Black Feminist Theory and Activism is a course that centers black women’s rich intellectual traditions and political commitments in the United States. Over the course of the semester, we will critically examine the theoretical underpinnings and politics of modern black feminist thought. Students will be introduced to both historical and contemporary black women intellectuals and activists through reading assignments, in-class exercises, films, and written assignments. The course gives equal weight to the articulation and praxis of black feminism, focusing on several black feminist activist moments and movements from the past thirty years.

The first five weeks of the course will focus on the emergence and evolution of black feminist thought. Students will read some of the key scholars and activists whose work has defined the field. The remaining ten weeks will be focused on activism. We will examine some of the critical issues around which black feminists have organized—sexual harassment, police violence against black people, prison abolition—and learn what a black feminist approach to social change and social justice looks like.

Related Interest

CMST 7966: Queer Futures

Queer epistemologies and histories centrally emphasize the politics and importance of queer worldmaking and futurity. This course engages queer, queer of color, and Indigenous queer theories that conceptualize and consider the possibilities of queer futures and worlds. Throughout this class, we will survey scholarship that considers: 1) How do cisgender and normative framings of the past, present, and future shape what kind of worlds we imagine; 2) How do queer bodies perform inhabitations that transgress dominant norms of gender, sexuality, race, nation, class, and ability; 3) How we can conceptualize queerness or queer worlds at the
intersections of race, nationhood, ability, bio-politics, science/medicine/technology, imperialism/settler colonialism, and animality; 4) What does it do to reorient and center queer thought on queer people of color and Indigenous thinkers, activists, and artists; and, 5) What is a queer future?

Dr. Ashley Mack

M 3:30pm-6:20pm