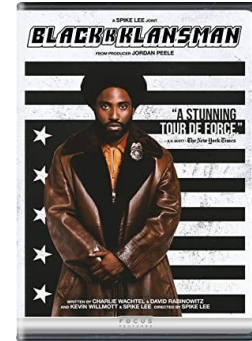
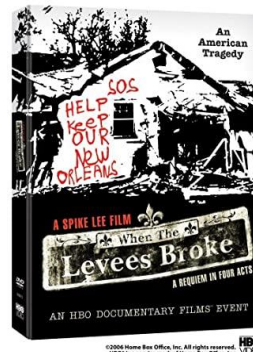
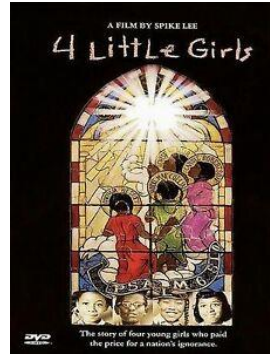
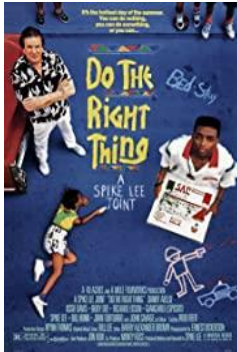


2021-2022

# Interdisciplinary Research Seminar (CHIIRS)

Sponsored by The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry



Sep 17, Oct 1, Nov 5, and Dec 10, 2021  
12pm-1:30pm via Zoom

## The Right Thing in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America The Films That Understand Why Black People Revolt

Facilitator: Beretta E. Smith-Shomade, PhD, MFA, Associate Professor  
Department of Film and Media

Filmmaker Spike Lee has been a part of national consciousness for 35 years. His cinematic voice emerged in the 1980s and helped foster a renaissance or at least, a revisiting of Black cinema. Lee's more than fifty narrative films, documentaries, music videos and commercials shape, define and invigorate American visual culture. A central aspect of Lee's visioning concerns itself with conundrums existing in and represented through Black America.

In this seminar, we focus on four Lee films that make you understand why Black people "wanna holler." In other words, looking critically via socio-political, aesthetic and cultural lenses, we take up his works that very directly address systemic problems endemic to the U.S.—racism, police abuse of power, violence, and revolt. Through screenings, readings, and discussion, we explore Spike Lee's filmic oeuvre and the nature of late 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century America.

This seminar is open to any faculty or graduate student interested in discussing Lee's work and insights into our social condition. Before each of the seminar meetings, participants need to screen the relevant film and do the reading for shared context. Please contact Kennedy Baskin [kennedy.nicole.baskin@emory.edu](mailto:kennedy.nicole.baskin@emory.edu) if you are interested in joining us.

September 17	<i>Do the Right Thing</i> (1989)
October 1	<i>4 Little Girls</i> (1997)
November 5	<i>When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts</i> (2006)
December 10	<i>BlackKkKlansman</i> (2018)

*We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*