

# February begins Black History Month...



**Protestors in New York City on Feb. 3, 1964.  
Eddie Hausner/ The New York Times.**

What little of this history is taught in schools and highlighted in the media often finds the facts sanitized or misunderstood. Here are some common myths or wrong assumptions about different aspects of Black history.

# MYTH #1 - *All enslaved people worked in the slave owner's house or on plantations.*

**While many enslaved Black Americans were forced to do domestic housework or outdoor farm work, not all of the labor was just in these two spaces. Enslaved people were blacksmiths, musicians, weavers, bakers, barbers, and more. Enslaved people also held most jobs held by free and indentured individuals.**



**"A Barber's Shop at Richmond, Virginia," from The Illustrated London News, March 9, 1861.**

**While whole regional economies were built on slave labor from the fields, this simplification fails to show the diverse ranges of skills and talents of Black people and how they were exploited. Owners sometimes rented out enslaved people for short-term use.**

## MYTH #2 - *Rosa Parks was just a tired older woman wanting to sit.*



**Baptist Press**

**"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."**

**-- *My Story* by Rosa Parks**

**Rosa Parks' refusal to sit in the back of the bus was a planned part of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. She was a secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and her activism continued until she died in 2005.**

**Parks was not the first woman to refuse to give up her seat. Many had come before her and the first high-profile refusal was 15-year-old Claudette Colvin, nearly a year before Parks, in the same bus system.**

## MYTH #3 - *Racial segregation was only an issue in the South.*

Segregation has mostly be shown as something relegated to the Jim Crow laws of the south. However, it has existed throughout American history in every state and territory. One of the northernmost states, Oregon, was founded as a whites-only territory.



This segregation was codified in the law with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896). This "separate but equal" loophole allowed all states to continue public segregation until the second half of the 20th century.

While laws against ending legal segregation between races and ethnicities formally ended in the 1960s, people have found ways around it today in places like housing, schooling and other community spaces. These manifestations like school choice and private clubs led to some areas in the United States more segregated today than in the 1960s.

# Learn more about these subjects

## **Interview**

- ***"Before Rosa Parks, There Was Claudette Colvin" - Colvin w/ NPR***

## **Articles and Books**

- ***"Earning a Living as a Free Black in Charleston, South Carolina" - South Carolina's Information Highway***
- ***"The Varieties of Slave Labor" - National Humanities Center***
- ***"The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America" by Richard Rothstein***
- ***"Modern Segregation" - Economic Policy Institute***
- ***"How New York City became the capital of the Jim Crow North" - Washington Post***
- ***"Segregation's Legacy" - U.S. News***

## **Videos and Movies**

- ***"Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words" - Library of Congress on YouTube***
- ***"Is the Rosa Parks Story True?" - Origin of Everything on YouTube***
- ***"Jim Crow of the North" (Documentary) - Twin Cities PBS on YouTube***
- ***"I Am Not Your Negro" (2016)***

# Black Migration & Immigration

The most recognized Black person living in the United States is that whom is a descendent of slaves (DOS). From 1619 to the early 1800s, most African Americans were brought to the through the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade or were themselves DOS.

Swipe to learn about The Great Migration within the United States and the more recent influx of Black immigrants from around the world.



# The Great Migration

African Americans migrated to the north and western U.S. in the millions in what is now called The Great Migration. The combination of the strengthening immigration laws during WWII left northern industrial economies with a labor shortage and the Jim Crow limits on economic mobility and mortality in the South, influenced these moves. While discrimination was still prominent across the U.S. Black communities had more freedoms in the northern U.S.

There were two big waves: from 1917 to 1929 and 1940s to the 1960s

**These mass movements created cultural centers in northern states that would forever change Black culture and art globally. This was first with the Harlem Renaissance in New York City and later Motown emerged from Detroit.**

**Black artists, activists and intellectuals together formed and explored the then-new ideas of pan-africanism, Black-identity and Black pride during the Harlem Renaissance.**



**In his early 20s, painter Jacob Lawrence captured the spirit of this mass migration in his 60 piece "Migration Series." He was the first Black artist represented by a New York gallery.**



# Black Immigration

**The first Black immigrants in the United States settled in present-day California from Mexico in 1781. The census taken that year shows that about half of the 22 adult settlers who founded Los Angeles (Los Angeles Pobladores) were of African ancestry.**

**The millions of Black migrants (mostly from the Caribbean and Africa) who came to the U.S. from 1965 to the present are referred to as the "fourth great migration." This population of Black immigrants has almost doubled every decade since 1980.**


**With the recent accusation of forced hysterectomies by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Black and Latinx migrant women by a whistleblower in Atlanta, there has been increased attention toward Black migrants. Swipe for facts about the current make-up of Black immigrants across the nation.**

# 4.2 Million Black Immigrants live in the U.S. as of 2016

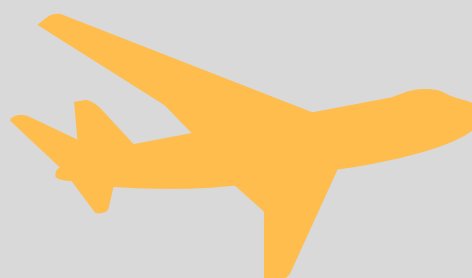
# 11%

of foreign-born Black immigrant populations identifies as Hispanic.

Many of those come from Mexico and the Dominican Republic.



Texas has the 6th largest population of Black immigrants.



# 9%

of Black Americans are immigrants.

1/3 of Black Immigrants from Africa have a bachelor's degree or higher, 3% higher than the U.S. population.

# 50%

of Black immigrants come from the Carribean.



## Largest Birth Countries for Black Immigrants (2016)

<u>Jamaica</u>	<u>716,000</u>
<u>Haiti</u>	<u>662,000</u>
<u>Nigeria</u>	<u>304,000</u>
<u>Ethiopia</u>	<u>239,000</u>
<u>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</u>	<u>191,000</u>
<u>Dominican Republic</u>	<u>170,000</u>
<u>Ghana</u>	<u>164,000</u>
<u>Guyana</u>	<u>131,000</u>
<u>Kenya</u>	<u>111,000</u>

## NOTE:

Single race and mixed-race Black people included regardless of ethnic origin. All data from 2013 Pew Research Center unless otherwise stated.

# Learn more about these subjects

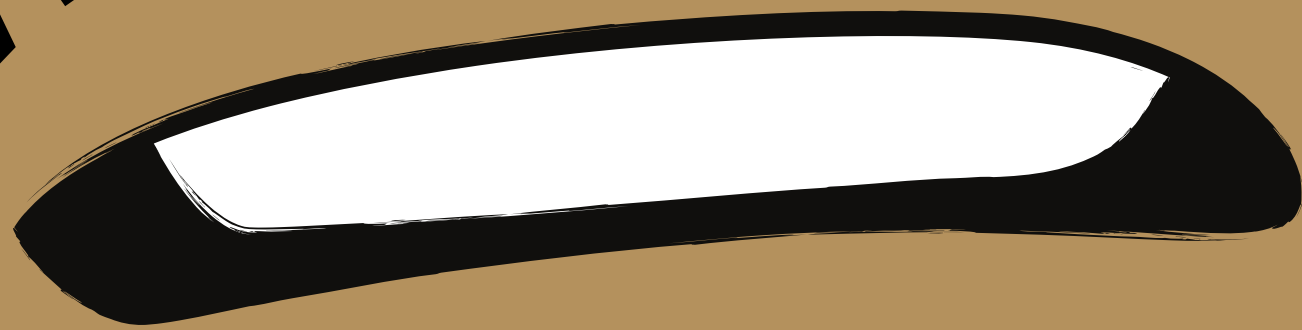
## **Articles and Books**

- ***"Great Migration" - Encyclopædia Britannica***
- ***"The Warmth of Other Suns" The Epic Story of American's Great Migration" by Isabel Wilkerson***
- ***"The Making of African America: The Four Great Migrations" by Ira Berlin***
- ***"A Rising Share of the U.S. Black Population Is Foreign Born" - Pew Research Center***
- ***"We Can't Talk About Immigration Without Acknowledging Black Immigrants" - Yes Magazine***
- ***"57 Migrant Women Say They Were Victims of ICE Gynecologist" - The Cut***

## **Videos and Movies**

- ***"Why African-Americans left the south in droves — and what's bringing them back" - Vox on YouTube***
- ***"Where Are You REALLY From? Black Migrations and Immigration, Explained" - via Say It Loud YouTube***
- ***"The Great Migration and the power of a single decision | Isabel Wilkerson" via TED YouTube***

**What is AAVE?**



**What is BASL?**

# AAVE

Since 1973, people have condescendingly referred to African American Vernacular English (AAVE) as Ebonics or "broken" English. AAVE is considered a dialect of English because it uses its own ever-changing vocab/lexis and grammar rules.



Many popular words, phrases and pronunciations come from AAVE and Black culture. Once enough non-Black people use words from AAVE, the word then enters into the "popular" culture at large. This happened during the Harlem Renaissance with words like "cool" and "salty" and happens today with "basic," "flek" and "squad." Marginalized Black and brown LGBTQ+ communities shaped much of AAVE with phrases like "reading," "vogueing," "gag" and "shade."

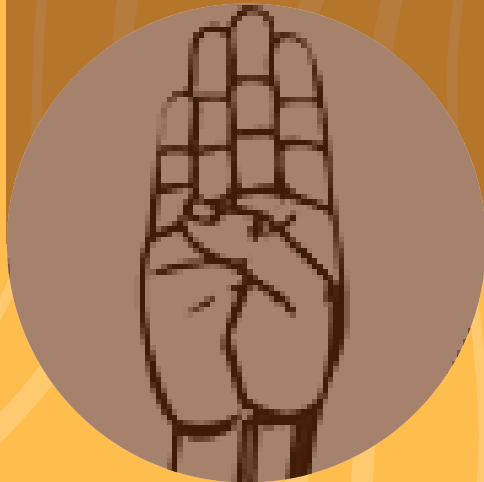
AAVE as a language is not slang, but some words can become slang within another form of English.



