

SYLLABUS FOR



BLACK LOVE

Jamil Means Beauty

“The quality of light by which we scrutinize our lives has direct bearing upon the product which we live, and upon the changes which we hope to bring about through those lives.”

-Audre Lorde, “Poetry is not a luxury”

This syllabus imagines the process of learning outside the strict boundaries of institutions, examinations, and formal schooling. Affect theorist Kathleen Stewart proposes the idea of atmospheric attunements to name the “always commonplace labor of becoming sentient to a world’s work, bodies, rhythms, and ways of being in noise, light, and space... [a]n attention to the matterings, the complex emergent worlds, happening in everyday life.” Texts on the syllabus offer tools and perspectives for cultivating love, and specifically a Black love as an extra-ordinary everyday practice of being with self and being in the world. What can Black love, as it emerges in literature, films, performance, and the politics of living, teach us about liberation, citizenship, and beauty? With an emphasis on genealogies of feminist and queer theories of gender, this syllabus for Black love invites readers, viewers, and the curious learners to engage the quotidian world of the senses as political pedagogy.

Live click-able links are embedded throughout this SYLLABUS. Explore!

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Transformation, compassion
Choosing love
Black love letters
Black feminism

Photo by Freddy Koh

bell hooks
All about love

bell hooks
Love as the Practice of Freedom

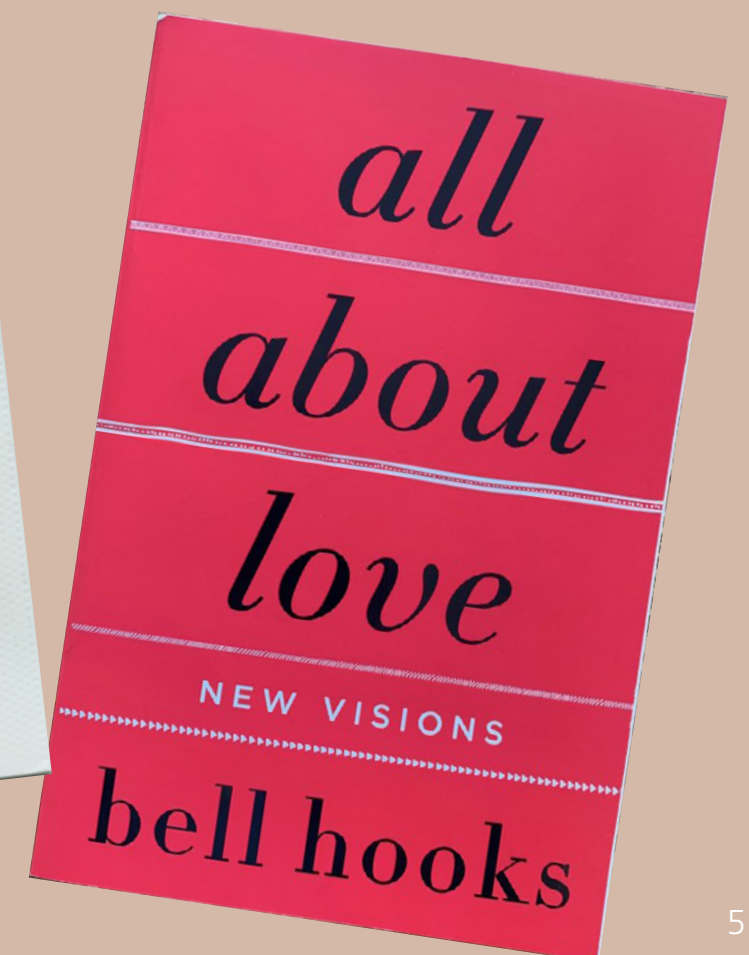
Pamela Newkirk
A love no less : more than two centuries of African American love letters

Brittney C. Cooper
Love No Limit: Towards a Black Feminist Future (In Theory) from The Black Scholar

Zora Neale Hurston
Their Eyes Were Watching God



Photo by Nile Harris with Jaamil Olawale Kosoko



Black Love: A Symposium, University of Kansas 2017
[Symposium, Schedule](#)

["Radical Love" at the Ford Foundation Gallery \(2019\)](#)
Athi-Patra Ruga

Darnell Moore
["Black Radical Love: A Practice"](#)

[Being Seen Podcast](#)

Lenora E. Houseworth
[The Radical History of Self-Care](#)
"The fullness of the Black Panther Party's legacy [...] can be seen everywhere in the wellness space."

