

Ashby Dialogue Report

Fall 2016

Organized by: Dr. Robert Anemone (ATY), Dr. Shelly Brown-Jeffy (SOC), and Tara T. Green (AADS)

The Fall 2016 Ashby dialogue was envisioned as a place for students to talk about race relations on campus. A series of three events were planned to get students talking about the issues.

Students were sent the following email with a request to join our canvas group (were readings were posted and all Ashby information was updated). The Canvas group was made available on the CAS website.

You have been identified as someone who might be interested in participating in the Fall 2016 Ashby dialogue series. The topic for this Ashby Series is Race, Student Activism and Responsible Speech: Critical Issues on the College Campus. The first event of the series is a planning session on September 9th from 12-1:30 in the Pecky Cypress Room of the Alumni House. At this meeting the group will discuss: "White Privilege and the Black Experience." In preparation for this meeting, we ask that students read several short pieces: Peggy MacIntosh's classic work, White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, Ta-Nehesi Coates' Letter to My Son, and excerpts from Paula S. Rothenberg's White Privilege. These excerpts are available on Canvas. You can self-enroll in the Ashby CANVAS course by clicking on the following link

Events: We advertised and individually invited students to the first event.

Planning Session: September 9, 2016, Pecky Cypress Room of Alumni House. We ordered pizza and refreshments for this session and advertised it widely within our three departments (Anthropology, Sociology, African American and African Diaspora Studies): the goal was to identify a core group of undergraduate students and engage them in discussion of the issues of race, activism, and campus speech. Attendance was excellent: the Pecky Cypress Room was Standing Room Only. We began with the co-organizers introducing ourselves, our scholarly backgrounds and interests, and then opened up a discussion of the three short reading selections we had assigned on CANVAS and their relevance to the lived experiences of our students at UNCG and elsewhere. Topics that we discussed included police brutality, the Black Lives Matter movement, free speech, diversity on campus, and white privilege.

Remixing Black Code(s): Civil Rights + Hip-Hop + Social Justice: October 11, 5 PM

Mark Anthony Neale (Professor of African and African American Studies at Duke University) was invited to give a talk on race relations on NC campuses. Professor Neal is an interdisciplinary scholar who works at the intersections of cultural and gender studies and popular culture. The event was well attended by students from several in Anthropology, Sociology and African American and African Diaspora Studies as well as other students around campus. The Dean of the College of Arts and Science's was also in attendance.

Speaker bio: Mark Anthony Neal is Professor of African & African American Studies and the founding director of the Center for Arts, Digital Culture and Entrepreneurship (CADCE) at Duke University where he offers courses on Black Masculinity, Popular Culture, and Digital Humanities, including signature courses on Michael Jackson & the Black Performance Tradition, and The History of Hip-Hop, which he co-teaches with Grammy Award Winning producer 9th Wonder (Patrick Douthit).

He is the author of several books including *What the Music Said: Black Popular Music and Black Public Culture* (1999), *Soul Babies: Black Popular Culture and the Post-Soul Aesthetic* (2002) and *Looking for Leroy: Illegible Black Masculinities* (2013). The 10th Anniversary edition of Neal's *New Black Man* was published in February of 2015 by Routledge. Neal is co-editor of *That's the Joint: The Hip-Hop Studies Reader* (Routledge), now in its second edition. Additionally Neal host of the video webcast **Left of Black**, which is produced in collaboration with the John Hope Franklin Center at Duke. You can follow him on Twitter at @NewBlackMan.

Faculty Organizers: Robert Anemone, Shelly Brown-Jeffy and Tara Green

Moderator: Tara T. Green

Sponsored by African American and African Diaspora Studies, Anthropology, & Sociology

Students Talk with Claudia Rankine

The College of Arts and Sciences' Ashby Dialogue co-sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology, Sociology, and the African American and African Diaspora Studies program discussed the work of award-winning author, Claudia Rankine on Tuesday, November 15 at 12:30 pm. According to a New York Times Review, *Citizen: An American Lyric*, "Rankine brilliantly pushes poetry's forms to disarm readers and circumvent our carefully constructed defense mechanisms against the hint of possibly being racist ourselves." Her critically acclaimed book has recently earned her the honor of a MacArthur Genius Grant. She joined us via Skype in 186 Stone. An excerpt of her

work was uploaded to the Canvas Ashby. Since this was several days after the election, students asked questions about her work but also probed her responses to the election results. As a result, they joined with faculty to have a lively discussion on the intersections on free speech, gender rights, and race relations among other topics. Faculty familiar with her poetry and performance work asked about the relationship between activism and art. She also gave a list of books she suggests that we could read and that she assigns to her students at Princeton.

Students from ADS, ATY, SOC, and ENG courses attended this interactive event.



Professor Mark Anthony Neal

African & African American Studies, Duke University

Remixing Black Code(s): Civil Rights + Hip-Hop + Social Justice

5pm Tuesday October 11, Curry 225

LEFT OF BLACK
black studies for a mobile digital network

leftofblack.tumblr.com



Questions about Disability Access?
robert.anemone@uncg.edu

Supported by the Ashby Dialogue Program in the College of Arts and Sciences
Sponsored by African American and African Diaspora Studies, Anthropology, & Sociology
<https://aas.uncg.edu/ashby/2016-17/race-activism-campus-speech/>