Description:

This seminar will sketch the contours of what Fred Moten calls "the Aesthetics of the Black Radical Tradition": a resistance born at the intersection of avant-garde music, radical politics and a philosophy of blackness. Evie Shockley identifies such work as part of a "renegade poetics": one perpetually rebelling against both the canons of "African-American" and "avant-garde" literatures. Accordingly, the class will aim to complicate, confuse, and provocatively prod such categories, with implications for how we have told — and how we are going to be telling — literary history.

Syllabus:

Week 1: Aimé Césaire: *Cahier d’un retour au pays natal*
Week 2: Melvin Tolson: *Libretto for the Republic of Liberia*
Week 3: Langston Hughes: *Ask Your Mama* / Gwendolyn Brooks: *Riot*
Week 5: N.H. Pritchard: *The Matrix* / *Echoes*
Week 6: Russell Atkins: *Spyrytual* / Lorenzo Thomas: *Dracula*
Week 7: Amiri Baraka: selected poems
Week 8: Cecil Taylor: *Chinampas* / Sun Ra: selected broadsides
Week 9: Harryette Mullen: *Muse & Drudge* / Erica Hunt: *Piece Logic*
Week 10: Will Alexander: *Stratospheric Canticles* / Kamau Braithwaite: *Shar*
Week 11: M. NorbeSe Philip: *Zong!*
Week 12: Fred Moten: *Hughson’s Tavern*
Week 13: Renee Gladman: *To After That*
Week 14: Cecil Giscombe: *Prairie Style*
Week 15: LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs: *Twerk*