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WGS/AAA 343: Black Feminist Thought OER Curation

Chealsye Bowley
Grand Valley State University, bowleyc@gvsu.edu

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Overview

Scope Notes

The instructor currently does not use traditional textbooks. There are assigned books for the course, but these books fall more into the category of popular essay collections and meet definitions of being low-cost materials. However, the instructor is in the process of shifting the course toward Intro to Black Women's Studies, is interested in OER materials, and wants to use more primary documents. The ideal OER would be an open textbook "organized around the histories of the field with key readings and context for primary sources." The instructor will customize an OER to fit their teaching style, supplement the current course materials, and potentially redesign their course around the OER materials.

Current textbooks and materials

Brown, Adrienne marie. *Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good*. AK Press, 2019.
9781849353267 \$20

Carruthers, Charlene. *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*. Beacon Press, 2018. 9780807039823 \$15

Cooper, Brittney. *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her SuperPower*. Picador, 2019.
9781250112576 \$27



Search Notes

This search consulted OER Commons, Open Textbook Library, OpenStax, Merlot, Punctum Books, Pressbooks, and searched for alternative resources for online website content applicable for this course. There were many women's studies and feminism related OER available, but not specific to Black women or Black feminism. However, as an example of how in a text search of the full-text of one feminism OER book, "black women" was only found in the text a single time. The majority of textbook-level titles focused on Black studies (but without explicit coverage of Black women), antiracism, and slavery. These OER could potentially provide supplemental material for the materials with a chapter or two applicable, but do not provide a full text for the course.

Gap Analysis

There is no single textbook identified that would be an ideal fit for the course. There are existing general introductions to women's studies OER texts. There is a need for a robust Black feminism or Introduction to Black women's studies text. However, there is existing OER material in the form of chapters or online resources, historical documents out of copyright, and free resources and text offered online that could be adapted for a course specific open education textbook. The lowest hurdle to begin this process would be to bring together various articles from open access journals to create a course reader. Additionally, to address this gap for a wider audience, an OER could be collaboratively created by multiple academics or writers through an open call or grant-funded group.

Promising OER Options

Black Women Radicals

- Citation: The School for Black Feminist Politics, Black Women Radicals, I Fund Women (2020).
- Available from [I Fund Women](#)
- Website
- License: unlisted
- Comments: Black Women Radicals is a Black feminist advocacy organization dedicated to uplifting Black women and gender. The Black Women Radicals Database houses 100+ profiles on historical Black women and gender expansive leaders around the world. Their blog, Voices in Movement, highlights the power of Black women and gender expansive activists from around the world through interviews, essays, reading lists, and more. Additionally, they host monthly Community Conversations that are community-engaged and informed events that concentrate on themes, politics, and more on and about Black women and gender expansive people.

Rhetoric and Resistance in Black Women's Autobiography

- Johnnie M. Stover, *Rhetoric and Resistance in Black Women's Autobiography*, University Press of Florida (2011).
- Available from [Merlot](#)
- PDF
- CC BY-NC-ND
- Comments: The author explores the origin and power of Black women writers' voices using the personal narratives of 19th-century Americans who were slaves or indentured servants. The text discusses oral traditions, the subversiveness of voice, and the differences of literary forms. This text may potentially be useful as a baseline if covering history and leading the course into the writings of contemporary Black women.

Everyday Social Justice

- Jimena Alvarado Chavarría, *Everyday Social Justice* (2021).
- Available from everydaysocialjustice.com
- Online, PDF,
- CC BY-NC
- Comments: Jimena Alvarado Chavarría has made all materials for their courses on Introduction to Women's Studies, Queer Studies, Intercultural Women's Studies, and Woman Social Change and Activism available online under an open license. Parts of these resources may be applicable for this course.

Black Women's Rhetorics

- Dominique Mandez-Rose and Denise Pazmino, *Black Women's Rhetoric Project The Gender Studies Archive* (2016).
- Available from blackwomenrhetproject.com
- Website, PDF
- License: unlisted
- Comments: A large amount of resources curated and created for this project realize an open, digital classroom on gender, intersectionality and black women's rhetorics. However, the website does have accessibility and navigation hurdles with how it is designed. It may not be suitable or accessible for all students to directly visit the resource, but the coursework offered may be a great fit to adapt for this course.