**LaKeith Stanfield as Cassius 'Cash' Green**

**Many Black people learn to code-switch (switching between one language style to another) as a survival tactic and to avoid further discrimination. The 2018 satirical film "Sorry to Bother You" exhibited this in the trailer as the Black lead put on his "white voice" to succeed in his telemarketing job.**

# B



# A



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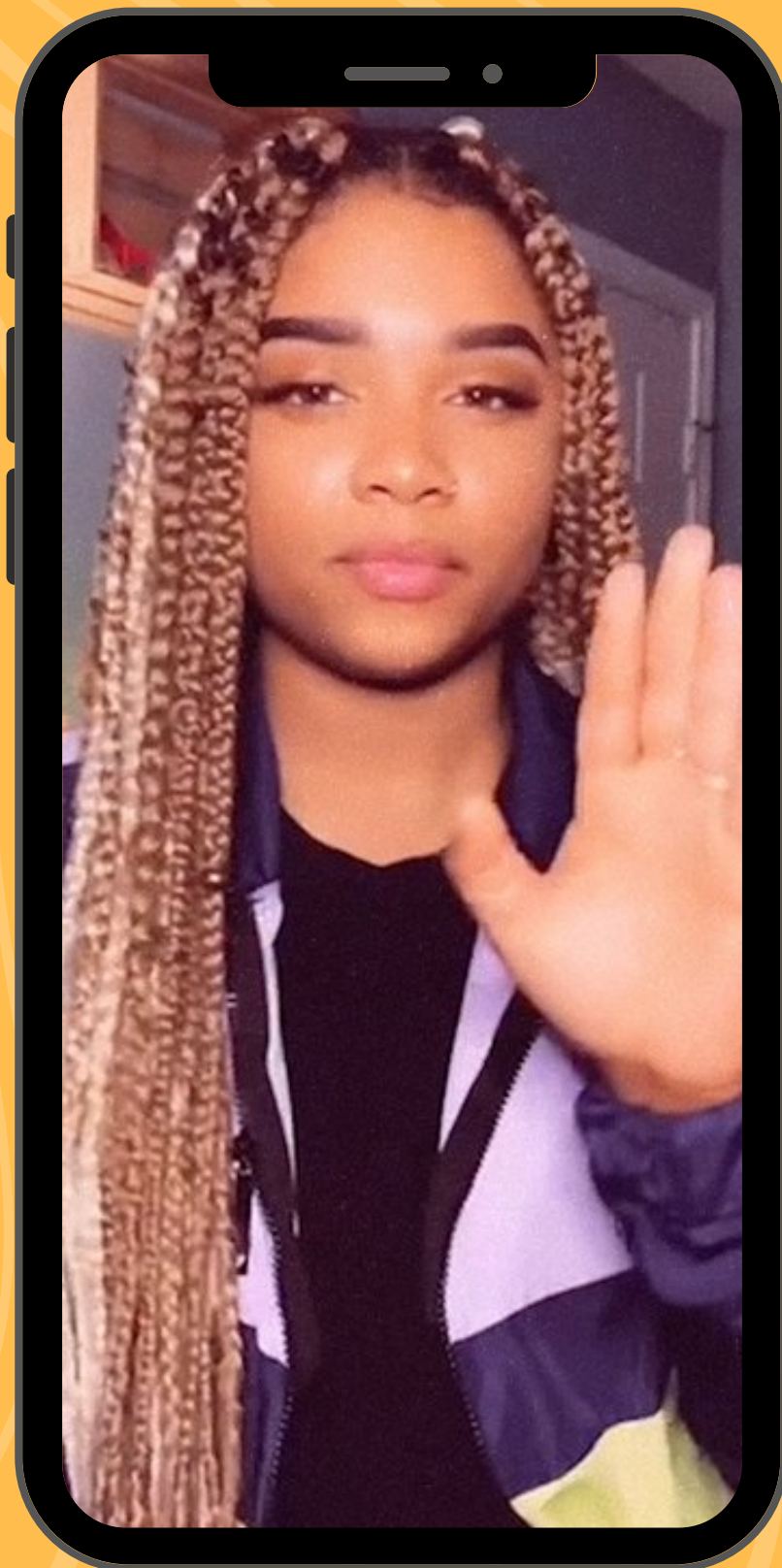


**As those with a disability become more visible in the mainstream, Americans are learning about Black American Sign Language (BASL) for the first time. American Sign Language (ASL), like AAVE, is its own language similar in form to Standard English or American Sign Language.**

**Post-emancipation, segregation further limited Black people who were deaf or hard-of-hearing and had access to education. The first American school for the deaf, founded in 1817, did not accept Black students until 1952.**

**Different racial and ethnic groups developed their own version of a sign language that varied between generations and regions.**

**TikToker, who went viral for sharing BASL, Nakie Smith, and her grandfather recently released a video showing the difference in BASL between generations on her Youtube channel.**



**@ITSCHARMAY**



# Learn more about AAVE and BASL

## **Articles and Books**

- ***"The Truth Behind Ebonics" - Her Campus***
- ***"African American Vernacular English" - Hawaii.edu***
- ***"Who Really Owns the 'Blaccent'?" - Vulture***
- ***"Is It Cultural Appropriation To Use Drag Slang And AAVE?" - Babble Magazine***
- ***"The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL: Its History and Structure" by Carolyn McCaskill***
- ***"How Cab Calloway's 'Hepster Dictionary' Introduced The World To The Harlem Vernacular" - Harlem World Magazine***

## **Videos and Movies**

- ***"Signs of solidarity for deaf Black people" - Washington Post on Youtube***
- ***"African American Vernacular English | Morgan Gill | TEDxYouth@RMSST" - TEDx Talks on Youtube***
- ***"AAVE - African American Vernacular English" - Langfocus on Youtube***
- ***"How To Sign In BASL (Black American Sign Language) | Strong Black Lead" - Netflix on Youtube***
- ***"Talking Black in America" (2017)***



# Black-Identifying Population at UHCL

*The University of Southern California's Race and Equity Center put out a 50-state report card in 2019 evaluating Black students at public colleges and universities. Here is how UHCL did:*

## *UHCL Report Card*

### **D** Representation Equity

Reflection of Black undergrads percentage versus state population.

### **I** Completion Equity

6 year graduation rates

### **D** Gender Equity

Proportionality of Black women's and Black men's share of enrollment to gender distribution across all racial/ethnic groups.

### **A** Black Student to Faculty Ratio

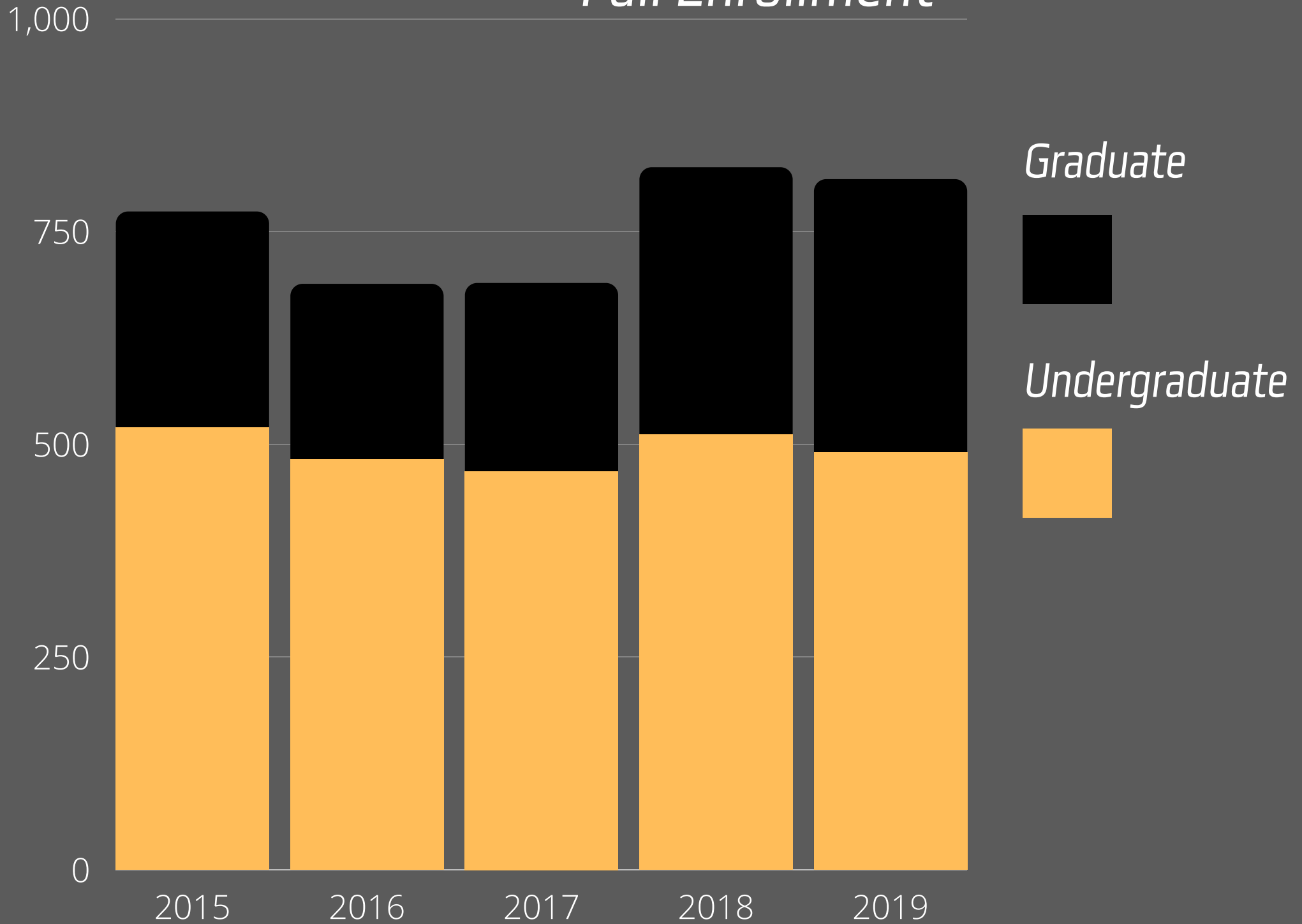
Reflection of Black undergrads percentage versus state population.

