Politics of Black Movements in America

AAS 425 Jemadari Kamara, Instructor Tues. 7:00-10:00 pm - 435 Mason Hall 4 credit hours (SS)

The organization of the African-American community has taken various forms over the last two centuries. Movements for integration, separation and emigration have all been part of the unique experience. Resistance and struggle have been continuous themes as African-Americans have sought to secure a place for themselves within this society. By using an interdisciplinary perspective this course will analyze the strengths and weaknesses of past and current movements seeking social and political change on behalf of African-Americans. The Civil Rights Movement, Back to Africa Movement, and independent political movements will all be topics for discussion during the term. Thoughtful, critical analysis will be stressed throughout the course in discussion and writing. Other course objectives: (1) Discussion of the content and organization of major Afro-American political movements: (2) Comparative analysis of leadership styles and effectiveness: (3) Considerations of the most significant social, economic and political influences upon the African-American experience: (4) Examinations of the interface between ideology and organizational effectiveness.

Urban (Re) Development and Social Justice

AAS 426 (Seminar)
James Chaffers, Instructor
Thurs. 7:00-10:00 - 1433 Mason Hall
3 credit hours (SS)

Taught from the perspective of a registered architect, this course is organized around topical issues of development. Intended primarily for students with non-architectural backgrounds, the course seeks to provide a spirited exploration of the explicit (and subtle) connections between people, land and power in our cities and the specific affects of these linkages upon contemporary urban rebuilding. In the main, our explorations are aimed at providing a broadened philosophical understanding of the "Who?" and "Why?" of contemporary urban redevelopment policies -- particularly as such policies impact on the emerging "central city." A seminar format will be followed, combining formal and informal lectures, color slide presentations, selected case studies, selected readings and a series of student-generated workshops. Throughout all discussion, there will be continuing class focus on the necessity for our making critical distinction between "effecting" (carrying out) and "affecting" (influencing the formation of) various environmental policy. Continued active class participation and the preparation of a ten minute audio cassette tape for presentation near the end of the term are basic course requirements. Ongoing class dialogue will be augmented periodically with urban field trips and invited quests.