

African American Futures of the 1900s – Course Announcement

What kind of futures did African American authors imagine at the so-called nadir of race relations? Considering the dark past of slavery and the contemporary horrors, ranging from ‘mere’ segregation policies to lynchings, the question of what was to come for Black US American citizens was a predicament of extreme difficulty and utmost importance; the responses are of myriad varieties. This course investigates still largely unexamined Afrofuturisms from the turn of the century – from satire to the science fiction that inspired, amongst other works, the popular graphic novel series *Black Panther*. Students will gain a better understanding for Black experiences in the USA pre-WWI, and improve their academic and critical skills.

Three entertaining novels (Hopkins’ *Of One Blood*; Johnson’s *Light Ahead for the Negro*; Hodges’ *The White Man’s Burden: A Satirical Forecast*), plus one shorter text (Du Bois’ *The Comet*); secondary literature will be supplied and extensively discussed. Students are asked to purchase a copy of Hopkins’ *Of One Blood*; all other texts are available online and only need to be printed out.

An essay will be due at the end of the term (end of September), and the entire course is geared towards acquiring the skills for this assignment/improve on academic writing; if needs be, we will organize one or two ‘writing dates’ in September (on a voluntary basis, of course). You are asked to attend a one-day conference on June 6. In turn, there will be no sessions on June 14, June 28, and July 5.

Due to technical difficulties, this course is not on PULS yet, but will appear there shortly. If you want to attend, just drop by, and check it out

Friday, 8:00 – 10:00, Room 1.19.0.31

The course will be open for all BA Modules that fall under the category of American Studies and Postcolonial Studies.

If you have any questions, just drop me a line: vadamik@uni-potsdam.de

I hope to see you there!

Verena (Adamik)