to engage deeply with the questions raised by the primary sources; students also complete a forum post in which they will



	discuss how we can recover and include the perspectives of marginalized peoples in political conversations, both in the past and today.
<b>ELO 2.1</b> Identify, describe, and synthesize approaches or experiences.	Students will identify, describe, and synthesize 1) approaches to citizenship in scholarship and 2) experiences of citizenship in primary sources and in their own lives. Unit 1 orients students to historical and current challenges and developments in the study of Classics and African American political thought, with attention to critiques of racism in the discipline of Classics and to African American engagements with the Greek and Roman worlds. Throughout the course, students will connect discussions of citizenship in the primary sources to their own lives: for example, they will write a report on a campus or community event of their choice that is connected to the GE Theme, they will do an in-class discussion and writing exercise focused on a Columbus city resolution on racism as a public health crisis, and they will explain how their research for their final essays/projects matters to their own ideas about citizenship in their “elevator speeches” to the class.
<b>ELO 2.2</b> Demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner through reflection, self-assessment, and creative work, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.	All written assignments in this course are designed to help students to build up to a final essay/project on a topic of their choice. In addition to low-stakes in-class writing and forum posts, students will complete a reflection paper, focused on analysis of selected passages from readings assigned in Unit 3 (Education for Citizenship and Leadership) in which they will discuss their aims for their own education. Following the midterm exam, we will have a class discussion and brainstorming session for the final essay/project: students will complete an essay or project on a topic of their choice, connected to the course themes, and must consult at least one source not assigned in the course (accessed through the OSU Library or with instructor approval). Each student (I anticipate approximately 35) must attend my office hours to discuss a 1-paragraph proposal for their final project and present an “elevator speech” on their project to the class, as well as attend their classmates’ presentations. These scaffolded assignments give students opportunities to reflect on their progress as learners, thinkers, readers, and writers throughout the course and in the context of their wider academic experiences.

**Goals and ELOs unique to Citizenship for a Just & Diverse World**

Below are the Goals and ELOs specific to this Theme. As above, in the accompanying Table, for each ELO, describe the activities (discussions, readings, lectures, assignments) that provide opportunities for students to achieve those outcomes. The answer should be concise and use language accessible to colleagues outside of the submitting department or discipline. The ELOs are expected to vary in their “coverage” in terms of number of activities or emphasis within the course. Examples from successful courses are shared on the next page.

**GOAL 3:** Successful students will explore and analyze a range of perspectives on local, national, or global citizenship, and apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that constitute citizenship.

**GOAL 4:** Successful students will examine notions of justice amidst difference and analyze and critique how these interact with historically and socially constructed ideas of citizenship and membership within societies, both within the US and/or around the world.

	Course activities and assignments to meet these ELOs
<b>cELO 3.1</b> Describe and analyze a range of perspectives on what constitutes citizenship and how it differs across political, cultural, national, global, and/or historical	The question of what constitutes citizenship is at the heart of both Greco-Roman and African American traditions of political thought and discussion, readings, and written assignments will allow students to compare and contrast both these traditions and to reflect on their own values and ideals. For example, in Unit 4 (Political Conflict and Political Change), students will explore