**UHCL Equity GPA - 2.00 (C)**

Texas Equity GPA - 2.19 (C)

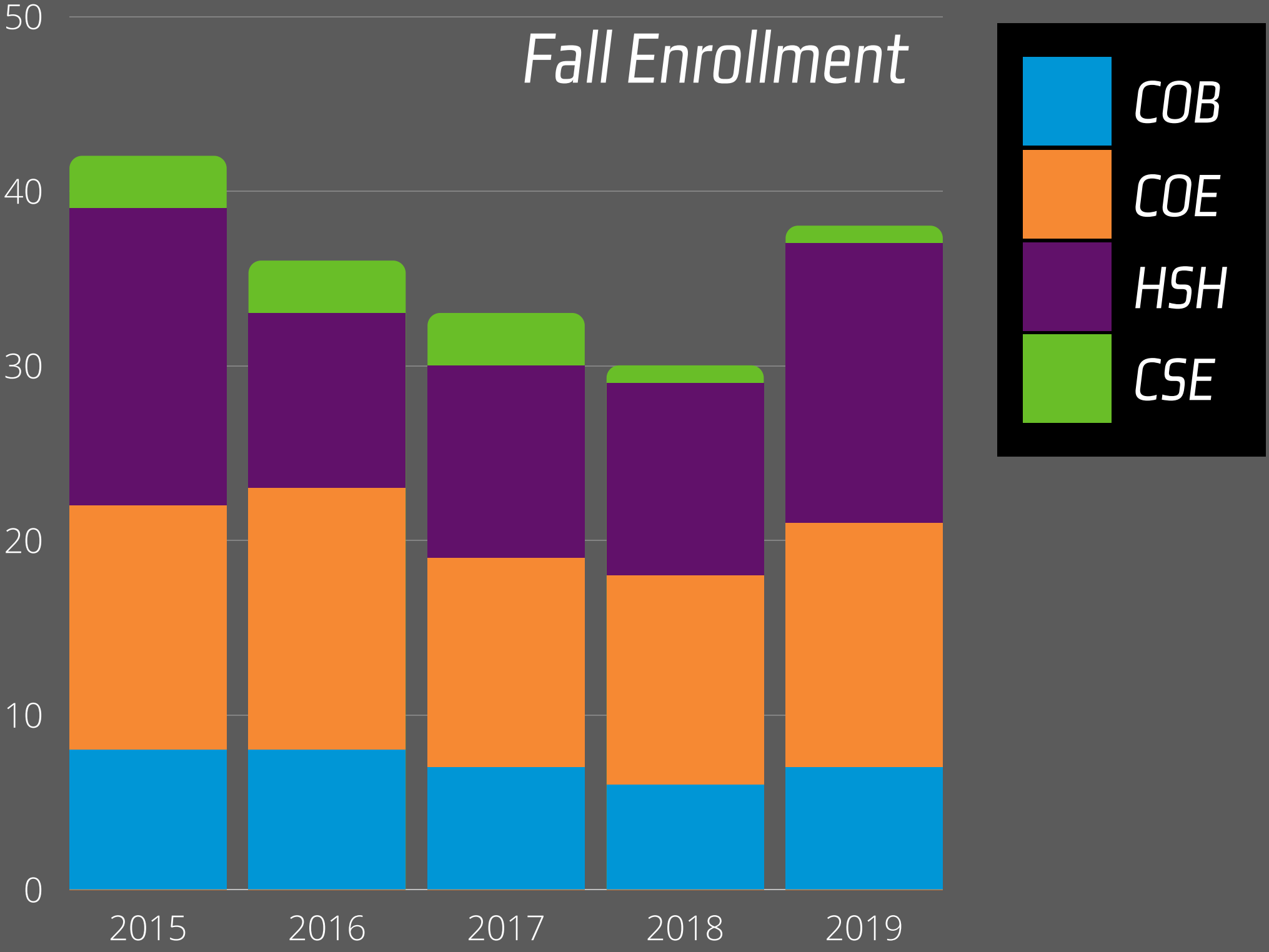
# Black-Identifying Faculty at UHCL

*Fall Enrollment*



**This data uses the numbers for those who identify as Black or African American. Numbers may be higher because this does not include those who identify as Multi-racial, Latinx, Unknown or International. Data compiled March 2019 from the UHCL Office of Institutional Effectiveness.**

# Black-Identifying Faculty at UHCL



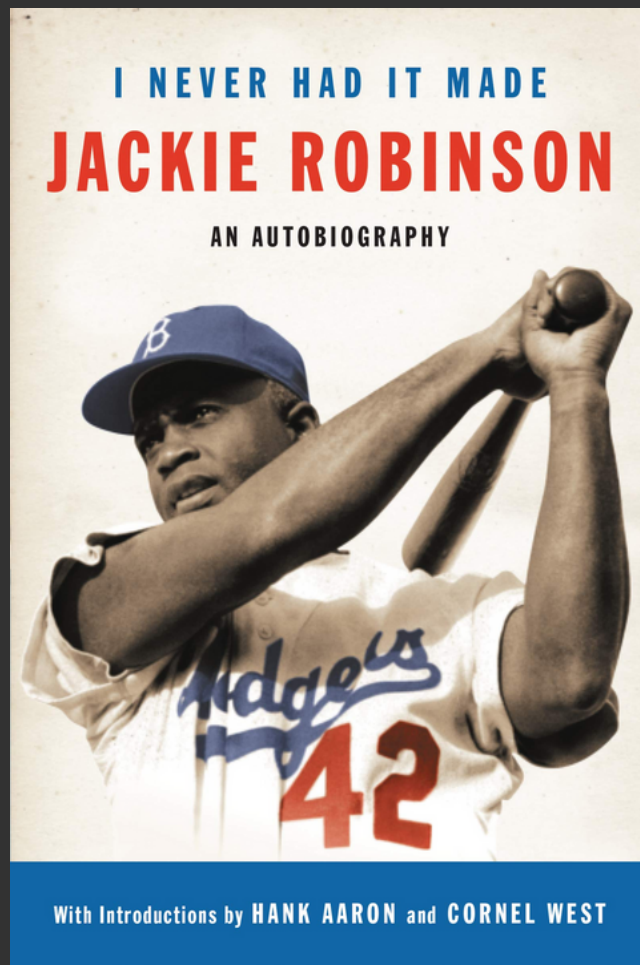
**This data uses the numbers for those who identify as Black or African American. Numbers may be higher because this does not include those who identify as Multi-racial, Latinx, Unknown or International. Data compiled March 2019 from the UHCL Office of Institutional Effectiveness.**

# In Their Own Words

Much of Black history and Black stories are told from the the outside perspective. Even in journalism, less than 7% of newsrooms are made up of Black employees. Swipe for some memoirs, autobiographies and biographies by African Americans about African Americans.

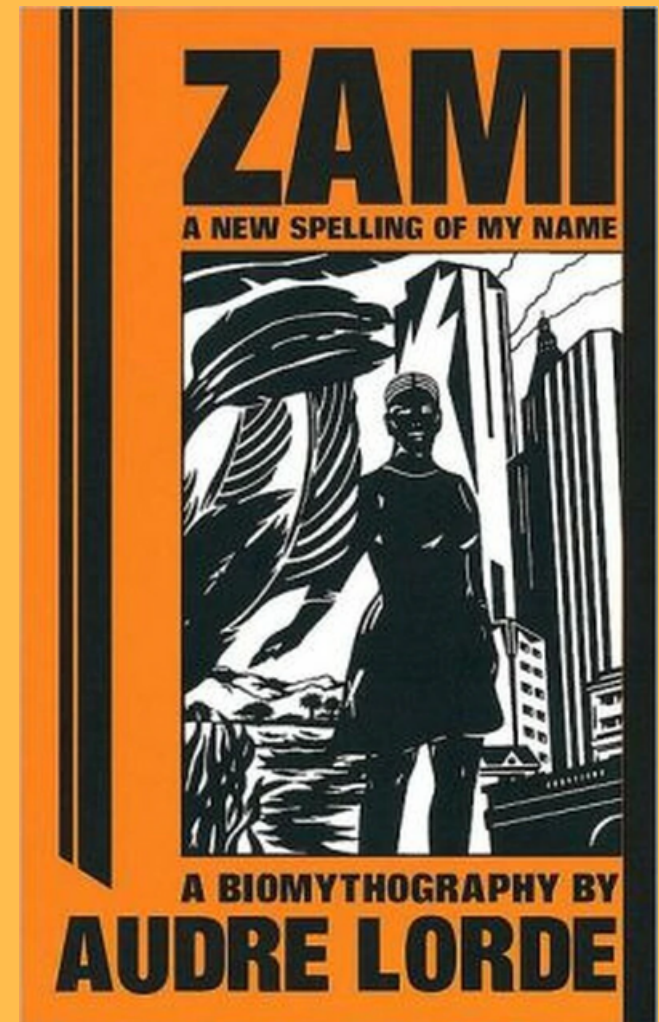


*“I Never Had It Made: An Autobiography of Jackie Robinson”* by Alfred Duckett and Jackie Robinson



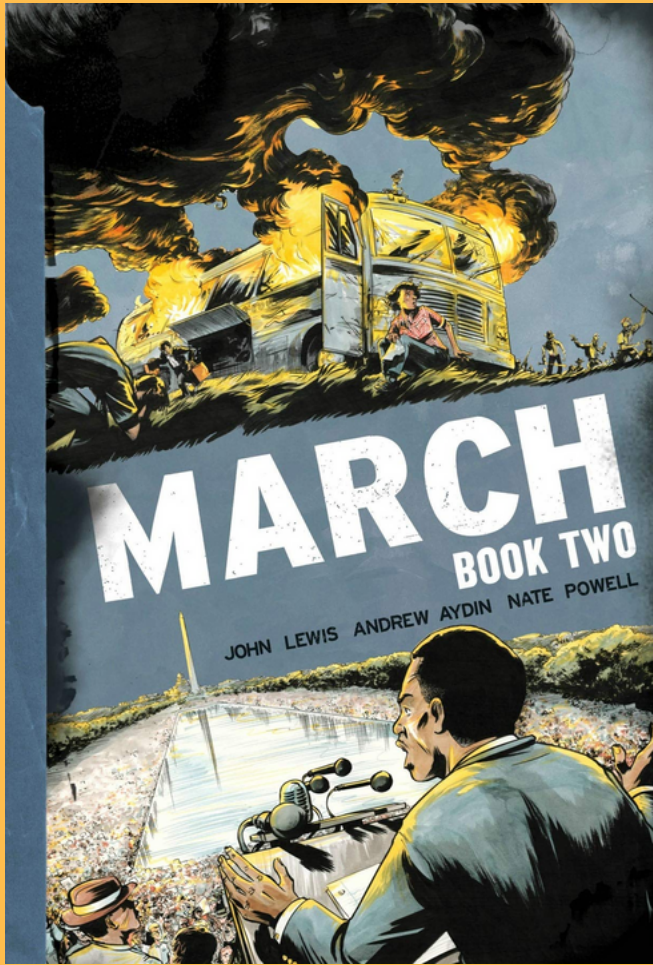
*“I Never Had It Made: An Autobiography of Jackie Robinson”* remembers the early life of Jackie Robinson all the way up to when he was signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers. Duckett and Robinson write about Robinson’s experience on becoming the first Black man in history to play baseball in the major leagues.

