

# CENTER FOR JAZZ STUDIES LECTURE COURSE FALL 2009

Jazz W4930x

Instructor: Greg Tate

**Topics in Jazz Studies:  
BLACK ART &  
CONSCIOUSNESS**

Tues. & Thurs.

5:40 – 6:55

313 Pupin Hall

Call # 78252



Burnt Sugar is the creation of writer/guitarist/producer **Greg Tate**, a writer whose work has appeared in *The Village Voice*, *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vibe*. Tate is the author of *Flyboy In Buttermilk* (Simon and Shuster), *Everything But The Burden: What White People Are Taking From Black Culture* (Broadway/Random House) and *Midnight Lightning: Jimi Hendrix and the Black Experience* (Acapella). He is a founding member of the Black Rock Coalition, and is the conductor and music director of Burnt Sugar.

## Course Description:

This course will focus on how race consciousness, democratic desire, black protest and performance converged in the forging of a distinctly African American psyche and African American music from the 18th century to the present. An emphasis on 19th century anti-slavery writings by black Americans and on black religious practice will dovetail with a consideration of how black communities in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Georgia, New Orleans and the Carolinas evolved distinct musical and religious traditions and race consciousness politics. In the 20th century, the course will examine periods in African American history when black musical revolutions inspired or were contiguous with political movements—the Niagara Movement and the careers of Walker/Williams and Jack Johnson; the Harlem Renaissance, Garveyism, and swing; bebop and Pan-Africanism, rock and roll, Motown and Civil Rights, Black Arts Movement, free jazz and funk, the Nixon era and Black Rock, fusion; 70s divas Chaka Khan, Betty Davis, Labelle and Grace Jones and black feminism/black gay movements of the 70s; Jamaican and British reggae and dub as Black alternative universes in the 70s; NY and LA anti-racism and gay resistance during the Reagan era seen against 80s hip-hop, crossover R&B, Postblack Art, bling-rap and Neosoul in the 90s; Generation “O” and TV On The Radio, Santogold, Paul Beatty, Colson Whitehead, Junot Diaz. Emphasis on film, literature, and visual art in all these periods will also be a key part of the course.

Please note that there is a 27 student max enrollment.

For more information about this course, please contact Prof. Tate at [gt2225@columbia.edu](mailto:gt2225@columbia.edu) or call 212-851-1633.