<p>communities.</p>	<p>and analyze a range of perspectives on the value of political conflict and the possibility of political change: we begin with demands for justice and recompense for histories of exploitation in Livy's history of the early Roman Republic and David Walker's <i>Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World</i>, and then contrast attitudes toward anger as a response to injustice in the work of the Roman philosopher Seneca and Black Feminist theorist Audre Lorde. The unit concludes with an analysis of attitudes toward responsibility for wrongdoing and the search for redemption, in Sophocles' Greek tragedies about Oedipus and the 1983 musical adaptation of those plays (<i>The Gospel at Colonus</i>). Questions of guilt and restitution are at the heart of the Oedipus story, and we bring these questions into the present day when we study the 2020 Columbus city resolution which considers the historical causes and public health impacts of racism. In this unit students will complete a forum post focused on their choice of two reading assignments and an in-class writing exercise focused on the 2020 resolution to help them engage with these complex issues.</p>
<p><b>ELO 3.2</b> Identify, reflect on, and apply the knowledge, skills and dispositions required for intercultural competence as a global citizen.</p>	<p>Reading and writing assignments in this course are designed to help students identify and reflect on the diversity and variation in concepts and experiences of citizenship and to specifically apply these reflections to their own experiences. For example, each student will choose a campus or community event relevant to the GE Theme to attend during the semester and submit a written report on what they learned and what connections they make between the event and the GE Theme: possibilities include (but are not limited to) events sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Human Values, the Center for Historical Research, the Center for the Study of Religion, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. At the end of Unit 2 (Citizenship and Enslavement) we will study Toni Morrison's critiques of the erasures of Black people in traditional approaches to American literature: her arguments are complex and we will read them in class together, with attention to how students' own educational experiences do or do not fulfill Morrison's vision.</p>
<p><b>ELO 4.1</b> Examine, critique, and evaluate various expressions and implications of diversity, equity, inclusion, and explore a variety of lived experiences.</p>	<p>Engaging with sources from Greco-Roman antiquity and African American interpretations of them will allow students to critically assess texts with an eye to whose voices and experiences are and are not represented; we will also discuss scholarly approaches to working with or accounting for these absences or silences. In Unit 3 (Education for Citizenship and Leadership) we focus on lived experiences expressed in a variety of genres (in Wheatley's poetry and Douglass's and Du Bois's memoirs), as well as efforts to represent the experiences of silenced or excluded "Others" in fiction (in Du Bois's novel). We also consider the lived experiences of Black Classical scholars in work by Patrice Rankine, Eric Ashley Hairston, and Shelley Haley.</p>
<p><b>ELO 4.2</b> Analyze and critique the intersection of concepts of justice, difference, citizenship, and how these interact with cultural traditions, structures of power and/or advocacy for social change.</p>	<p>Throughout this course we study critiques of Greco-Roman traditions of citizenship and political life, both in Classical scholarship and in African American thought. For example, Emily Greenwood uses Black Feminist scholarship to critique scholarly carelessness with respect to Aristotle's language of enslavement, and Audre Lorde provides a defense of anger for marginalized communities that we will put in conversation with arguments against anger as elaborated by the aristocratic Roman philosopher Seneca. Readings and discussion encourage students to attend to the different historical-, social-, and cultural-situatedness of thinkers who engage with abstract concepts like</p>

	difference, citizenship, and justice.
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### Ohio State Department Course Review Concurrence Form

The purpose of this form is to provide a simple system of obtaining departmental reactions to proposed new courses, group studies, study tours, workshop requests, and course changes. A letter may be substituted for this form.

Academic units initiating a request which requires such a reaction should complete Section A of this form and send a copy of the form, course request, and syllabus to each of the academic units that might have related interests in the course. Initiating units should allow at least two weeks for responses.

Academic units receiving this form should response to Section B and return the form to the initiating unit. Overlap of course content and other problems should be resolved by the academic units before forwarding this form and all other accompanying documentation to the Office of Academic Affairs.

**A. Information from academic unit *initiating* the request:**

Initiating Academic Unit: Department of Classics Date: 3/28/2023

Registrar's Listing: CLAS

Course Number: 3210 Level: U  P  G  Credit Hours: 3

Course Title: Classics and African American Political Thought

Type of Request:  New Course  Group Studies  Workshop  Study Tour  Course Change

Academic Unit with related interests asked to review the request (use a separate form for each unit while requesting concurrences from multiple units):

Date responses are needed: 4/7/2023

**B. Information from academic units *reviewing* the request:**

- The academic unit **supports** the proposal
  - The academic unit **does not support** the proposal.
- Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

The academic unit suggests:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DocuSigned by:



Signature of Department Chair

Signature of Graduate Studies Chair (if applicable)

**Classics 3210: Classics and African American Political Thought (Spring 2024 T/TH 9:35-10:55)****GE Theme: Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World****Instructor:** Prof. Harriet Fertik**Email:** fertik.1@osu.edu**Office Hours:** University Hall 426, Wednesday 1-3pm and by appointment**Format of instruction:** In-Person Lecture 3 credit hours**Land Acknowledgement**

We would like to acknowledge the land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and Cherokee peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greeneville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. As a land grant institution, we want to honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.