*“Zami: A New Spelling of My Name”* by Audre Lorde



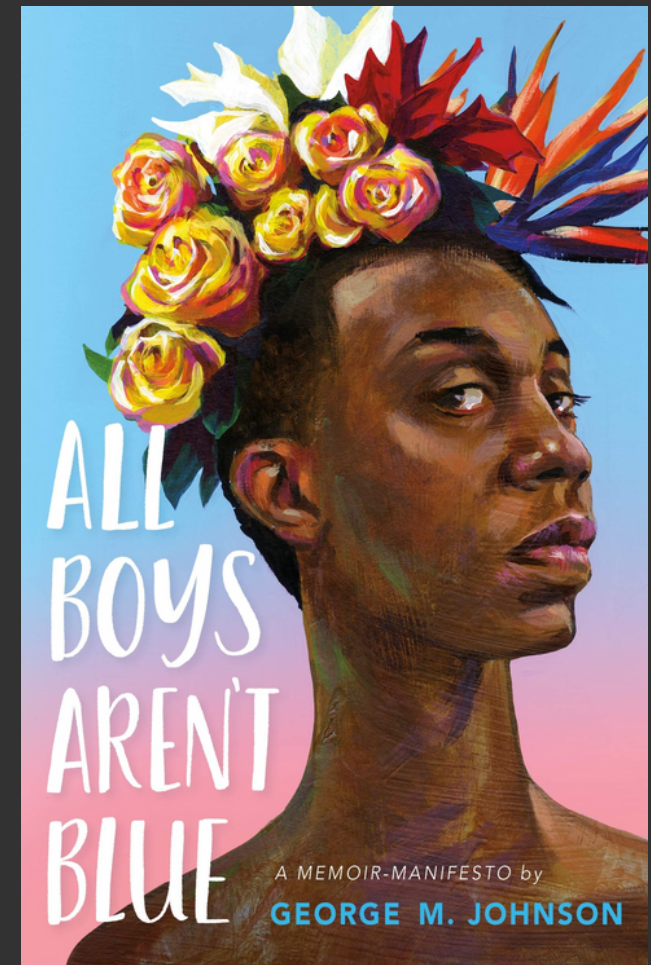
In *“Zami: A New Spelling of My Name,”* Audre Lorde focuses on her childhood and early adulthood as she grows up a Black lesbian in New York City. Lorde uses biography, history and myth to convey her story.

*"March: Trilogy"* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin. Illustrated and lettered by Nate Powell.



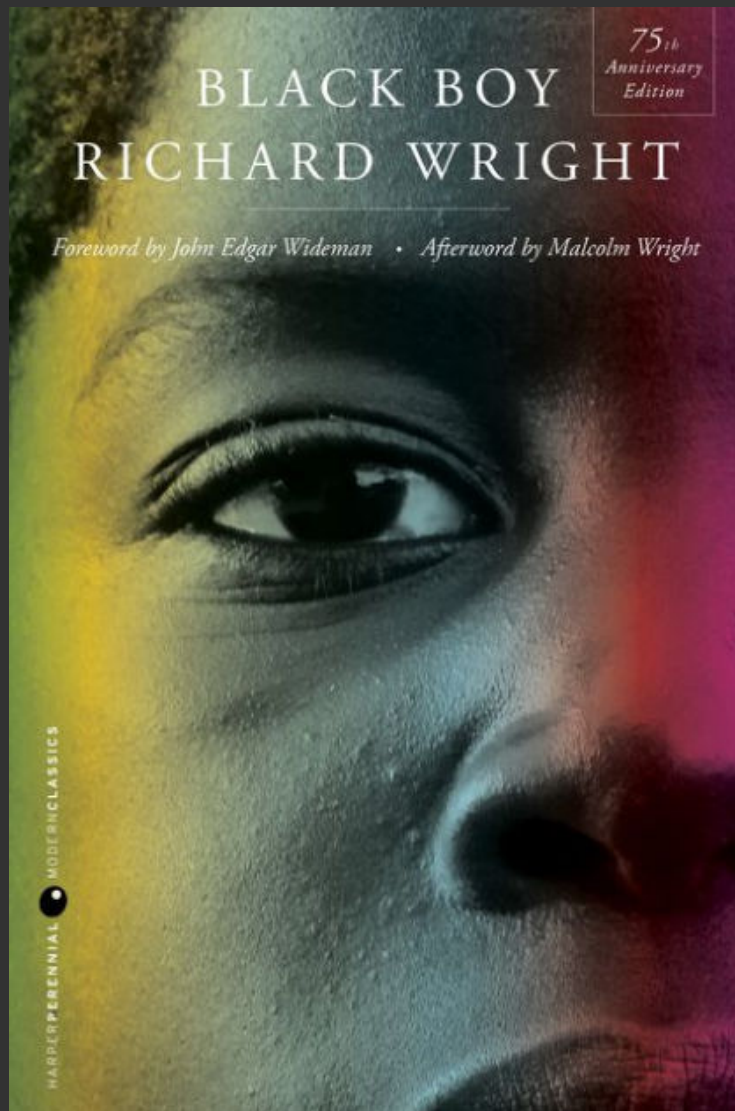
The *"March: Trilogy"* retells the civil rights movement through the eyes of former Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee organizer and U.S. Congressman John Lewis. The first graphic novel also touches on Lewis' childhood and how he became involved in civil rights movements.

*"All Boys Aren't Blue"* by George M. Johnson



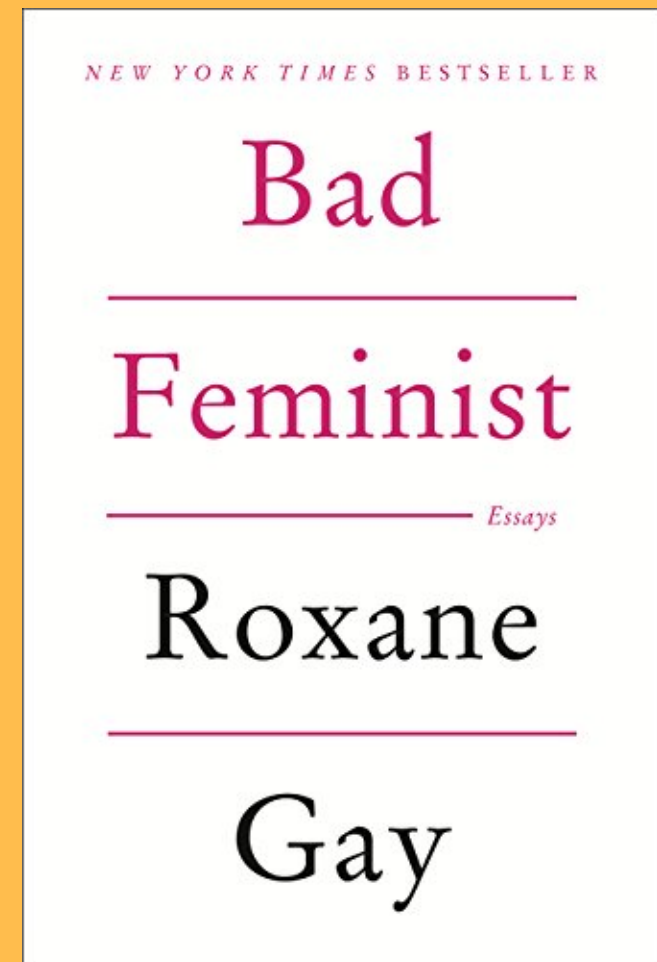
*"All Boys Aren't Blue"* is a young adult memoir where George M. Johnson explores his childhood and young adulthood as a queer Black man in New Jersey and Virginia. The memoir is told through essays and explores different concepts such as gender identity, family and consent.

## *"Black Boy" by Richard Wright*



In *"Black Boy,"* Richard Wright details his early life. He begins with his experience growing up in the southern states of Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee and then touches on his move to Chicago where he began his literary career and became involved with the Communist Party.

## *"Bad Feminist" by Roxanne Gay*



*"Bad Feminist" contemplates being a feminist while enjoying things that could differ from feminist ideals. The book is told through essays written by Roxane Gay.*

Read full list at  
[UHCLTheSignal.com](http://UHCLTheSignal.com)





Photo courtesy of Budgeron Bach via Pexels.com

**MYTH: Black children  
mature faster**



**There is a common stereotypical perception that Black people are physically stronger than other races. These perceptions lead people to see Black children as older, more mature and more threatening. This stereotypical thinking has been considered a largely contributing factor to law enforcement officers killing an unequal proportion of Black people when compared to other races.**

**A study published by the American Psychological Association in 2014 showed that whites see Black teenagers as less innocent than white teenagers, which leads to Black teens being perceived and persecuted as adults rather than as minors.**

**After the death of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, the officers responsible for his death stated they believed him to look 20 years old. Image courtesy of @SPLCenter on Twitter.**

**In the report “Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls’ Childhood,” a survey revealed many non-Black people see Black girls as less innocent, more independent, more knowledgeable about sex and perceived in many other ways that has been noted as a “potential contributing factor to the disproportionate rates of punitive treatment in the education and juvenile justice systems for Black girls.”**

**“The evidence shows that perceptions of the essential nature of children can be affected by race, and for Black children, this can mean they lose the protection afforded by assumed childhood innocence well before they become adults,” said Matthew Jackson, professor of psychology at UCLA. “With the average age overestimation for Black boys exceeding 4-and-a-half years, in some cases, Black children may be viewed as adults when they are just 13 years old.”**



**Photo courtesy of Nappy.Co.**

# Learn more about these subjects

## **Articles, Research and Books**

- ***"Study: Cops Tend to See Black Kids as Less Innocent Than White Kids" - The Atlantic***
- ***"Innocence erased: How society keeps black boys from being boys" - The Washington Post***
- ***"Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood" - Georgetown Law***
- ***"Race and Punishment: Racial Perceptions of Crime and Support for Punitive Policies" - The Sentencing Project***
- ***"Black Boys Viewed as Older, Less Innocent Than Whites, Research Finds" - American Psychological Association***

## **Videos and Podcast**

- ***"'Cuties' was CHAOTIC.. and Complex" - Tee Noir via YouTube***
- ***"The Cuties conversation is infuriating" - For Harriet via YouTube***
- ***"Breaking Down True Womanhood & Black Girlhood in Media" - MelinaPendulum via YouTube***
- ***"Consequences When African-American Boys Are Seen As Older" - NPR's "Tell Me More"***

# Black Mental Health

Mental health continues to be both a prevalent issue and a stigma within Black communities. Historical adversity faced by Black Americans (like slavery, sharecropping and race-based exclusion from health, educational, social and economic resources) leads to socioeconomic disparities experienced by Black people today. Many who are impoverished, homeless, incarcerated or abuse substances are at higher risk for poor mental health, as socioeconomic status is linked to mental health.

