

**ENGL 7/8338: Amiri Baraka and the Black Arts Movement**

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**Course Description:** The “Black Arts Movement” (BAM), a term coined by Larry Neal, was the sister of the Black Power Movement. Occurring from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s, BAM was a period of incredible creative output by politically engaged African American poets, musicians, theorists, playwrights, fiction writers, and other cultural workers. This seminar will not only immerse students in five decades of Amiri Baraka’s work as poet, playwright, theorist, and music historian (before and after BAM), it will also open out more broadly to discuss other figures within BAM to give students a sense of the movement’s diversity, complexity, and wide international reach. Writers may include: A. B. Spellman, Askia M. Touré, Larry Neal, Barbara Ann Teer, Hoyt W. Fuller, Toni Cade (Bambara), Alice Childress, Paule Marshall, Carolyn Rodgers, Sonia Sanchez, Jayne Cortez, and Audre Lorde. This seminar will also provide opportunities for students interested in the politics of gender, and understudied women writers, to conduct research in these areas.