**Description**

In this course, we explore ideas of citizenship and political life in ancient Greek and Roman texts (focusing on the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE-1<sup>st</sup> century CE) and in African American texts (with attention to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). We will follow recent developments in scholarship on Black Classicisms, which considers how peoples from Africa and across the African diaspora have understood and reimagined the literatures, arts, and cultures of antiquity. As we will see, these two traditions of political thought—Greco-Roman and African American—have long been in conversation with each other, and studying them side by side can shed light on the challenges that US-American democracy faces today.

We examine 1) how African American thinkers have interpreted, made use of, and revised the Classics in their own work and 2) how African American thinkers contribute to and develop traditions of political inquiry and debate that have historically been traced to ancient Greece and Rome.

We will engage with new scholarship in Classics and work with new resources for the study of African American thought. No knowledge of Greek or Latin is required for this course: we will read all ancient sources in English translation. After an introduction to key materials and approaches (unit 1), we will focus on three themes crucial for both ancient Greek and Roman and African American political thought: citizenship and enslavement (unit 2); education for citizenship and leadership (unit 3); and political conflict and change (unit 4). You will have opportunities, both in class and in writing, to reflect on how materials we study in this course can help us to understand political activity on our campus and in our local communities.

## Goals & Expected Learning Outcomes for GE Theme: Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World

### Goals:

1. Successful students will analyze an important topic or idea at a more advanced and in-depth level than in the Foundations component. [Note: In this context, "advanced" refers to courses that are e.g., synthetic, rely on research or cutting-edge findings, or deeply engage with the subject matter, among other possibilities.]
2. Successful students will integrate approaches to the theme by making connections to out-of-classroom experiences with academic knowledge or across disciplines and/or to work they have done in previous classes and that they anticipate doing in future.
3. Successful students will explore and analyze a range of perspectives on local, national, or global citizenship and apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that constitute citizenship.
4. Successful students will examine notions of justice amid difference and analyze and critique how these interact with historically and socially constructed ideas of citizenship and membership within society, both within the United States and around the world.

### Expected Learning Outcomes:

Successful students are able to:

- 1.1. Engage in critical and logical thinking about the topic or idea of the theme.
- 1.2. Engage in advance, in-depth, scholarly exploration of the topic or idea of the theme.
- 2.1. Identify, describe, and synthesize approaches or experiences as they apply to the theme.
- 2.2. Demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner through reflection, self-assessment, and creative work, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.
- 3.1. Describe and analyze a range of perspectives on what constitutes citizenship and how it differs across political, cultural, national, global, and/or historical communities.
- 3.2. Identify, reflect on, and apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required for intercultural competence as a global citizen.
- 4.1. Examine, critique, and evaluate various expressions and implications of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and explore a variety of lived experiences.
- 4.2. Analyze and critique the intersection of concepts of justice, difference, citizenship, and how these interact with cultural traditions, structures of power, and/or advocacy for social change.

### Additional Expected Learning Outcomes for this Course

- Explore and analyze primary sources for ancient Greek and Roman and African American political thought, with attention to genre and historical context
- Explore and analyze new scholarship on ancient Greek and Roman and African American political thought
- Examine and analyze (through primary sources and scholarship) relationships between ancient Greek and Roman and African American ideas of citizenship and political life
- Describe and critique diverse approaches to and perspectives on political participation, political education, and political change from antiquity up to today
- Reflect on political conversations and political activity in our local communities and analyze them within a broader historical context

## Course Materials

You are required to obtain copies of:

- Course Pack from UniPrint (includes most primary sources)
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (available from the OSU bookstore)
- Sophocles, *Theban Plays*, translated by Paul Woodruff and Peter Meineck. Hackett. (available from the OSU bookstore)

All other assigned materials will be available through Carmen, with links to the OSU Library. We will make frequent use of digital resources from the OSU Library, including *African American Political Thought: A Collected History* (edited by Melvin L. Rogers and Jack Turner, 2022). If you have concerns about obtaining or accessing the course materials, please contact me as soon as possible.