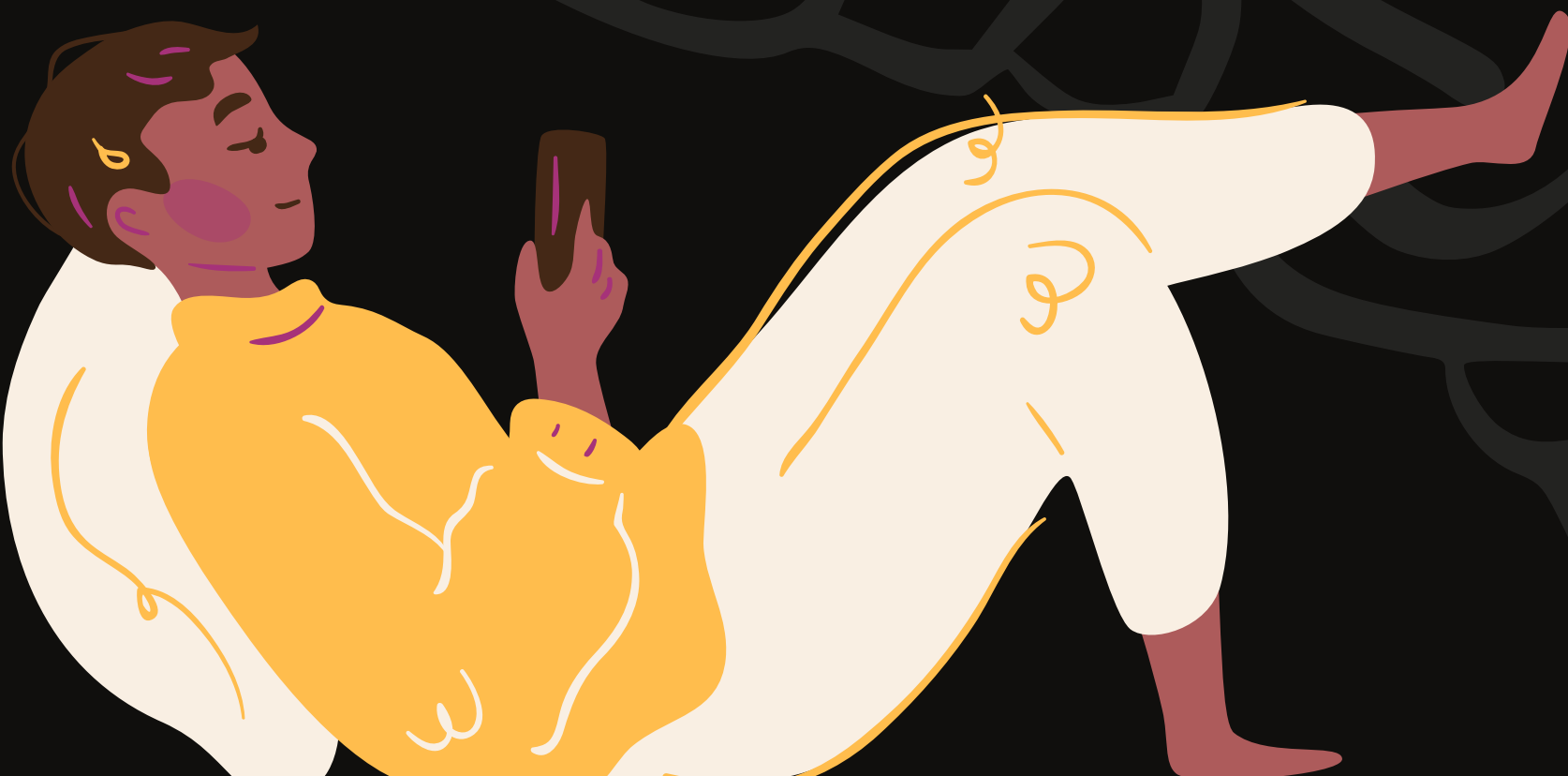




Photo courtesy of C Technical via Pexels.com

**Despite progress made over the years, racism continues to have an impact on the mental health of Black people. Negative stereotypes and attitudes of rejection have decreased but continue to occur with measurable, adverse consequences. Historical and contemporary instances of negative treatment led to a distrust of authorities, many of whom are seen as not having the best interests of Black people in mind.**

**A study by the University of Wisconsin's School of Nursing showed 63% of Black people believe a mental health condition is a sign of personal weakness.**



# 1/3

**The Black Mental Health Alliance reported in 2018 for the first time in the history of such research, suicide rates among Black children ages 5 to 12 have exceeded that of white children, and Black children accounted for more than a third of elementary school-aged suicides.**

**There are multiple organizations who work to address mental health issues in the Black community. These include the Black Mental Health Alliance and the African American Health Coalition in Houston. UHCL's Counseling Services also offers resources and programs for those who may struggle with mental health.**



**Black Mental Health Alliance Executive Director Andrea Brown. Image courtesy of Black Mental Health Alliance.**

# Learn more about these subjects

## **Articles, Research and Books**

- ***"Queenie" by Candice Carty-Williams***
- ***"Suicides Among Black Children Are at Crisis Levels. The Congressional Black Caucus Aims to Do Something About It" - The Root***
- ***"African American Men and Women's Attitude Toward Mental Illness, Perceptions of Stigma, and Preferred Coping Behaviors" - US National Library of Medicine***

## **Podcast**

- ***"Session 1: Why Don't \_\_\_ Go To Therapy?" - Between Session Episode 1***
- ***"'Bear Our Pain': The Plea For More Black Mental Health Workers" - NPR Morning Edition***

## **Movies and Television**

- ***"The Soloist" (2009)***
- ***"Frankie & Alice" (2010)***
- ***"Contamination" (2013)***
- ***"Unsound" (2015)***
- ***"Outside The House" (2017)***
- ***"Gramercy" (2020)***
- ***"This is Us" Season 4 Episode 11***
- ***"Blackish" Season 4 Episode 2***



# Trendsetting Online



**Like greater American culture, Black people have impacted different social media trends. Many viral trends, interactions and online spaces like Black Twitter can be attributed to the Black community and innovation.**



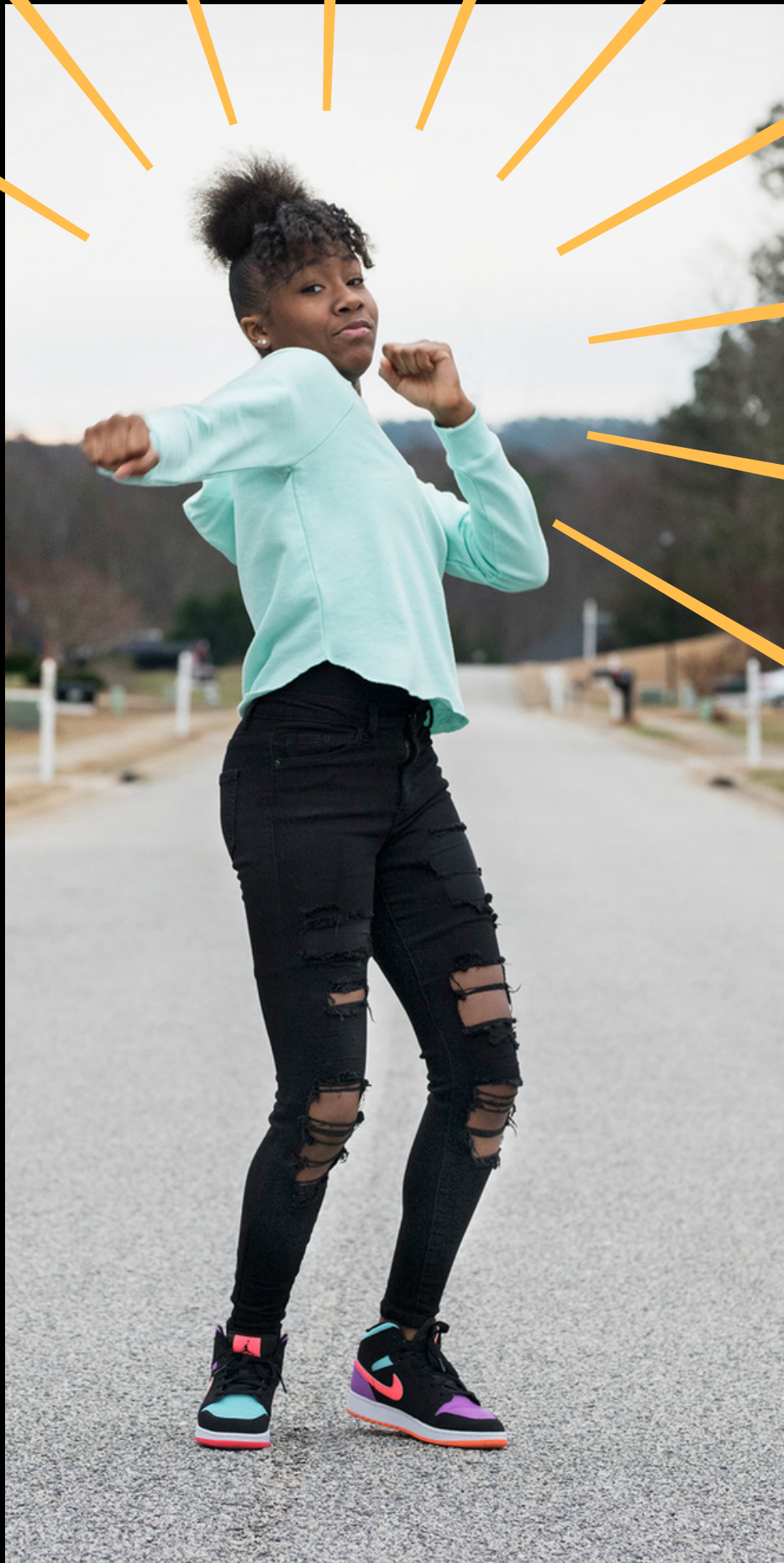


Photo of Jalaiah Harmon by Jill Frank for The New York Times

**Viral trends like social media challenges encourage people to upload videos with similar dances, skits or food in hopes of going viral.**

**Black artists create popular trends like the Renegade dance on TikTok, which was created by 15-year-old Jalaiah Harmon, and the #DontRushChallenge created by 20-year-old Toluwalase Asolo. This challenge, to the song "Don't Rush" by Young T & Bugsey, involves different people in different locations and begins with one person wearing their loungewear and then passing an object in front of the camera to appear in their best clothing. The object is then passed on to a different person to do the same thing.**



# Black Twitter

Black Twitter is a large community of Black users on Twitter. It is a virtual space for Black users to share jokes, experiences and raise awareness. The community is mostly made up of Black Americans, however Black people from other parts of the world (the African Diaspora) are also able to relate through commonalities in their experiences.

