

We are a community of scholars, colleagues,
artists, teachers, writers, organizers, Lovers of
Words and Art and Data and Science and the Text
at this historically Black college for women.



grappling
with
history

UNDERSTANDING OUR TIMES

Spelman

Grappling with History; Understanding the Times Critical Readings

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College®

Science, Plagues, Retribution, and Sacred Texts

Oedipus Rex (Sophocles)

"Georgia's Experiment with Human Sacrifice" (Amanda Mull, *The Atlantic*, 2020)
<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/why-georgia-reopening-coronavirus-pandemic/610882/>

A Planet of Viruses (Carl Zimmer, 2015)

The Great Influenza of 1918 (John Barry, 2004)

Childhood's Deadly Scourge: The Campaign to Control Diphtheria in NYC, 1880-1930 (Evelyn Hammonds, 1999)

In Those Genes, 2020 (Podcast - Janina Jeff, c/o '07; Vanderbilt PhD in Genetics)
<https://inthosgenes.com/>

The Plague of Thebes, a Historical Epidemic in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid1801.AD1801>

Emerging Infectious Diseases, www.cdc.gov/eid, Vol. 18, No. 1, January 2012

<https://investoramnesia.com/2020/03/01/pandemics-markets/> (Jamie Underwood, 2020)

Power, Opposition and Resistance (Included are the pandemic orders issued by Black mayors placing them in conflict with state governors)

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/bryan-stevenson-on-the-frustration-behind-the-george-floyd-protests>

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

Under the Blacklight: COVID in Confinement (Kimberle' Crenshaw, 2020)
<https://aapf.org/>

"Indigenous Leadership Points the Way Out of the COVID Crisis" <https://truthout.org/articles/indigenous-leadership-points-the-way-out-of-the-covid-crisis/>
<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/stay-at-home-order.html>

<https://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2020/may/04/mayor-lumumba-revises-extends-jackson-stay-home-or/>

https://www.npr.org/2020/05/26/861992384/ala-mayor-says-covid-19-cases-in-montgomery-are-at-crisis-level?utm_campaign=storyshare&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social

Power, Opposition and Resistance cont'd

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2020/04/24/atlanta-mayor-keisha-lance-bottoms-reopening-georgia-newday-vpx.cnn>

<https://www.birminghamal.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Ordinance-No.-20-72.pdf>

The Book of Night Women (Marion James, 2010)

Race, Racism & American Law 6e (Derrick Bell, 2008)

Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own (Eddie Glaude, 2020)

White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide (Carol Anderson, 2016)

One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy (Carol Anderson, 2018)

Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism: Seeing the Impossible

On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century and *The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe and America* (Timothy Snyder, 2017 and 2020)

The Pandemic is a Portal (Arundhati Roy, 2020)

<https://www.ft.com/content/10d8f5e8-74eb-11ea-95fe-fcd274e920ca>

Talk with Arundhati Roy, hosted by Imani Perry

https://www.haymarketbooks.org/blogs/130-arundhati-roy-the-pandemic-is-a-portal?fbclid=IwAR0MYU4cV9Z3OuXiNKzE6va8cdsKGaNa6u-JAUMtM1d4NH_ttUXcMkpetgo

The Paranoid Style of Politics (Richard Hofstadter, 1964)

The Origins of Totalitarianism (Hannah Arendt, 1966)

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/we-wont-know-the-exact-moment-when-democracy-dies> (Masha Gessen 2017)

The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism (Naomi Klein, 2017)

A Lot of People are Saying: The New Conspiracism and the Assault on Democracy, (Nancy Rosenblum and Russell Muirhead, 2019)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/10/books/fascism-debate-donald-trump.html>

Visualizing Death, Disease and Structural Racism

https://www.ft.com/coronavirus-latest?fbclid=IwAR2UIo6DRG8t_KRPgB6xj3x9CbHITdDtLvUKic23Q8JHhmNtUflyQssssM4

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/29/us-responses-1918-flu-pandemic-offer-stark-lessons-coronavirus-now>

W.E.B. Du Bois's Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America (University of Massachusetts: W.E.B. Du Bois Center, 2018)

<https://investoramnesia.com/2020/03/01/pandemics-markets/> (Underwood, 2020)

Imagination, Migrations, Structural Racism and Segregation

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration (Isabel Wilkerson, 2011)

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America (Richard Rothstein, 2017)

The Impossible Will Take a Little While: Perseverance and Hope in a Time of Fear (Editor Paul Loeb, 2004)

Here Comes the Sun and Patsy (Nicole Dennis-Benn, 2016 and 2019)

Coming full Circle: From Jim Crow to Journalism (Wanda Lloyd, 2020)

In Motion: The African American Migration Experience (Schomburg Center for Research, Howard Dodson, and Sylvaine Dioiuf, 2005)

The Arts: Documenting Joy, Hope, Anger and Survival

<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/no-place-self-pity-no-room-fear/>

<https://aperture.org/blog/essays/george-floyd-gordon-parks-deborah-willis/>
<https://www.ajc.com/lifestyles/portraits-pandemic/zEf0jMGZgkztLM4cvSmvLO/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/the-protesters-are-dressed-as-their-unique-selves--and-thats-part-of-their-power/2020/06/01/221b6fbc-a415-11ea-bb20-ebf0921f3bbd_story.html

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/fashion/the-dress-codes-of-the-uprising.html>

The Soundtrack of Our Times (Gathering and Music)

DJ D. Nice's Club Quarantine. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jodpe_RUq9Q

Womanist Lens on Health and Well-Being

Black Women's Mental Health: Balancing Strength and Vulnerability (eds. Evans, Bell and Burt 2017)

Breaking the Fine Rain of Death: African American Health Issues and a Womanist Ethic of Care (Emilie Townes, 1998)

My Soul is a Witness: African American Women's Spirituality (Gloria Wade-Gayles, 1995)

A Few Rules for Predicting the Future: Searching for the Sublime (Octavia Butler)
https://searchingforthesublime.tumblr.com/post/34745829956/a-few-rules-for-predicting-the-future-octavia?fbclid=IwAR2QTWH_Gfvk2c-dXAywUjKExUN3xcJZ-AKBII83h5Ifenf6PYTJurIv-FM

The Failures/Gifts of Imagination

Parable of the Talents (Octavia Butler, 1998)

Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community (Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967)

The Wretched of the Earth (Frantz Fanon, 1961)

The End of Imagination (Arundhati Roy, 1998)