

AMH 3931

Blackness in the Post-Civil Rights Era

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T | Period 4

R | Period 4-5



During the 2008 presidential campaign, you could not turn on the television without hearing the term “post-racial”—a far cry from the century before, when the great cultural critic W.E.B. Du Bois wrote that “the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line. This course will examine how racial ideology informs contemporary debates about American culture, politics, and social life. The goal of this course is not to trace the history of these texts but to explore in what ways public policy advocates, journalists, academics, filmmakers, and legal analysts write about race as a feature of American life. As President Barack Obama’s second term comes to a close, we will examine whether or not Du Bois’s declaration is true for the 21st Century.