## Expectations, Assignments, and Assessments

**Attendance and Participation:** Attending class is essential to success in this course. Class time is an opportunity to learn from each other, and I look forward to learning from and with you. Please take a moment to consider whether you are usually more of a listener or more of a talker in class discussion. If you are more of a listener, make sure you are challenging yourself to share your ideas. If you are more of a talker, make sure you are allowing space to hear what others have to say.

**Daily Reading:** This course requires a substantial amount of reading: you are expected to read the texts assigned for each day before class (unless the reading is marked “in class”) and to have the texts available to consult during class time. It takes practice to develop strengths and skills as a reader, and this course is an opportunity to do that. Allow yourself time to read carefully and take notes as you go. What do you find most striking, strange, compelling, or funny? What did you find confusing or unclear? What connections do you notice with previous reading assignments for the course or other courses you have taken? What more would you like to know? You will have opportunities to ask questions and share your impressions during class.

**Small-Group Writing Exercises and Forum Posts:** You will complete number of low-stakes writing assignments throughout the semester: some of these will be completed in small-groups during class and others will be forum posts which you must complete by a certain date. Dates for these assignments are listed in the schedule: more details will be shared in class and via Carmen.

**Reflection Essay:** You will write one 1000-word essay focused on texts assigned in Unit 3 (Education for Citizenship and Leadership). You will be given a choice of passages from the text and will use these to discuss **your** views of the aims of education. Specific guidelines will be distributed 2 weeks in advance of the due date. This essay will be graded on a 10-point scale:

- Basics (up to 1 point): Does the author focus on the texts selected for the assignment? Does the paper meet the word count requirements?

- Evidence (up to 3 points): Does the author cite evidence from the selected passages to support their views? Does the author choose evidence that is relevant to the discussion and avoid evidence that is not relevant? Does the author account for the wider context of the evidence cited?
- Analysis (up to 4 points): Does the author provide a clear statement of the main point of the essay (i.e., a thesis)? Does the author provide an interpretation of the text(s), instead of simply summarizing them? Does the author focus on issues in the text(s) that are debatable or open to different interpretations? Does the author go beyond the most general or obvious observations and express their own point of view?
- Polish (up to 1 point): Is the writing clear and easy to understand? Does the author choose words thoughtfully and carefully (i.e., do the words chosen make sense in context)?

You do not need, and should not consult, any sources to complete this essay other than the assigned readings and your class notes, and the reflection you submit must be your own work.

**Midterm Exam:** Short answer and short essay exam to be completed in class, focused on identification and analysis of selected passages from assigned readings.

**Report on Campus or Community Event:** You will choose one campus or community event relevant to the GE Theme (Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World) to attend during the semester and submit a 300-500 word report on a) what you learned and b) what connections you make between the event and the GE Theme. Possibilities include (but are not limited to) events sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Human Values, the Center for Historical Research, the Center for the Study of Religion, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. I will share information about upcoming events with you and encourage you to share information for any events you learn about. If you are uncertain whether an event will count, please ask.

**Final Essay/Project:** For your final assignment you may choose between an essay (ca. 2000 words) or a project (e.g., a podcast or a creative work) on a topic of your choice: your work must be related to the themes of this course **and** include at least 1 source beyond what has been specifically assigned during the semester (accessed through the OSU Library or with instructor approval). To help you prepare for this assignment, we will spend the class session prior to spring break discussing the guidelines and brainstorming. After spring break, you will sign up for a meeting with me in office hours and bring a 1-paragraph proposal for your project to discuss. In the final class sessions, you will present an “elevator speech”—a three-minute explanation of your essay/project and why it is important to you—to the class.



## Grading

**Attendance and Participation (includes Small-Group Writing Exercises and Forum Posts): 15%**

**Reflection Essay: 20%**

**Midterm Exam: 25%**

**Report on Campus or Community Event: 10%**

**Final Essay/Project: 30%**

## Course Policies

**Attendance:** Attending class is essential for success in this course, but illnesses and emergencies happen. You should not attend class if you are sick. If you must be absent, please email me to let me know in advance, and plan to attend office hours to get caught up. If you know you must be absent for multiple class sessions, please contact me immediately to discuss accommodations.