Joy Kennedy, Thomas Grinter
[A Pedagogy of Radical Love: Biblical, Theological, and Philosophical Foundations](#)

[Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art](#)

James Baldwin
[The Fire Next Time](#)



Black Radical Love Black Futures Emancipatory Action

BLACK JOY
IS A PROTEST!

"Listen to me. I am telling you
a true thing. This is the only kingdom.
The kingdom of touching;
the touches of the disappearing, things."
- Elegy By Aracelis Girmay

BLACK JOY is a protest that must be protected. It requires
constant spiritual conjuring and attention, attention of embodied survival.
I feel my **BLACK JOY** most in the depths
of loving and creating and healing. This beauty, I have come
to understand, is a kind of undeniable truth-telling to myself
or anyone else who might want to listen. **BLACK JOY**
as a birthright, a duty I must fulfill within myself to fully be within myself
...my raptures ...my poetics. A testament,
of self love as resistance.

Listen,
I'm speaking about a world of feeling, a spiritual excellence
that can only arrive in sensual attunements between the self
and the earth and the universe -- when feelings become a presence so intense
that everything that has ever been past or future must take rest.

- jaamil olawale kosoko

Emanicipatory Action

Pleasure Activism

Terence Nance
Random acts of Flyness

Audre Lorde
"Poetry is Not a Luxury"

Daphne A. Brooks
Bodies in Dissent: Spectacular Performances of Race and Freedom, 1850-1910

Yvonne P. Chireau
Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition

Jayna Brown
Black Utopias

Ashon T. Crawley
The Lonely Letters

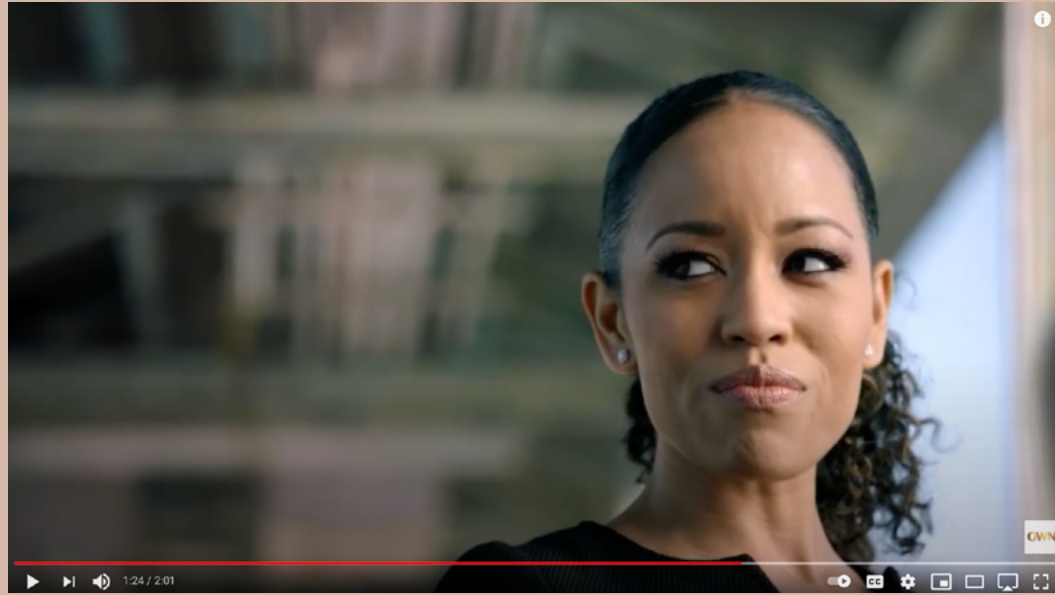
Rodney Diverlus, Sandy Hudson,
Syrus Marcus Ware
Until We Are Free: Reflection on the Black Lives Matter Movement in Canada