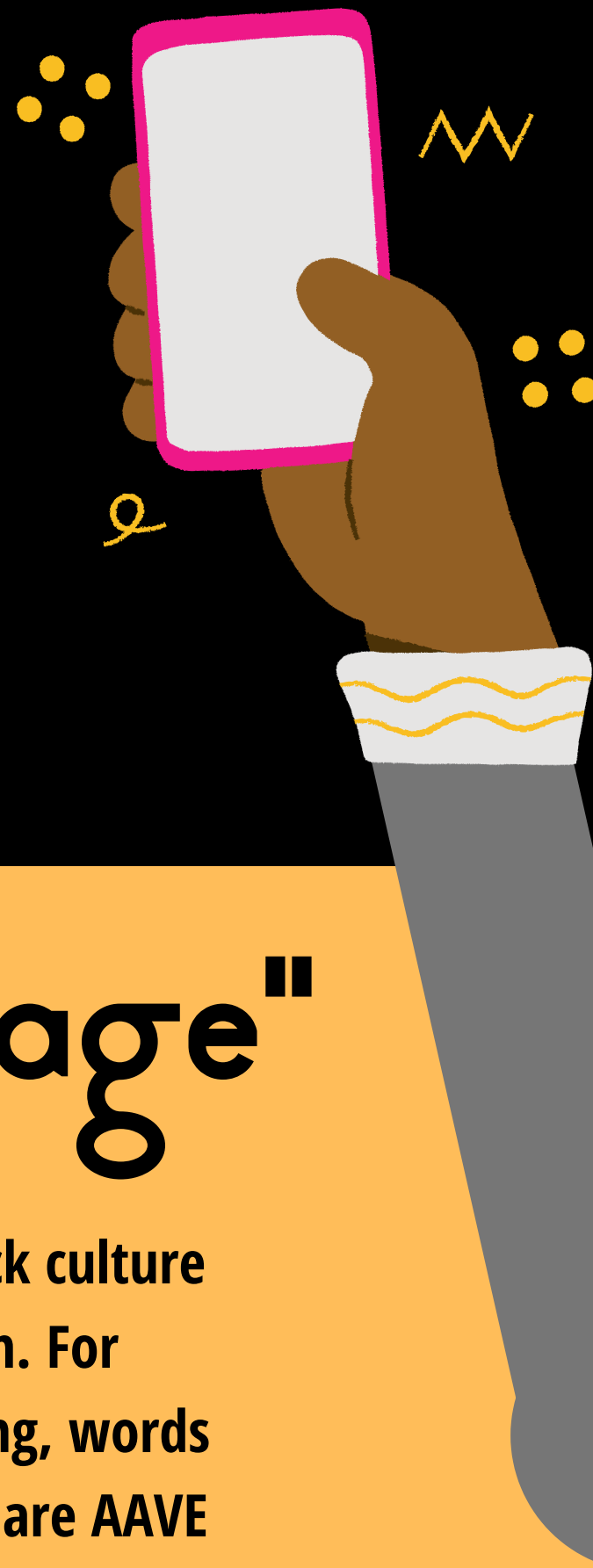
Black Twitter became very popular to the point where their jokes became a viral sensation. Take for example the jokes for December 21, in which many users shared what superpowers they were hoping to have based on a tweet stating that their DNA would be free and they would be able to do things they did not think were real.



**#BLM**  
**#BlackLivesMatter**  
**#SayHerName**  
**#PublishingPaidMe**  
**#AmplifyMelanatedVoices**

Additionally, organizing became possible through the community. During the May 2020 protests in response to the killing of George Floyd, many Black people set up times and locations to gather and protest the unjust murder.

**Moreover, social media sites like Clubhouse have gained popularity among Black social media users. The website allows users to get together in virtual rooms and communicate with their microphones. Initially, what started as an app to center discussions on technology and business, the app has now shifted into an app to discuss musicians or share jokes.**



# "Internet Language"

**The way people interact online has roots in Black culture and is ever changing because of their innovation. For example, what some may consider Internet slang, words like "chile" and phrases like "stay in your lane" are AAVE and come from Black online users. These words and phrases come from AAVE and are shared across the web. To learn more about AAVE, check out our Feb. 3 post.**



# Learn more about these subjects

## Articles

- *"The Original Renegade"* - The New York Times
- *"Ten years of Black Twitter: a merciless watchdog for problematic behavior"* - The Guardian
- *"What is Black Twitter and How it is changing the National Conversation"* - Baylor University
- *"When White Kids Grow Up on the Black Internet"* - Paper Magazine

## Movies and Videos

- *"The Reason #BlackTwitter Exists (And Is Totally Awesome)"* - Say It Loud on Youtube
- *"TikTok Has a Race Problem"* - Jouelzy on Youtube
- *"#BlackTwitter After #Ferguson"* - The New York Times on Youtube
- *"How Black Internet Culture Is Being Preserved By Historians | Mashable"* - Mashable on Youtube
- *"Digital Blackface? | Khadija Mbowe"* - Khadija Mbowe on Youtube

## Podcast

- *"Black Software author on tech's role in racial justice"* - Decoder

# UHCL International students

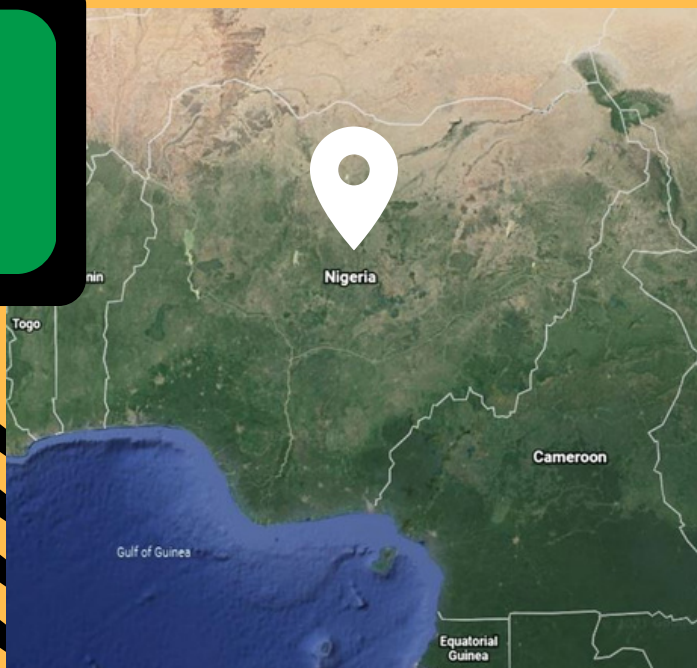


**Students come to UHCL from different countries around the world, including predominantly Black-Caribbean and African countries.**

**The following highlighted countries have populations where more than 50% of the population identifies as Black or multiracial.**

# Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a country on the western coast of Africa. The country gained independence from British rule Oct. 1, 1960. There are 36 states in the federal republic, and the city of Abuja, found in the Federal Capital Territory, is Nigeria's capital city. Additionally, Nigeria is home to more than 200 million people from diverse backgrounds. There are more than 250 ethnic groups within the country, the largest of which are the Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo groups. There are hundreds of languages spoken.

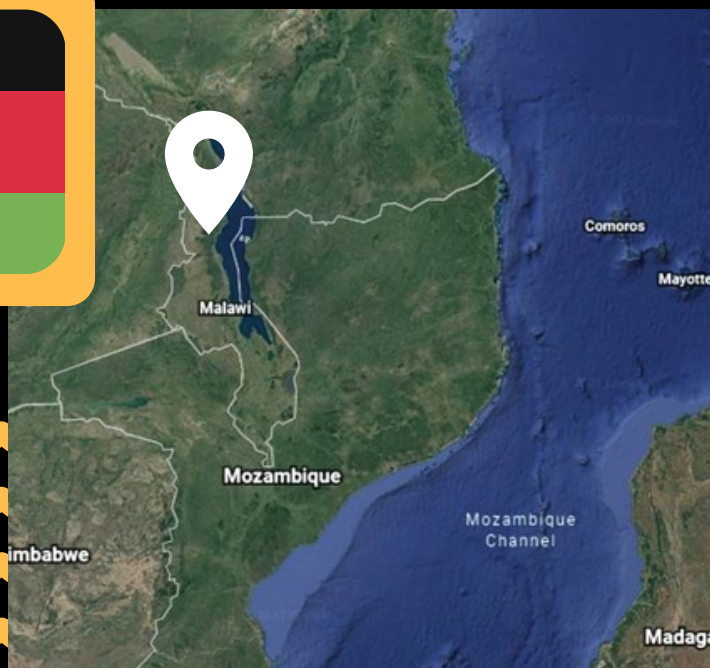


# Angola

The Republic of Angola is located in southwestern Africa. The country gained independence from Portugal Nov. 11, 1975. The country is divided into 18 provinces and has a population of over 31 million people. The capital, Luanda, is the largest city in the country, and the official language of the country is Portuguese. Behind Brazil, Angola is the second-largest Portuguese-speaking country in terms of total area and population.

# Malawi

The Republic of Malawi is a country in southeastern Africa. Malawi gained independence from the United Kingdom July 6, 1964. The country is divided into 28 districts across three regions. Lilongwe, the capital, is the largest and most populated city in the country. Malawi is home to 18 million people from different ethnic groups like the Chewa, Yao and Lomwe. The official languages are English and Chewa, but there are other regional languages like Yao and Tonga.



# Cameroon

The Republic of Cameroon is a country found in between central and west Africa. Cameroon declared independence from France Jan. 1, 1960. The capital city of Yaoundé, also spelled Yaunde, is the second-largest city in the country after Douala. The country is home to more than 24 million people. Aside from the official languages of English and French, Cameroon is home to regional languages like Cameroonian Pidgin English and Fula.




# Learn more about these subjects

## **Articles and Research**

- ***“Women and Religion in the African Diaspora: Knowledge, Power, and Performance”*** - edited by R. Marie Griffith and Barbara Dianne Savage
- ***“The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Origins of the African Diaspora in Texas”*** - PVAMU : Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture Research Glenn Chambers
- ***“Pan-Africanism”*** - South African History Online
- ***“Hip hop and Pan Africanism: from Blitz the Ambassador to Beyoncé”*** - The Conversation

## **Videos**

- ***“AFRO UNITED STATES (GULLAH GEECHEE): The African diaspora in the Unites States”*** - Freedom in Mine Official on YouTube
- ***“What is the African Diaspora”*** - African Insights on YouTube
- ***“The African Diaspora Through The Americas”*** (2016)
- ***“Exploring the African diaspora through food | Secret Table”*** - Washington Post on YouTube
- ***“Making It In 'Nollywood,' Nigeria's Booming Film Business | VICE on HBO”*** - VICE News on Youtube

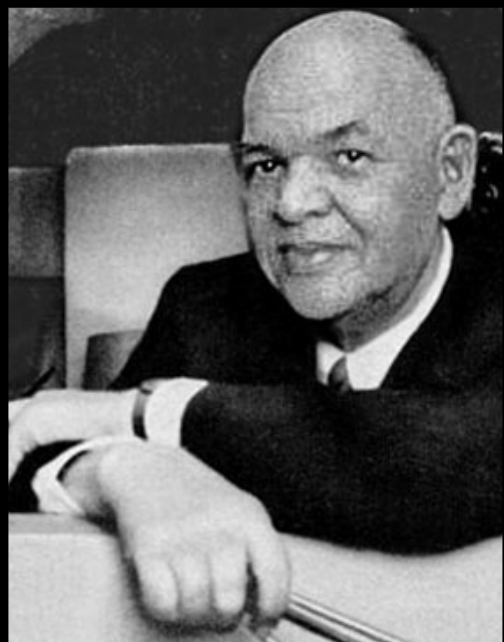


FIGHT  
WAIT.  
I WAS JUST YANKING

While very few Black comic book creators have experienced mainstream recognition, Black artists, letters, colorists, editors and writers have created important and medium-pushing work from the Golden Age of Comics (30s-50s) to the present. Here are a few of them.