**Communication:** All information about the course will be communicated through Canvas. You are responsible for reading all communications sent about this course. If you have a question, email me directly at fertik.1@osu.edu. I do my best to respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week, or 48 hours over the weekend.

**Electronic Devices:** You are welcome to use your computer or tablet for class-related purposes only. Cell phones must be set to silent and put away unless you are using them to access Carmen for an in-class assignment. Using electronic devices for purposes not related to class is distracting, not only to you but to your fellow students: be considerate of your classmates' learning as well as your own.

**Extensions and Make-Ups:** Extensions for the reflection papers must be requested via email at least 48 hours in advance of the due date and are subject to approval. Make-ups for the midterm exam will only be permitted in case of illness or emergency and require approval from me.

**Late Submissions:** If you submit an assignment within 24 hours after the deadline, 0.5 points will be deducted from the grade; 48 hours after the deadline – 1 point; 72 hours after the deadline – 1.5 points; after 72 hours – 2 points.

**Office Hours:** If you need to discuss any course material or assignments, you should plan to attend my office hours. I encourage you to come to office hours to introduce yourself, chat about your academic interests, and discuss further opportunities for studying the ancient world at OSU.

## University Policies

**Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. University rules require that all cases of suspected plagiarism be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>. Please contact Prof. Fertik if you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course.

**Accommodations:** If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me (Prof. Fertik) know so that we can discuss reasonable accommodations as soon as possible. I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu).

**Counseling and Support:** College life can be challenging for many reasons: if you are interested in counseling, you can find more information on what OSU offers here: <https://ccs.osu.edu/>

**Diversity:** The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

## Course Schedule

### Unit 1: Introductions: Materials and Approaches

#### Introduction to the Course

January 9

- **In class:** view selection of Danielle Allen's 2019 lecture at the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values ([The Meaning of America: Laying a New Foundation for Commitment to American Democracy and One Another](#)) and **small-group writing exercise 1**

Classics and Black Classicisms

January 11

- Rachel Poser (2021), "[He Wants to Save Classics from Whiteness: Can the Field Survive?](#)" (*The New York Times*)
- Sarah Derbew (2022), "[Blackness in Antiquity](#)" (Aeon)

January 16

- Patrice Rankine (2006), *Ulysses in Black: Ralph Ellison, Classicism, and African American Literature*, pp. 22-34
- Eric Ashley Hairston (2013), *The Ebony Column: Classics, Civilization, and the African American Reclamation of the West*, pp. 1-24

African American Political Thought

January 18

- Melvin L. Rogers and Jack Turner, "Political Theorizing in Black: An Introduction," *African American Political Thought: A Collected History*, pp. 1-29 (AAPT)
- Podcast: "[Out of Africa: Slavery and the Diaspora](#)" (Peter Adamson and Chike Jeffers, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, May 26, 2019)
- **Last day to submit Forum Post 1**

Unit 2: Citizenship and EnslavementAristotle

January 23

- Aristotle, *Politics* Book I, Chapters 1-7 & 12-13 (4<sup>th</sup> century BCE)
- *Optional*: Podcast: "[Constitutional Conventions: Aristotle's Political Philosophy](#)" (Peter Adamson, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, October 2, 2011)

Frederick Douglass

January 25

- Sharon R. Krause, "Frederick Douglass: Non-Sovereign Freedom and the Plurality of Political Resistance," *AAPT*, pp. 116-141
- Frederick Douglass (1855), *My Bondage and My Freedom*, Chapters 1-2, 6, 9-11, 23

W. E. B. Du Bois

January 30

- W. E. B. Du Bois (1920), "The Servant in the House," in *Darkwater*
- Podcast: "[Lifting the Veil: Introducing W. E. B. Du Bois](#)" (Peter Adamson and Chike Jeffers, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, December 27, 2020)

Toni Morrison

February 1

- Emily Greenwood (2022), “Reconstructing Classical Philology: Reading Aristotle *Politics* 1.4 After Toni Morrison,” *American Journal of Philology* 143.2, pp. 335-357
- **In class:** read selections of Toni Morrison, “Unspeakable Things Unspoken: The Afro-American Presence in American Literature,” and **small-group writing exercise 2**