The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin



Adrienne Maree Brown
Emergent Strategy
Pleasure Activism



Ava DuVernay
Queen Sugar

Saidiya Hartman
Scenes of Subjection

Saidiya Hartman
Lose your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route

Dr. Jasmine Elizabeth Johnson
Dear Khary (An Autobiography of Gentrification)

Issac Julien
Looking for Langston

Issac Julien
Young Soul Rebels

Audre Lorde
The Black Unicorn: Poems

Audre Lorde
Sister Outsider

Toni Morrison
The Bluest Eye

Toni Morrison
Beloved

Toni Morrison
A Mercy

Tavia Nyong'o
Afro-Fabulations: The Queer Drama of Black Life

Nell Irvin Painter
Creating Black Americans: African-American History and Its Meanings, 1619 to Present

Ntozake Shange
For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf



Photos by Nile Harris with Jaamil Olawale Kosoko



Photos by Shikeith



Shikeith

[#blackmendream](#) (video)

[Black boy and the tree](#) (video)

Jaamil Olawale Kosoko
Chameleon: A Syllabus for Survival

George M. Johnson
ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE
A Memoir-Manifesto

Danez Smith
Homie

Glory Edim
Well Read Black Girl

Jamal Jordan
Queer Love in Color

C Riley Snorton
Black on Both Sides: A Racial History
of Trans Identity

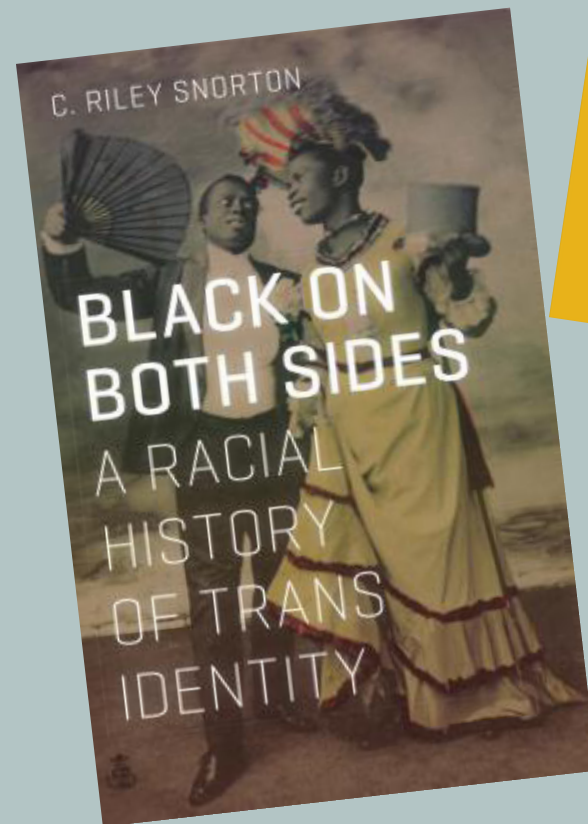
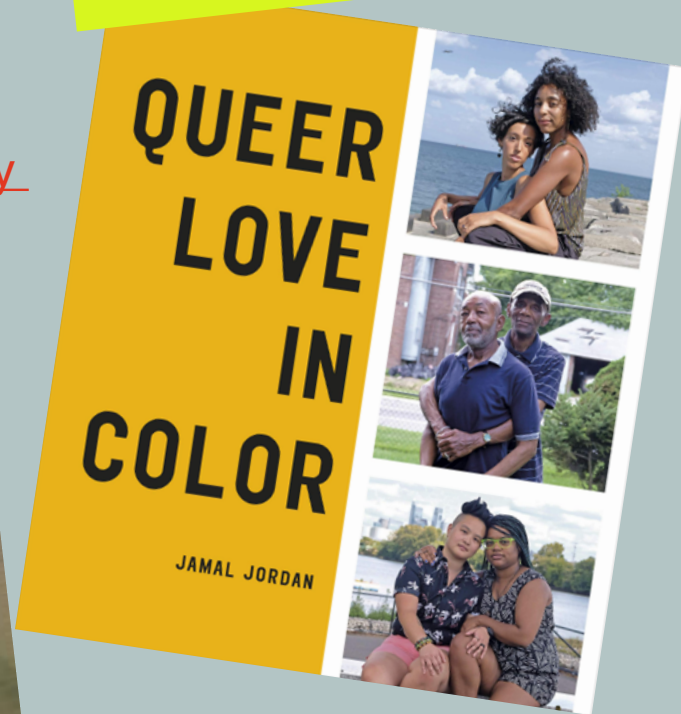
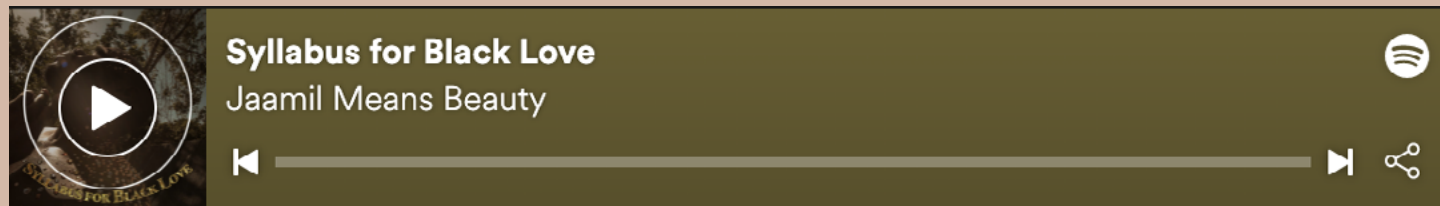


