GARVEYISM (W)

Instructor: Dr. Neil Roberts                 Spring 2011
Williams College                               AFR338.01/PSCI338.01
Tu/Thurs, 11:20-12:35 PM                      Office hours: Wed, 2-4:00PM
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Course description:

This course explores the life, work, political thought, and activism associated with the
Jamaican Pan-Africanist Marcus Mosiah Garvey and the transnational movement—
Garveyism—that Garvey ushered into the modern world. We will investigate the founding of
Garveyism on the island of Jamaica, the evolution of Garveyism during the early twentieth-
century across the Americas and in Africa, Garveyism in Europe in the mid-twentieth
century, and the contemporary branches of the Garvey movement in our own late modern
times. The implications of Garvey’s conflict with W.E.B. Du Bois and the subsequent
cleavages in political thought and allegiances among their respective adherents will be
addressed, along with various other core issues including: the relationship between race,
nation and empire; transnationalism; the meaning of power; the limitations of understanding
Garveyism by the phrase “Back-to-Africa”; the moral philosophies of respect, reparation, and
redemption; prophetic political theory; Pan-Africanism; the impact of Garveyism on political
theological movements such as the Nation of Islam and the Rastafari; women in the Garvey
movement; and Garveyite strategies for forging models of political solidarity in dark times.

Course requirements:

Participants are expected to attend class regularly and complete readings for class listed on
the syllabus. You must bring to every session the required reading for the day. I will
generally begin each class summarizing briefly the previous session’s main points, and shall
proceed to lecture for a portion of time about the current day’s topic. As this is a Writing-
Intensive lecture and discussion course, you should be prepared to engage in class discourse
and group activities.

The following requirements serve as the basis for course evaluation:

(1) Attendance and Participation (15%)
(2) Weekly E-response papers (15%)
(3) Two 5-7 -page essays (40%)
(4) One 12-page Final Paper (30%)

Required readings available for purchase:

Marcus Garvey, Message to the People: The Course of African Philosophy, edited by Tony
Martin (Majority Press)
Marcus Garvey, The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey, or, Africa for the Africans,
2 Vols., edited by Amy Jacques Garvey (Majority Press)
Rupert Lewis and Patrick Bryan, editors, *Garvey: His Work and Impact* (Africa World; henceforth cited as *GHWI*)

Mary G. Rolinson, *Grassroots Garveyism: The Universal Negro Improvement Association in the Rural South, 1920-1927* (UNC)


Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery* (Dover)

*Course Reading Packet* (available from campus printing services; *2 Parts*) = [CP]

**Recommended readings available for sale and/or on library reserve:**

Nzingha Assata, *Women in the Garvey Movement* (Published by author)

Randall K. Burkett, *Garveyism as a Religious Movement* (Scarecrow/ATLA)


Noel Leo Erskine, *From Garvey to Marley: Rastafari Theology* (Florida)


Tony Martin, *Race First: The Ideological and Organizational Struggles of Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association* (Greenwood)

Ula Taylor, *The Veiled Garvey: The Life and Times of Amy Jacques Garvey* (UNC)


All other readings are available on reserve, Glow, and/or through JSTOR.

**Film Screening:**

- Stanley Nelson (Director): *Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind*

**Course policies:**

**Attendance:**

It is paramount for you to attend the sessions in order for all of us to best be able to discuss and decipher the course materials and lectures. Attendance will be taken each class period and you will be required to attend the entire class session to receive full credit. In case of sickness or other legitimate reason for absence, it is your responsibility to inform Prof. Roberts in advance or as soon as possible after the class. Every absence after two instructor excused absences will result in the reduction of your overall grade by a third of a letter grade (e.g. an A becomes an A-, a B+ becomes a B, etc.). To earn full attendance credit, you must
come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that session and with the necessary materials, required books, articles, paper, and writing utensil.

**Reading Responses:**

Students are required to submit a reading response to at least one reading per week on the course Glow site. I shall provide guidepost questions to which you may base your reply. This response is intended both to help prepare you for class discussion and to process your opinions on the readings in relation to the feedback of your peers. *All responses are due by 10:00am the morning of class on either Tuesday or Thursday.* Only responses posted by this time will count for the week’s reading and participation. *Reading responses cannot be made up.* The response should be between at least 150-250 words and should analyze or evaluate the readings. I will monitor the discussion regularly, but not participate. In addition to answering the guidepost questions, feel free to use the online space to respond to comments posted by your peers. No reading responses shall be due in weeks that you submit the final version of a larger writing requirement.

**How to Post Reading Responses to Glow:**

1) Go to [http://glow.williams.edu](http://glow.williams.edu) and log in with your username and password.
2) Click on this course and then the specific Discussion Forum listed by the Week for which you will be posting a response.
3) Click on Add a New Discussion Topic and enter your response, making sure to include a Subject heading for your post.
4) Click Post to Forum.