Stretch Resource Options

Black Feminist Pedagogies

- Available from blackfeministpedagogies.com
- Website, PDF

- License: unlisted
- Comments: This website features open graduate coursework toward and anti-racist, intersected, Black feminist university. It is a potentially rich resource, but the material is not openly licensed. The creators likely would provide permission if an instructor wished to adapt resources. However, the website does have accessibility and navigation hurdles with how it is designed. It may not be suitable or accessible for all students to directly visit the resource, but the coursework offered may be a great fit to adapt for this course.

Equality Archive

- Citation:
- Available from EqualityArchive.com
- Format:
- CC BY-NC-SA
- Comments: This resource is more general and covers many identities and is not primarily focused on Black feminism. However, it could be a good resource for supplement materials. All original content published on Equality Archive is licensed CC BY-NC-SA. Images, links, and content not original to Equality Archive is either sourced from Creative Commons-licensed content, available in the public domain, or is used within the standards of Fair Use. Instructors would likely be able to use any material on Equality Archive to create a text as long as they were operating under a similar license.

Mai: Feminism and Visual Culture

- Available from maifeminism.com
- Online journal, PDF
- Unlisted, and may be under copyright. However, the website is free to access and there's a strong likelihood that one could get permission to include desired materials into an openly licensed textbook.
- Comments: The journal MAI offers its readers intersectional feminist criticism of global visual culture. The journal publishes creative and academic research on women in art and media. Some of the images and texts may be applicable for supplemental materials.

Geographies of Identity

- Jill Darling, *Geographies of Identity: Narrative Forms, Feminist Futures* explores identity and American, Punctum Books (2021).
- Available from [Punctum Books](https://PunctumBooks.com)
- Online book
- CC BY
- Comments: *Geographies of Identity: Narrative Forms, Feminist Futures* explores identity and American culture through hybrid, prose work by women, and expands the strategies of cultural poetics practices into the study of innovative narrative writing. Informed by Judith Butler, Homi Bhabha, Harryette Mullen, Julia Kristeva, and others, this project

further considers feminist identity politics, race, and ethnicity as cultural content in and through poetic and non/narrative forms. This OER book is not explicitly about Black women, but a chapter or two may potentially be relevant. At a quick overview, the chapter “Postmodern Trauma and the Crisis of the Contemporary: Claudia Rankine’s Don’t Let Me Be Lonely” appears to be the most potentially promising option for this course context.

Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies

- Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies, Michel DeGraff, MIT (2017).
- Available from [MIT](#)
- Online course
- License: Unlisted
- Comments: Interdisciplinary covering various individuals of African descent that draw on the overlapping approaches of history, literature, anthropology, legal studies, media studies, performance, linguistics, and creative writing. This course focuses on social, political, and cultural histories, and on linguistic patterns. The online course materials available include assignments, video lectures, and links to readings. The course is not specifically about Black women, but there may be parts of the course that could be applicable and adapted for the course context.

Black Feminist Health Science Studies

- Black Feminist Health Science Studies, Moya Bailey, MIT (2021).
- Available from [MIT](#)
- Online course
- License: Unlisted
- Comments: This course argues a theory of Black feminist health science studies that builds on social justice science, which has as its focus the health and well-being of marginalized groups. Students engage feminist science theories such as the linguistic metaphors of the immune system, the medicalization of race, and critiques of the sexual binary. The instructor and students use contemporary and historical moments to investigate the evolution of “scientific truth” and its impact on the U.S. cultural landscape. This is a more unusual resource to apply for the course, but it could be a very interested additional to the course.

How America’s HBCUs produced generations of black women leaders

- Janelle Harris Dixon, These Colleges Produced Generations of Black Women Leaders: Take a deep dive into the Smithsonian’s artifacts and archives to explore the legacy of America’s historically Black colleges and universities, Smithsonian Magazine (2021).
- Available from [Smithsonian Magazine](#)
- Online article
- License: not under a CC license

- Comments: This article covers the history of HBCUs and the education of black women leaders. It is being included in this curation as an indication of what the Smithsonian may have publicly available to be used in the context and history offerings for this course.

Collegiate Fashion and Activism: Black Women's Styles on the College Campus

- Dyese Matthews and Kelly L. Reddy-Best, Collegiate Fashion and Activism: Black Women's Styles on the College Campus, Iowa State University (2019).
- Available from [Iowa State University](#)
- Online book
- CC BY-NC-SA
- Comments: This OER was created by Black women college students across predominantly white institutions in Iowa. In the text the authors analyze the ways Black women college students express their Black identity, activism, and expressions of empowerment through fashion. The text explores Black women's everyday clothing and its connection to Black student empowerment on Iowa college campuses. This OER is also an example of how Open pedagogy could potentially be embraced in this class as well, and students become authors when applicable in the course context.