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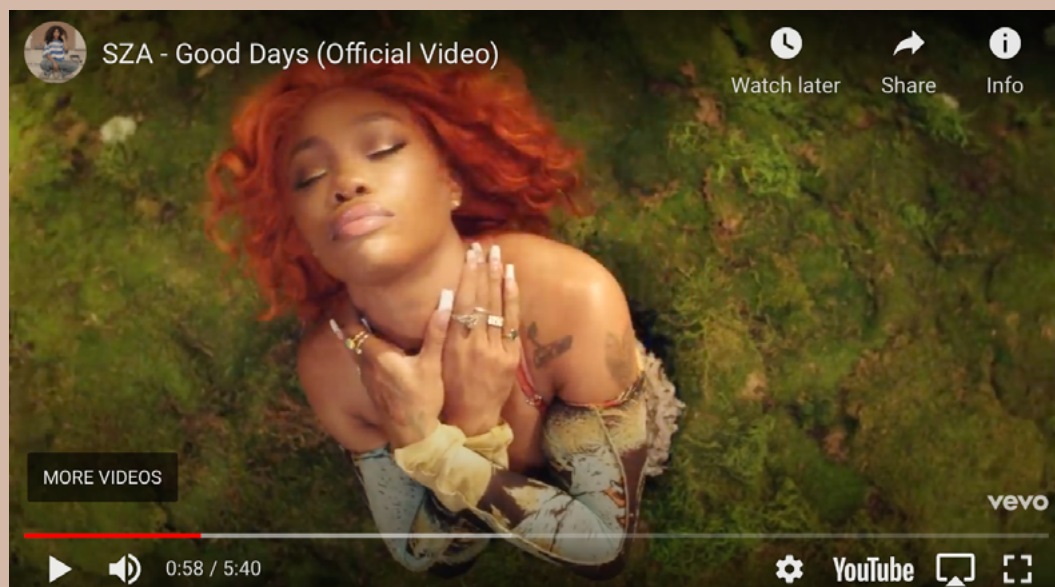


[moses sumney](#)

Frank Ocean
[Channel Orange](#) & [Blonde](#)

Sade
[Love Is Stronger Than Pride](#)

[BEARCAT](#)
[on soundcloud](#)



[SZA](#)

[FKA Twigs](#)

[The Wiz](#)

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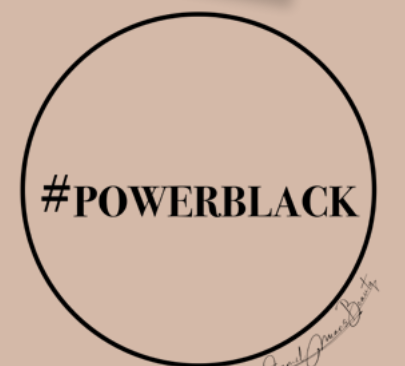
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