**Unit 3: Education for Citizenship and Leadership**Phillis Wheatley: Poetry

February 6

- Vincent Carretta, “Phillis Wheatley and the Rhetoric of Politics and Race,” *AAPT*, pp. 32-51
- Selections from Phillis Wheatley (1771), *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*
  - Preface and To the Public
  - To Maecenas
  - On Virtue
  - To SM a Young African Painter on Seeing his Works
- Selections from Horace, *Odes* (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE)

February 8

- Wheatley, “Niobe in Distress”
- Selections from Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (1<sup>st</sup> century CE)
- Nicole A. Spigner (2021), “Phillis Wheatley’s Niobe Poetics,” in *Brill’s Companion to Classics in the Early Americas*, pp. 320-342
- **In class:** Eve Ewing (2019), “1773” (poem about Wheatley for “The 1619 Project” in *The New York Times Magazine*)

Du Bois: Oratory and Mythology

February 13

- Cicero, *Pro Archia Poeta* (“In Defense of Archias the Poet”) (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE)
- Du Bois (1903), “Of the Meaning of Progress” in *The Souls of Black Folk*
- Mathias Hanses (2019), “Cicero Crosses the Color Line: *Pro Archia Poeta* and W. E. B. Du Bois’s *The Souls of Black Folk*,” *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 26.1, pp. 10-26

February 15

- Du Bois (1911), *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, Chapters 1-12

February 20

- Du Bois (1911), *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, Chapters 13-26

February 22

- Du Bois (1911), *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, Chapters 27-38
- Jackie Murray (2019), "W. E. B. Du Bois' *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*: The Education of Black Medea," *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 149.2 Supplement, 143-162

**Reflection Essay due by February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:59 pm**

### Ancient History

February 27

- Herodotus, *Histories*, selections from Book 2 (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE)
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, selections from Book 1 (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE)
- Livy, *History of Rome*, preface (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE/CE)

### American History

February 29

- Shelley P. Haley (1993), "Black Feminist Thought and Classics: Re-membling, Re-claiming, Re-empowering" in *Feminist Theory and the Classics*, pp. 23-38
- Nikole Hannah-Jones (2019), "The Idea of America" (introduction to "The 1619 Project" in *The New York Times Magazine*)

### **Midterm Exam**

**March 5**

### Orientation to the Final Essay/Project

March 7

- **In class:** introduction to options for final essay/project, review of assignment guidelines, brainstorming

### **SPRING BREAK**

### **Unit 4: Political Conflict and Political Change**

#### Demands for Justice

March 19

- Livy, *History of Rome*, selections from Books 2 and 3 (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE/CE)

March 21

- David Walker (1830), *Walker's Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*, Preamble and Articles I and II

- Melvin Rogers, “David Walker: Citizenship, Judgment, Freedom, and Solidarity,” *AAPT*, pp. 52-66
- *Optional*: Podcast: “Killed or Be Killed: David Walker’s Appeal” (Peter Adamson and Chike Jeffers, *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, January 5, 2020)

### Anger and Resistance

March 26

- Selections from Seneca, *On Anger* (1<sup>st</sup> century CE)

March 28

- Audre Lorde, “The Uses of Anger” (1981) and “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” (1984)
- Jack Turner, “Audre Lorde’s Politics of Difference,” *AAPT*, pp. 563-583
- **Last day to submit report on campus or community event**

### Responsibility and Redemption

April 2

- Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (selections) and *Oedipus at Colonus* (complete) (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE)

April 4

- **In class viewing:** *The Gospel at Colonus* (1983)
- **Last day to submit Forum Post 2**

### Think Globally, Act Locally

April 9

- **In class:** Read [Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Columbus \(0095X-2020\)](#) and **small-group writing exercise 3**

## Unit 5: Conclusions

### Student Presentations

April 11 & 16

- **Elevator Speeches for Final Essays/Projects (attendance required to support and learn from your peers)**

**Final Essay/Project due by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm**

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