# 6 Black names to know in comics





While E.C. Stoner was not the first Black illustrator, he was one of the first Black artists working in comics. Active in the 30s and 40s, Stoner was one of the artists published in Detective Comics No. 1 (Now DC Comics.) Throughout his career, he was an artist at eight companies, including both Marvel and DC.

## Elmer Cecil Stoner

Known for: *Blue Beetle, Blackstone, Master Magician & Captain Marvel*

Outside of comics, he is the suspected creator of the Mr. Peanut logo with a top hat and monocle.

Born Zelda Mavin Jackson in 1911, Ormes is known as the first Black woman in comics. Her work began publishing in high school to prestigious publications through the 1950s. Ormes' strips covered Black life and serious topics like racial equities, gender equality, McCarthyism and environmental racism. Her views resulted in an FBI investigation. Until 1990, Ormes was the only Black woman to have nationally syndicated comic strips. The Patty-Jo 'n Ginger series was so popular she released a paper doll series.

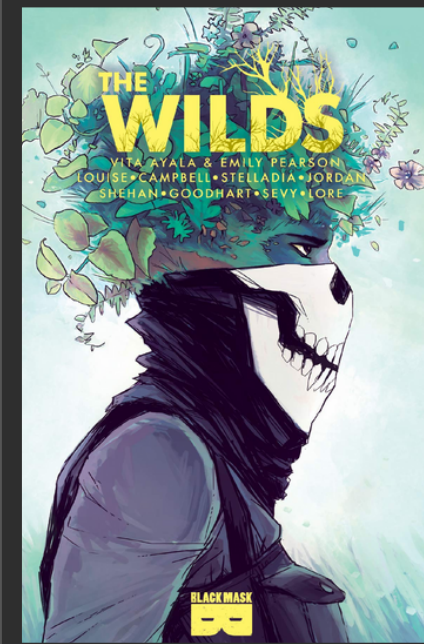


## Jackie Ormes

Known for: *Courier: Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger & Torchy Brown series*

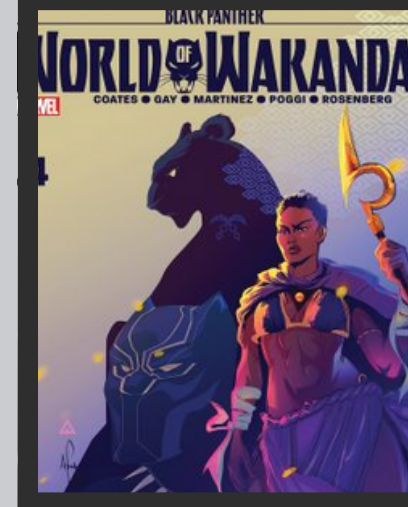
Danny Lore is a queer writer and editor. While Lore created work for Marvel (like 2020 Ironheart) and Comixology (like Quarter Killer,) Lore published much of their work under indie publishers. Lore primarily writes contemporary speculative fiction and science fiction.

Lore has worked on multiple projects with Afro-Latinx author Vita Ayala like *The Wilds* and *James Bond*.



## Danny Lore

Known for: *Quarter Killer*, *James Bond*, *Dead Beats*, *2020 Ironheart* & *The Wilds*



## Afua Richardso

Known for: *Black Panther World of Wakanda*, *Xmen 92*, *All-Star Batman* & *WildStorm*

African American artist Afua Richardso is a prominent cover artist for Image, DC and Marvel. Outside of comics, she has created artwork for *Mad Max: Fury Road* and HBO's *Lovecraft Country*.

Brittney Williams is a comic book artist whose portfolio includes work for Marvel, Image and BOOM! Studios. She is best known for her work on the Hellcat comic.

In addition to working in comics, Williams has completed storyboard work for Disney, Warner Bros., Dreamworks, Amazon Studios and Cartoon Network.



**Brittney L. Williams**  
Known for: *Hellcat, Goldie Vance & Bitter Root*

While Ta-Nehisi Coates is known by many for his award-winning novels and viral essays, he currently writes for high-profile Marvel series, notably, Captain America and several Black Panther titles. Coates is one of the few comic creatives with a MacArthur Fellowship under his belt.



**Ta-Nehisi Coates**  
Known for: *Captain America & various Black Panther series*





Black culture impacts fashion in different ways. The historical and cultural significance of Black people and their influence in fashion is seen across different areas of the industry. From statement pieces to everyday outfits trends to haute couture, these contributions are influential.

# Fashion

Performer, WW2 spy and civil rights activist Josephine Baker was one of the style icons of the 20s.





Virgil Abloh designed Louis Vuitton's Men's Fall-Winter 2021 Fashion Show.

## Haute Couture

Fashion designers like Ann Lowe, Tracy Reese and Virgil Abloh paved the way in runway fashion. Today, notable fashion houses are led or owned by Black fashion designers who dress or style celebrities and politicians.

## Statement pieces

Statement pieces like hoop earrings and bucket hats are popular pieces used to complete and enhance outfits. Much of the popularity around the pieces comes from the Black community. These mainstream accessories have appeared on runway fashion shows and celebrities.



Salt N Pepa wearing bamboo earrings.

NWA in the 90s.



TLC in the 90s.

# Everyday wear

**The popularity of trends like oversized clothes, otherwise known as “baggy,” is clear in everyday fashion. The popularity for this style came from Black hip-hop culture in the 80s. Artists would wear oversized clothes to connect with their audience because oversized was indicative of clothes being passed down from family members, which is why they would not always fit properly.**



# Learn more about this subject

## **Articles and Books**

- ***“Huge Moments In Fashion History That Were Inspired By Black Culture” - Elle***
- ***“How African Americans Have Influenced Style and Culture” - Time***
- ***“A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRENDS THAT ORIGINATED FROM BLACK COMMUNITIES” - BRICKS Magazine***
- ***“Did You Know These Popular Trends Have Ties to Black History and Culture?” - collegefashionista***
- ***“Dressed in Dreams: A Black Girl's Love Letter to the Power of Fashion” by Tanisha C. Ford***
- ***“Stylin': African American Expressive Culture from Its Beginnings to the Zoot Suit” - Graham White and Shane White***

## **Movies and Videos**

- ***“The Remix: Hip Hop X Fashion” (2019)***
- ***“Black Excellist: 10 Pioneers of Black Fashion” - Black Excellence Excellist on YouTube***
- ***“100 Years Of Black American Fashion” - As/Is on YouTube***
- ***“100 Years of Black Hair | Allure” - Allure on YouTube***
- ***“A Brief History of Black Men's Fashion” - WNYC on YouTube***

# #THROWBACK THURSDAY

Black history is happening now on our campus and in our community. Here are some of the few stories we published last year centering these experiences.

## News

**Black Student Association challenges nondiscrimination clause**

**Black Caucus reveals plans to propose CROWN Act in Texas**

## Opinions

**LIST: 10 ways to support the Black Lives Matter movement if you don't have money**

**EDITORIAL: UHCL's social responsibility is in fighting against racial injustice**

**BLOG: Ten (plus) living, brilliant Black artists to follow online**

**LIST: Influential women who rocked the music industry**

## Multimedia

**INTERACTIVE INFOGRAPHIC: Finding unity through the celebration of Kwanzaa**

**INTERACTIVE INFOGRAPHIC: How 'The Big 6' led the Civil Rights Movement**

**INFOGRAPHIC: A guide on the history and basics of intersectionality**

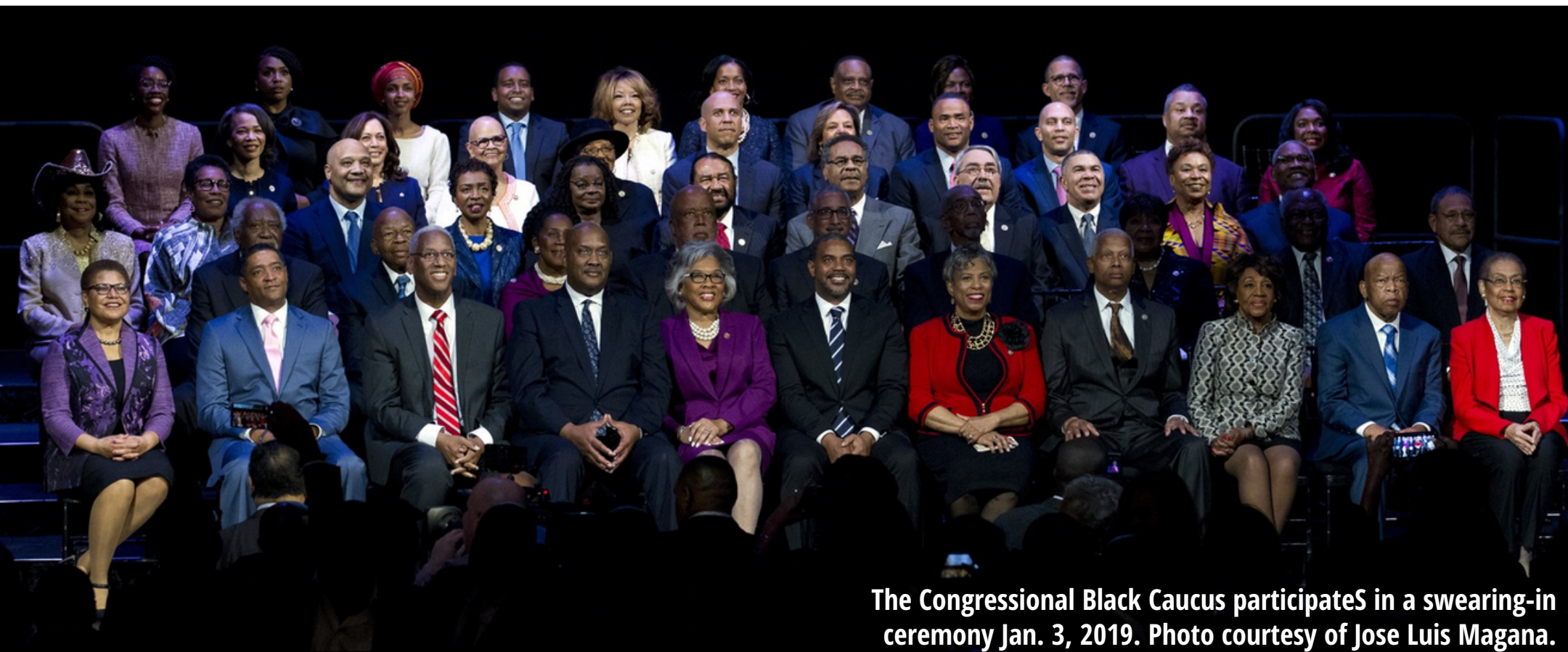
## Features

**Black support groups meet online**

**PROFILE: Joan Pedro, Dean for UHCL College of Education**

**Co-founder of Combahee River Collective to speak to UHCL**

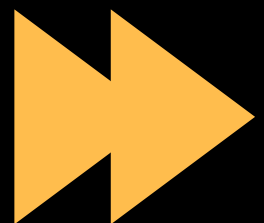
# FACT: A total of 163 Black Americans have served in Congress



The Congressional Black Caucus participates in a swearing-in ceremony Jan. 3, 2019. Photo courtesy of Jose Luis Magana.

