

Veranstalter:	Dennis Büscher-Ulbrich, M. A.
Thema:	Performing Blackness: The Black Arts Movement 1965-1975 [AA-A3, ENG-7, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-564
Zeit:	2h, Mo 10 – 12
Raum:	Phil 701
Beginn:	18. Oktober 2010



Course Description

In 1994 *Time* magazine describes the Black Arts Movement as the “single most controversial moment in the history of African-American literature—possibly in American literature as a whole.” This course provides students with a historical overview and critical understanding of the movement and its revolutionary aesthetic and political agenda. We will study “Black Art” and the Afrocentric concepts that inform its aesthetic (“Black Power”, *Négritude*, etc.), while discussing its social significance, especially in the context of the Civil Rights Movement.

Besides studying key texts and performances by some of this Black vanguard’s major protagonists—AMIRI BARAKA, LARRY NEAL, ED BULLINS, SONIA SANCHEZ, NIKKI GIOVANNI, and ARCHIE SHEPP—we will also explore the movement’s identity politics and ambivalent relationship to African- and Euro-American avant-garde precursors. With regard to formal analysis, the course will enable you to read respective performances as enactments of African-American modernism.

Course Requirements

- regular attendance and active(!) participation
- oral presentation/response paper
- term paper (10 pages)



Selected poems, plays, essays, and theoretical texts will be assembled in a reader, which can be obtained in the first meeting. Sound and video recordings will be provided online (via AGORA).

Sprechstunden:	nach Vereinbarung
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