



DUKE-UNC CONSORTIUM FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES OUTREACH PROGRAM

## **Recommended Resources for Teaching about Malcolm X**

**\*Resources suggested by scholars during the Teaching Malcolm X Roundtable, MalcolmX50 Conference, presented by the Duke Islamic Studies Center, UNC-Chapel Hill, February 2015.**

**Resources appropriate for secondary and community college educators.**

### **Resources on Malcolm X**

- **“Malcolm X: Make it Plain” – PBS Documentary available online.**  
This in-depth film portrait goes straight to the heart, mind and message of one of the modern era's most complex figures. The film chronicles Malcolm X's journey from his birth (1925) in Omaha, Nebraska, to his assassination at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City on February 21, 1965. His compelling story is told through the memories of people who had close personal and working relationships with him. Available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zIGNkR62Mo>
- **Classroom Idea: Showing a video clip of Elijah Muhammad speaking one week, Malcolm X the next,** so students can compare and contrast both speakers. An example of a clip that could be used is a prominent video that shows Malcolm X responding to aggressive reporters with elegance and charisma, showing his strong leadership and character.
- **Primary Source Documents: FBI Files about Malcolm X.**  
Available by searching on <http://www.fbi.gov/>.
- **FBI Interview with Malcolm X, February 4, 1964.**  
Transcript available here: <http://malcolmxfiles.blogspot.com/2013/06/a-visit-from-fbi-february-4-1964.html>
- **Listen to Malcolm X's Speeches.**  
“The Last Message” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra7VAGmZUxo>  
“A Message to the Grass Roots” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a59Kwp35Z80>
- ***Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* by Manning Marable.**  
Reaching into Malcolm's troubled youth, this book traces a path from Malcolm's parents' activism as followers of Marcus Garvey through his own work with the Nation of Islam and rise in the world of black nationalism, and culminates in the story of his assassination. This book is hailed as "a masterpiece" by the San Francisco Chronicle, and was winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for History.
- ***Remembering Malcolm* by David Gallen.**  
This text works well for undergraduates. "A memoir that shows the private Malcolm as a man who spoke far more of obedience, moderation, and peace than he did of violence." --Atlanta Journal & Constitution. The book provides an account of Malcolm X animated Black Muslims in 1960s Harlem. It

discusses his role in the daily lives of the people there, and how he shaped the local customs surrounding courtship, marriage rites, and religious observations.

- **Heated exchange of letters between two icons for the Black Freedom Movement, Jackie Robinson and Malcolm X.**

Available on this website: <http://www.realdesignmedia.com/firstclass/read.html#x>. You can find a more extensive collection of the Malcolm X/Jackie Robinson correspondence on H-Net, Humanities and Social Science Online.

### **Further resources on the African American experience and African American Muslims**

- ***Islam in the African-American Experience, Second Edition* by Richard Brent Turner.**  
Good text for contextualizing Islam in the African American experience
- **“The Trials of Muhammad Ali” movie, (2013).**  
No conventional sports documentary, this movie explores it’s subject's life outside the boxing ring. From joining the controversial Nation of Islam and changing his name from Cassius Clay to Muhammad Ali, to his refusal to serve in the Vietnam War in the name of protesting racial inequality, to his global humanitarian work, Muhammad Ali remains an inspiring and controversial figure.
- ***Return of the Mecca: The Art of Islam and Hip-Hop*, Edited by Sohail Daulatzai.**  
Showcases how Islam has deeply impacted the world of art and culture. Features an extended interview with Yasiin Bey (aka Mos Def), essays by Chuck D and Sohail Daulatzai, photographs, album cover art, flyers and other collected memorabilia.
- **Debate between Huey P. Newton (African-American activist and co-founder of the Black Panther Party) and Lerone Bennett (African-American scholar, author and social historian).**  
Disagreements over a 1971 American independent drama film about African Americans (mature content). The debate is over representation and Blackness, revolution vs. exploitation.

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