**As of 2021, a total of 163 Black Americans have served as U.S. representatives, senators and delegates. The first Black congressmen were Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina, who were both elected to their positions in 1870.**

**The 107th Congress (2001) had 36 Black non-White House and Senate members, while the number of Black non-White House and Senate members is 59 in the 117th Congress (2021).**



**These first two members of Congress were among the 22 Black members (2 in the Senate, 20 in the House) who began their terms after the Civil War before the start of the 20th century. The presence of federal troops in the South after the Civil War increased access for civic participation, including voting, to newly freed Black citizens, if only temporarily. After the first 22 congressmen's tenures ended, there were continual periods in both chambers with no Black members.**

**Post Reconstruction, Jim Crow laws and other barriers to election participation curbed voting among people of color. Some of these barriers live on today in the form of voter identification laws and limits to suffrage on those formerly incarcerated.**



**Illustration courtesy of the Library of Congress.**

**Despite these challenges, the 117th Congress (2021) marks the sixth-consecutive session where diversity in Congress exceeds the previous meeting, with nearly a quarter of voting members (23%) being people of color.**



**After the 2018 and 2020 elections, many “firsts” among Black election officials continued to make history at local, state and federal levels. In 2020, Mondaire Jones (NY-17) and Ritchie Torres (NY-17) became the first openly gay Black members of Congress. Cori Bush (MO-01) became the first Black Lives Matter activist as well as the first Black congresswoman to represent Missouri.**

Top left and counter-clockwise: Mondaire Jones, Ritchie Torres and Cori Bush.  
Photos courtesy of Congress.gov.



# Learn more about this subject

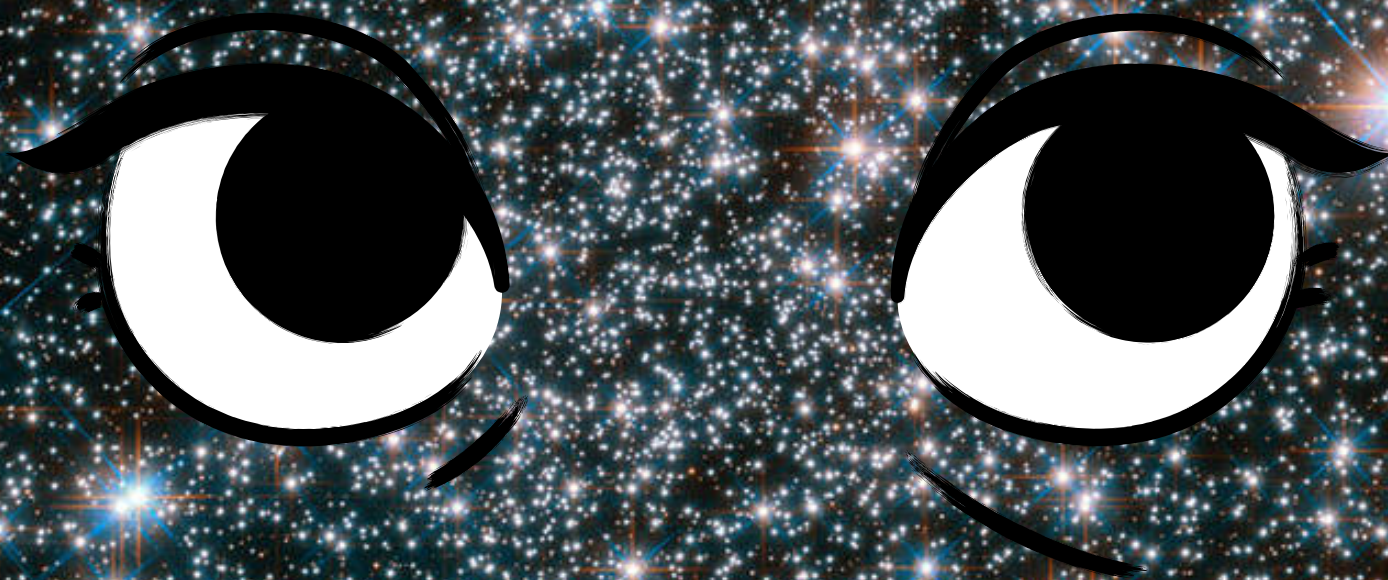
## **Research and Books**

- ***"Racial, ethnic diversity increases yet again with the 117th Congress" - Pew Research Center***
- ***"Black Americans have made gains in U.S. political leadership, but gaps remain" - Pew Research Center***
- ***"Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen" by Philip Dray***
- ***"Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box" by Evette Dionne***

## **Movies and Videos**

- ***"Whose Vote Counts, Explained" (2020)***
- ***"All In: The Fight For Democracy" (2020)***
- ***"Reconstruction: America After the Civil War" (2019)***
- ***"Black Republicans: They Exist(ed)" - Say It Loud on YouTube***
- ***"Cori Bush, Sarah McBride and other historic wins from the 2020 Congressional election" - Washington Post on YouTube***
- ***"Shirley Chisholm: First African American Congresswoman" - Timeline - World History Documentaries on YouTube***

# A F R O F U T U R I S M



**Afrofuturism is an art form that allows Black people within the African Diaspora to see themselves in the future despite a distressing past and present. If it sounds like Sci-Fi, this is because it is a sub-genre within Sci-Fi. Like Sci-Fi, Afrofuturism addresses the issues of the past and present through the lens of a future setting.**



Across the African Diaspora, histories and cultural ties have been erased through chattel slavery. This missing past and a desire to see oneself in the future is one motivation of Afrofuturism.



*"Afrofuturism draw upon the feeling of alienation inherited from the slavery of American Blacks, which it sublimates. In this conception, certain elements of Afro-American culture (such as the transcendence of spirituals) are re-imagined and transposed into new comics and legendary perspectives where the alienated become extraterrestrial."*

- Alondra Nelson

While coined in 1994 in the essay "Black to the Future: Interviews with Samuel Delany, Greg Tate, and Tricia Rose," work with Afrofuturistic themes and elements can be traced back to the late 1800s.



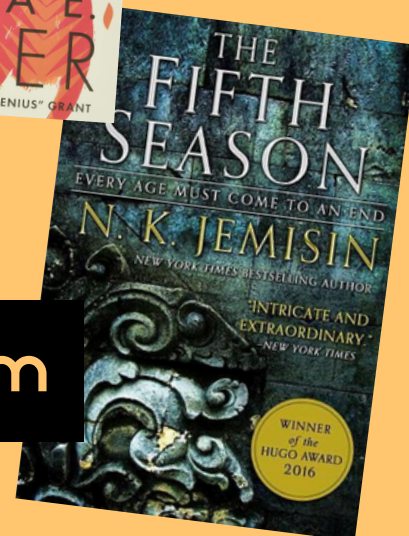
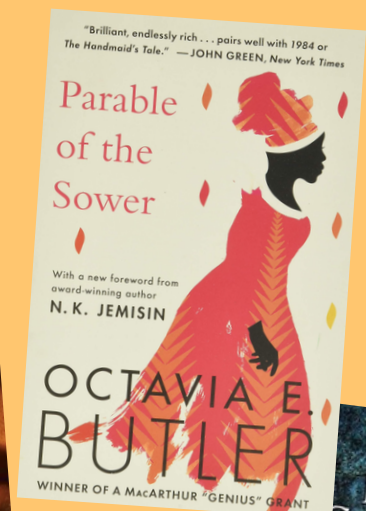
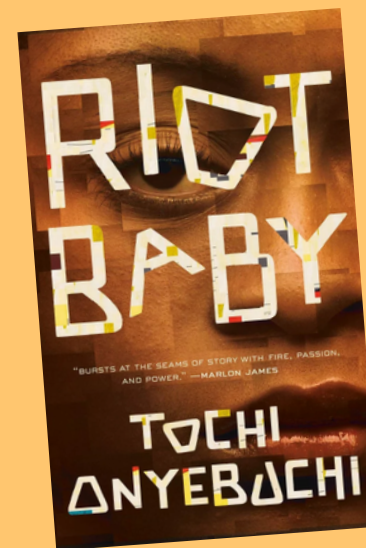


# AFRICAN FUTURISM

While some stories address the issues faced by the African Diaspora, some stories directly address issues within the many countries in Africa. This difference is labeled as Africanfuturism. Naija American (Nigerian) author Nnedi Okorafor writes that Africanfuturism is "rooted in African culture, history, mythology and point-of-view as it then branches into the Black diaspora, and it does not privilege or center the West."

## BOOK EXAMPLES

### Africanfuturism



### Afrofuturism

Left to Right: "Rosewater" by Tade Thompson, "War Girls" by Tochi Onyebuchi, "Remote Control" by Nnedi Okorafor, "Riot Baby" by Tochi Onyebuchi, "Parable of the Sower" by Octavia E. Butler and "The Fifth Season" by N.K. Jemisin.

# Learn more about these subjects

## **Books and Articles**

- *"How long 'til Black Future Month?"* edited by N. K. Jemisin
- *"Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture"* by Ytasha L. Womack
- *"Africanfuturism: An Anthology"* edited by Wole Talabi
- *"How Black Women Are Reshaping Afrofuturism"* - YES! Magazine
- *"Afrofuturism takes flight: from Sun Ra to Janelle Monáe"* The Guardian
- *"Afrofuturism, Africanfuturism, and the Language of Black Speculative Literature"* - LA Review of Books

## **Movies and Videos**

- *"Space Is the Place"* (1974)
- *"The Last Angel of History"* (1996)
- *"They Charge for the Sun"* (2016)
- *"Dirty Computer"* (2018)
- *"Afrofuturism: From Books to Blockbusters | It's Lit"* - Storied on YouTube
- *"Afrofuturism Explained: Not Just Black Sci-Fi"* - Inverse on YouTube
- *"What Missy Elliott did for Afrofuturism"* - Say It Loud on YouTube
- *"Why should you read sci-fi superstar Octavia E. Butler?"* - Ayana Jamieson and Moya Bailey" - TED-Ed on YouTube

