The Color of Consciousness: A Selected Bibliography of African American Studies *

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[Published or not, and loved or unloved: we persist -- June Jordan]

Bibliographer’s Statement

African American studies is an academic field that “combines general intellectual history, academic scholarship in the social sciences and the humanities, and a radical movement for fundamental educational reform” (Alkalimat 1). The sociologist Nathan Hare coordinated the first black studies program and thereafter the department was created in 1968 at San Francisco which gained official status in 1969. Although it burgeoned out of social compulsions and survived, as it were, the hostile institutional climate, African American studies as a programmatic academic inquiry has in recent times unequivocally established within mainstream as well as minority curriculum. With the originary objectives to rediscover, rejuvenate and establish a distinguishable black tradition, the African American department seeks to explore the “structures, moorings, and anchors” (Morrison “Interview” 151) of the black expressive arts such as music, arts and films besides literature, history, sociology from various interdisciplinary perspectives. Skeptics who forecast a premature demise of African American studies—for instance, Shelby Steele at Stanford University observes, “It [African American studies] was a bogus concept from the beginning because it was an idea grounded in politics, not in a particular methodology”—citing its ideological origins and prescriptive nature have been disproved by the explosion of black cultural production and decisive roles of African American departments.

In recent times, African American studies has moved ‘beyond’ the categorical confines of ‘nation’ with a mission to explore the international and transnational linkages among the people

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of African descent. Clustering the black Atlantic geographical entities on the basis of epistemology and ontology of slavery, this diasporal approach concerns the global black consciousness and further, systematically examines the subterranean “connections between the formation of intellectuals, the development of self-help economic institutions, or the construction of cultural and social groupings, which cut across the African Diaspora,” as Manning Marable puts it. Though Laura Chrisman differentiates black internationalism from black Atlantic studies based on its methods, archives and conclusions, the transnational and international mores of these theoretical prototypes remain intact. Paul Gilroy’s “The Black Atlantic,” Brent Hayes Edwards’s “The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism,” Alan Rice’s “Radical Narratives of the Black Atlantic,” among others, are paradigmatic texts that uncover hybrid character of the black Atlantica.

Unlike the West, India does not have specialized and dedicated African American departments and therefore, in most instances, it remains a component of general literature. African American literature is invariably part of American literature, Feminist Literature, Ethnic/Minority Literatures, World Literatures where the students are introduced to staple black writers such as Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Richard Wright, Alex Haley, Toni Morrison, and, Alice Walker. Though one can take respite claiming that India is removed from the political and social mores of African Americans, it remains a fact that India hasn’t really caught up with the international African American literary and cultural scene. Despite these limitations, African American literary studies and cultural criticism are steadily gaining significance in the Indian academia. Increasing number of dissertations and themed special issues such as IRWLE are cases in point. Similarly, academic societies such as MELUS-India (The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States) capture the multicultural America and “take a look at Indian literatures and place them in a global context.”

To conclude, with institutionalization and internationalization of African American studies, there has been a proliferation of books, journals, e-journals, monographs, bibliographies, anthologies and, dissertations making the task of a bibliographer arduous and challenging. Thus, given the breadth and scope of the subject, the following bibliography does not claim to be a comprehensive and exhaustive list but intends to catalogue major articles/books published after 1960s with a special reference to African American literary theory and cultural criticism. With large number of documents and archives available
online, this bibliography is supplemented by a webiliography and a list of referred black studies journals.

**Works cited:**


**A Selected Bibliography**

(The following items are arranged as per MLA research manual.)


American Library, 1970.


Venkatesan, Sathyaraj. Entry on Amelia E. Johnson. Encyclopedia of African American Women
Hearted Men”:
Patriarchy in Toni Morrison’s *Love.* Notes on Contemporary Literature
Morrison’s *Love.*”
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2006, Vol. 2. 794-796. Also available in Facts On File, Inc. Bloom’s
Venkatesan, Sathyaraj and Joe Varghese Yeldo. “Trauma, Self and Toni
Morrison’s *The Bluest
Venkatesan, Sathyaraj and G. Neelakantan. “Immigration and Labor Patterns
in Toni Morrison’s
Venkatesan, Sathyaraj and G. Neelakantan. “History in Inquisition:
Postmodernist Poetics in
Toni Morrison’s *Beloved.* ICFAI English Studies Vol.II, No.1 (March
Venkatesan, Sathyaraj. “Centering the Margins: Locating Black Feminist
Theory and Praxis.”
and Sons, 2006.
191-200.
Viswanathan, Meera and Evangelina Manickam. “Is Black Woman to White As
Female is to
Male? Restoring Alice Walker’s Womanist Prose to the Heart of Feminist
Literary
Wade-Gayles, Gloria. *No Crystal Stair: Visions of Race and Sex in Black
Women’s
Walker, Alice. *In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens: Womanist Prose.* San
Diego, CA: Harcourt
---. *Worrying the Line: Black Women Writers, Lineage, and Literary Tradition.*
Chapel Hill: U


**Selected Scholarly Journals**
African American Review
Black American Literature Forum
Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research Black Sociologist
CLA Journal
Callaloo: A Black South Journal of Arts and Letters
First World: An International Journal of Black Thought
Journal of Black Psychology
Journal of Black Studies
Journal of Negro Education
Journal of Negro History
MELUS
Obsidian: Black Literature in Review
Phylon: The Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture
Review of Black Political Economy
Studia Africana: An International Journal of Africana Studies
Western Journal of Black Studies

Webiliography

African American E-Magazine
http://www.eurweb.com/index.cfm

Black Film Center/Archive
http://www.indiana.edu/~bfca/index.html

African American Image Archive
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html

Toni Morrison Society
http://www.tonimorrison society.org/

How Race Was Lived in America: A Decade-By-Decade Selection of Articles
Selection of articles from the New York Times ranging from the 1880’s until early 2000.

U.S. Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division
http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crt-home.html
Chief civil rights enforcement agency for the federal government. Includes key speeches, special issues publications, texts of cases, and a newsletter.

www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow
Background and teacher resources for Jim Crow.
Black History Month

Black History Month
http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html Infoplease.com

Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month
http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml Education World

Celebrating Black History Month
http://www.time.com/time/reports/blackhistory/ Time.com

African-American Women

Detailed Research Guide to African American Studies
http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research Guides/history/afr ores.shtml

African American Women Authors: from the NY Public Library
http://digital.nypl.org/schomburg/writers_aa19/toc.html

Harlem Renaissance Resources: PAL: Perspective in American Literature - A research and reference Guide-Ongoing project

African American Women: from the Duke University Special Collection
http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html

African American Literature analysis, from USINFO
http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0200/ijse/stepto.htm

African American Literature Bibliography, from USINFO
http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/populatio n_and_diversity/african_americans/african_americans_biblio.html

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