



Critiques of BLM Reading Group

Fall Semester, 2020, Wednesdays 9am-10am U.S. Pacific time

UPDATED 28 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction

The Critiques of BLM Reading Group has been convened in the Fall Semester of 2020 for students at colleges and universities in the face of an unprecedented assault on their intellectual and individual rights from the campus institutionalization of the “Black Lives Matter” movement. In addition to forced conformity with mandates stemming from the BLM agenda, students are being held in a climate of fear amidst a barrage of BLM propaganda from college and university administrators and faculty. The purpose of the reading group is to offer students the opportunity to learn about critiques of the BLM movement and its coercive imposition on the intellectual life of the university.

Reading Group Convener

Dr. Bruce Gilley
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Member of the Board, National Association of Scholars
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Organization

The reading group will meet by Zoom for registered participants each Wednesday from 9am to 10am Pacific time for 10 meetings from September 16 through November 18. Each week we will read and discuss one reading and watch one or two videos relating to a core critique of the BLM movement. In general, the time will be allocated as follows:

- 15 minutes: overview of the reading by Dr. Gilley
- 15 minutes: group discussion with Dr. Gilley
- 20 minutes: break-out rooms moderated by group leaders
- 10 minutes: discussions from break-out rooms and conclusion

Expectations and Goals

This is a freely organized reading group for college students and their supporters. We operate purely on the civilizational norms of politeness, civility, curiosity, and the search for truth. Our aim as a group is to consider some major critiques of the BLM movement in order to be intellectually informed about the counter-narrative to this movement. At the completion of this reading group, students should have acquired a healthy skepticism towards the pro-BLM claims of their professors.

Readings

All readings can be found on the [Google drive](#). Videos are linked on the list below.

Reading Group Schedule

Week	Topic	Claim for Critique	Readings	Video
Sept 16	What is BLM?	BLM is a non-violent movement for civil rights and liberal values	Ben Johnson, "What Does 'Black Lives Matter' Believe?" <i>Acton Institute</i> (2020) (1,800 words); James Vega, "There Are Two Profoundly Different Political Perspectives Within the BLM Coalition," <i>Democratic Strategist</i> (2015) (3,600 words)	"The Agenda of BLM is Far Different from the Slogan" (Heritage Foundation, 2020); "Unapologetic: Charlene Carruthers," (Democracy Now, 2018, from 25 th minute)
Sept 23	The Role of Police	Police are biased against blacks	Coleman Hughes, "Stories and Data: Reflections on Race, Riots, and Police," <i>City Journal</i> (2020) (2,350 words)	"Heather MacDonald on Protests Following George Floyd's Killing," <i>C-SPAN Washington Journal</i> (2020)
Sept 30	The Debate on Black Outcomes in the U.S. (I)	Group differences reflect racism not culture	Glenn Loury, "Why Does Racial Inequality Persist? Culture, Causation, and Responsibility," <i>Manhattan Institute Policy Papers</i> , (2019) (9,300 words)	"Glenn Loury on Race, Inequality, and America," EconTalk (2020)
Oct 7	The Debate on Black Outcomes in the U.S. (II)	Group differences reflect racism not culture	William Voegeli, "Thomas Sowell's Inconvenient Truths", <i>Claremont Review</i> (2018) (6,200 words)	"Thomas Sowell on the Myths of Economic Inequality," Hoover Institution (2018); "Thomas Sowell on Black Lives Matter," Hoover (2020)
Oct 14	The Nature of Liberal Society	A liberal society is composed of oppressors and the oppressed	Yoram Hazony, "The Challenge of Marxism," <i>Quillette</i> (2020) (5,800 words); Wanjiru Njoya, "BLM is pushing division not unity," <i>The Critic</i> (2020)	"Kmele Foster on Why He Opposes Cancel Culture and the Anti-Capitalist Side of Black Lives Matter" (The Fifth Column, 2020)
Oct 21	Identity politics	BLM strengthens black lives	David Azerrad, "The Promises and Perils of Identity Politics," <i>Heritage Foundation</i> (January 2019) (16,700 words)	Carol Swain, "Black Lives Matter Is a Marxist Movement," PragerU (2020); "The Moral Case Against BLM: Coleman Hughes," <i>unHerd</i> (2020)

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Oct 28	The epistemic status of BLM	Criticism of BLM reflects “white fragility”	Stanley Ridgley, “Minute 14 for Robin DiAngelo,” <i>Minding the Campus</i> (2020) (5,900 words); Anthony Daniels, “Hypocrite Hector,” <i>The New Criterion</i> (2020) (2,500 words); John McWhorter, “The Dehumanizing Condescension of ‘White Fragility’” <i>The Atlantic</i> (2020)	“Inaya Folarin Iman: The Dangers of the Victim Mentality,” (2019)
Nov 4	The Idea of a University I	A university should promote BLM consistent with its social justice mission	Jeremy Black, “How Much Push? Racist Anti-Racists and the University,” <i>The Critic</i> (June 2020) (2,000 words); John Staddon, “An Open Letter to the Duke University President Price about Anti-Racism.” (August 2020), (1500 words)	“Heather MacDonald and Glenn Loury on Policing, Race, and Ideological Conformity,” Manhattan Institute (2020)
Nov 11	The Idea of a University II	A university should promote BLM consistent with its social justice mission	Joanna Williams, “How Wokeness Conquered the Academy,” <i>Spiked</i> (2020); Alexander Riley, “The BLMing of Higher Ed,” <i>Martin Center</i> (2020)	“The Dark Arts,” The Glenn Show (2020), From 26:10
Nov 18	Tools for Students	College students should not challenge BLM	Heather MacDonald, “Conformity to a Lie,” <i>City Journal</i> (2020) (2,800 words)	“A Discussion with Professors Robert George and Cornel West,” Federalist Society (2020)