**Schedule of readings by week:**

**GARVEY AND GARVEYISM: HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS**

**Week 1:**

Session 1: February 2

Theodore G. Vincent, *Black Power and the Garvey Movement*, Ch. 1 [CP]


**Week 2:**

Session 2: February 8

Anthony Bogues, “Nationalism and Jamaican Political Thought” [CP]
Session 3: February 10

Tommie Shelby, “Two Conceptions of Black Nationalism: Martin Delany on the Meaning of Black Political Solidarity” [CP]

Recommended: Edwin S. Redkey, “The Flowering of Black Nationalism” [CP]

Week 3:

Session 4: February 15

Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery*

Session 5: February 17

Amy Jacques Garvey, “The Early Years of Marcus Garvey” [CP]
Washington, *Up from Slavery*


GARVEY AND THE UNIA-ACL: PRIMARY TEXTS

Week 4:

- This week: screening of film, *Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind*

Session 6: February 22

UNIA Constitution and Book of Laws [CP]

Session 7: February 24

Garvey, *The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey*
UNIA *Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World* [in both Garvey text & CP]

Week 5:

Session 8: March 1

Garvey, “African Fundamentalism”
Garvey, *Message to the People: The Course of African Philosophy*
Garvey, *The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey*
Garvey, Message to the People
Garvey, “The Tragedy of White Injustice” [CP]

- DRAFT OF PAPER 1: due Friday March 4 by 5:00pm

GARVEYISM, TRANSNATIONALISM, SOVEREIGNTY

Week 6:

Session 10: March 8

Charles Carnegie, “Garvey and the Black Transnation” [CP]

Session 11: March 10

Arnold Hughes, “Africa and the Garvey Movement in the Interwar Years” [CP]

- No reading response due.
- *PAPER 1 (MATERIAL THROUGH WEEK 5) DUE FRIDAY MARCH 11, 5:00PM*

GARVEYISM, PROPHESYING, AND POLITICAL THEOLOGY

Week 7:

Session 12: March 15

Randall Burkett, Garveyism as a Religious Movement: The Institutionalization of a Black Civil Religion, Introduction & Chs. 1-2 [CP]

Session 13: March 17

St. Claire Drake, The Redemption of Africa and Black Religion (selections) [CP]
Philip Potter, “The Religious Thought of Marcus Garvey” [in GHWI]

*SPRING BREAK MARCH 19-APRIL 3 (NO CLASSES)*
GARVEY, DU BOIS, AND THE BLACK FASCIST CRITIQUE: COMPETING PAN-AFRICAN VISIONS OF REDEMPTION

Week 8:

Session 14: April 5

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Ch. 3 [CP]
Du Bois, “The Talented Tenth” [CP]

Session 15: April 7

Garvey, *The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey*
Paul Gilroy, “Black Fascism” [CP]

PLURALIZING THE GARVEY MOVEMENT

Week 9:

Session 16: April 12

Tony Martin, “Women in the Garvey Movement” [in *GHWI*]
Ula Y. Taylor, “Negro Women Are Great Thinkers as well as Doers”: Amy Jacques-Garvey and Community Feminism in the United States, 1924-1927” [CP]

Session 17: April 14

Barry Chevannes, “Garvey Myths among the Jamaican People” [in *GHWI*]
Rupert Lewis, “Marcus Garvey and the Early Rastafarians” [CP]

Week 10:

Session 18: April 19

Bernardo García Domínguez, “Garvey and Cuba” [in *GHWI*]
Frank A. Guridy, “Enemies of the White Race’: The Machadista State and the UNIA in Cuba” [CP]

*Recommended:* Article by Ronald Harpelle on Garveyism in Central America [CP]

Session 19: April 21

Horace Campbell, “Garveyism, Pan-Africanism and African Liberation in the Twentieth Century” [in *GHWI*]
Rupert Lewis, “Contribution to African Liberation Struggles,” Ch. 9 of *Marcus Garvey: Anti-Colonial Champion* [CP]
DRAFT OF PAPER 2: due Friday April 22 by 5:00pm

THE PHILOSOPHY AND OPINIONS OF GARVEY AND GARVEYISM IN LATE MODERNITY

Week 11:

• Final paper options distributed

Session 20: April 26

Mary G. Rolinson, *Grassroots Garveyism: The Universal Negro Improvement Association in the Rural South, 1920-1927*

Session 21: April 28

Rolinson, *Grassroots Garveyism*

• *No reading response due.*
• *PAPER 2 (MATERIAL THROUGH WEEK 10) DUE FRIDAY APRIL 29, 5:00PM*

Week 12:

Session 22: May 3


Session 23: May 5


Week 13:

Session 24: May 10

Rex Nettleford, “Garvey’s Legacy: Some Perspectives” [in *GHWI*]

Stephens, *Black Empire*

• First half of class: analysis and discussion of Nettleford and Stephens texts.
• *Peer Review second half of class*: work on final research papers or final review essays.
Session 25: May 12 (Last Class)

No assigned reading; course summary.

- Reading Period: May 14-17; Final Exam Period: May 18-23
- *Final Paper due to Prof. Roberts: Thursday May 19 by 12:00noon* (Hardcopy, Hollander Hall Room 213 & E-version)

Internet Resources:

The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers, UCLA: http://www.international.ucla.edu/africa/mgpp/.
The Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (current official site): http://www.theunia-acl.com/.