PHIL 55 Fall  African American Political Thought  Bernard Boxill  
Class Meetings:  African American Political Thought edited by Howard Brotz (Brotz)  
Office: Caldwell 108A  
Office Hours: The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, by Frederick Douglass  
Office Phone: 962-3328  
The Souls of Black Folk by WEB DuBois  
Required Texts  
David Walker’s Appeal, and Garnet’s Address by David Walker and Henry H. Garnet.  
The New Negro edited by Alain Locke  
Course Pack at UNC Bookstore  
Objectives  
To introduce students to some of the moral issues in the enslavement, oppression, and elevation of blacks in the U.S. through a study of African American political writers like Martin Delany, Alexander Crummell, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois and others. For example: Why exactly is slavery wrong? What is meant by the claim that human beings are morally equal? What are natural rights? What is oppression and why it is wrong? Is it a moral duty to protest one’s wrongs? What is the ethical significance of race? What is racism, and is it always wrong? What is moral suasion? Is Black Nationalism a moral duty or a moral option? Does the black middle class have special obligations to the black lower classes? Do black artists and intellectuals have special obligations to the black population? Does the nation owe reparations to black Americans? Is Affirmative Action morally justifiable? Is racial segregation always wrong? What is self-respect and why is it so important?  
Course Requirements  
Regular Attendance and participation in class  
Midterm Exam 25%  
One Paper 5-7 pages: 25%  
Final Exam (Comprehensive) 50%  
Assigned Readings  
Week 1:  
Week 2:  
Early Reactions. David Walker Appeal and Henry Highland Garnet’s Address.  
Weeks 3 & 4:  
Separatism and Nationalism.  
Alexander Crummell: From Brotz: The Relations and Duties of Free Colored Men in America to Africa; The Race Problem in America.  
Mid term  
Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8, 9:  
Assimilation.  
Papers Due
Weeks 10, 11: **Booker T. Washington and WEB DuBois.**

Washington. From Brotz: Atlanta Exposition Address; Letter to the Louisiana State Constitutional Convention; On Making Our Race Life Count in the Life of the Nation; The Fruits of Industrial Education; The American Negro and His Economic Value. The Intellectuals and the Boston Mob.


Week 12: **The Harlem Renaissance.**

Alain Locke *The New Negro*

Weeks 13-15 **Contemporary Discussions**


FINAL EXAM: **BRING TWO BLUE BOOKS**