AFRAM 498 A: SPECIAL TOPICS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

CALDERWOOD SEMINAR IN PUBLIC WRITING: #BLACKLIVESMATTER IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Autumn 2020

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Meeting Time: F 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Location: *
SLN: 10198
Joint Sections: 2020,autumn,HONORS,230,B
Instructor:

La TaSha Levy
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ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

As a part of the Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing Program, founded at Wellesley University, this honors seminar guides students through a collaborative, intensive-writing project that communicates complex ideas to a general audience. How do we effectively take what we learn in the classroom and apply it to public conversations about the history of racial violence and resistance? Through short lectures, dynamic discussions, diverse writing exercises and peer-editing, students will co-create an innovative experience that engages the general public about the origins and contributions of the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

This course explores the emergence of #BlackLivesMatter as a critical development in a long history of Black resistance to anti-black racism and state violence. While the recent movement has organized campaigns against police shootings, mass incarceration and other iterations of racial marginalization, #BlackLivesMatter also conjures specific intellectual and activist traditions in African American history. In this course, students will examine the origins of #BlackLivesMatter as an ideological intervention, alongside the historical events, organizations, and leaders who have given it inspiration. Course material will engage the political thought of Ida B. Wells, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Assata Shakur and Ella Baker—all of whom figure prominently in #BlackLivesMatter historical frames.

Catalog Description:
Topics in which students and faculty have developed an interest as a result of work done in other classes or as a result of the need to investigate in greater depth Afro-American Studies issues. Topics vary.

GE Requirements:
Individuals and Societies (I&S)