

REVOLUTIONARY SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

# Orientation Packet



**PAN AFRICANISM**  
**AND THE STRUGGLE FOR OUR FUTURE**  
**JULY-AUGUST 6 WEEKS COURSE**



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## **Welcome to Revolutionary Summer School: Pan Africanism and the Struggle for Our Future!**

In this document, you will find information regarding the course organization, logistics and expectations, the class schedule, and study tips.

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## **ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY SUMMER SCHOOL 2023**

**Revolutionary Summer School @ TPF is a hybrid course for organizers, visionaries and all people advancing resistance to oppression.** We intend for this program to provide a structured path of study to build capacity to engage with revolutionary theory and encourage participants to organize in working class movements. We hope that those who participate in this program will continue their studies as lifelong students of revolution, and share the resources and replicate their knowledge as widely as possible with their communities.

### **Pan Africanism and the Struggle for Our Future**

The struggle for liberation on the African continent and in the diaspora has a rich history that has spanned centuries and has initiated political and cultural paths that still guide our struggles today. Pan Africanism—a term used to describe the ways of thinking, of relating, and of building organizations and ties of solidarity, that are united in the common purpose of liberation for all African peoples and their descendants—is an ongoing project that we must study, not only to recover history that has been hidden, but also to see the horizon that we are fighting for

# **PAN AFRICANISM**

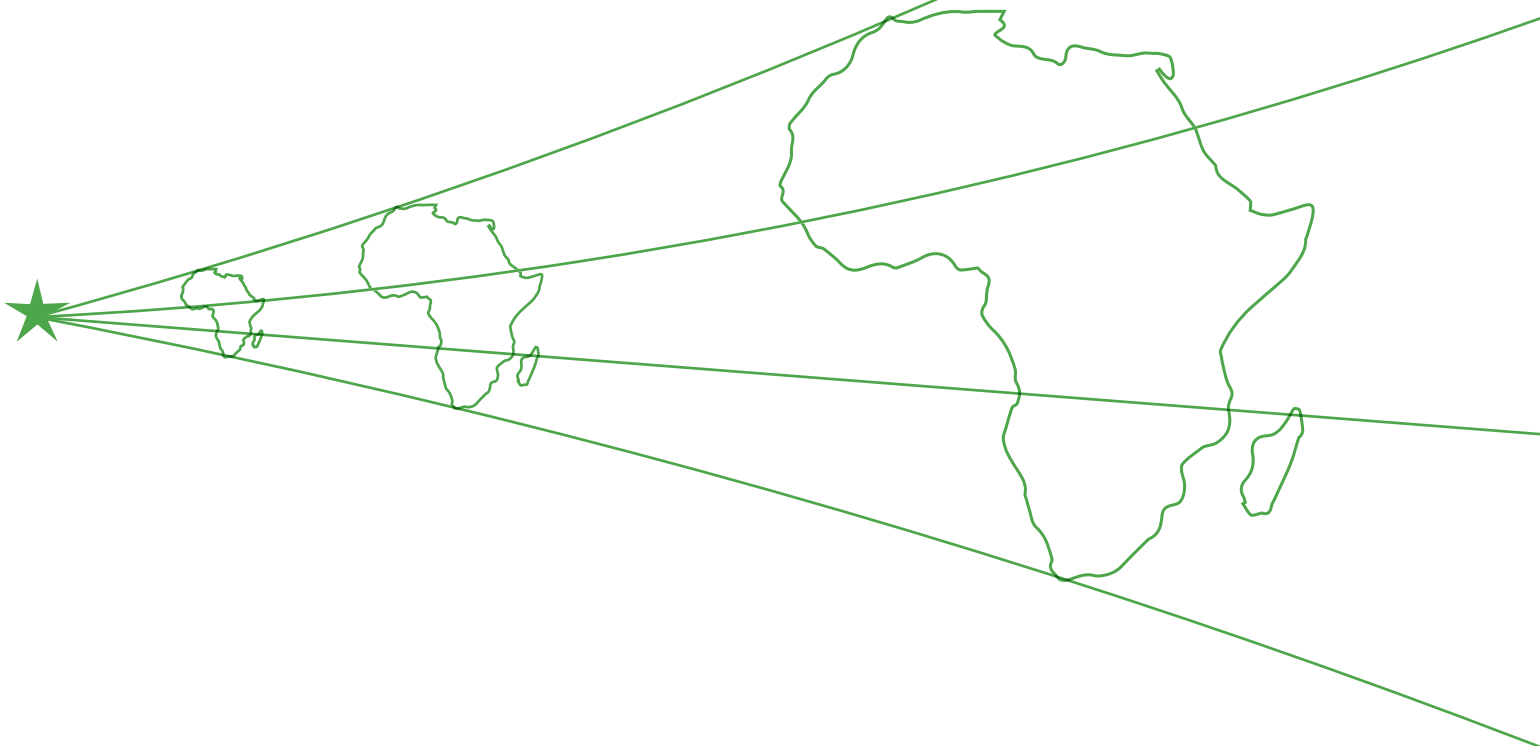
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with more clarity. From W.E.B. Du Bois to Amilcar Cabral, from the early abolitionists in the Americas to the experiences of building socialist societies on territories liberated from European colonialism, the people and struggles of the African continent have been and remain on the front-lines of the global struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

Today, the African continent's fight for self-determination is facing significant challenges. As the US escalates its battle for global domination, it is rapidly intensifying its aggressions on the African continent. With its eyes on the wealth of natural resources and cheap labor, the US empire has used every tool available — from military invasions, occupations, sanctions, and misinformation, to keep the continent, its peoples and its wealth under its control. With the urgency needed to respond effectively to shifts in the current moment, our summer school intends to not only expose the US imperialist agenda and its global consequences, but also to deepen our understanding of the interconnected histories and futures of African and American peoples. We will uplift the concrete proposals that Pan Africanism has generated, historically and today, for an alternative future for humanity and a path to liberation that is guided by socialist forms of organization and internationalist values.



## The People's Forum

The People's Forum is an accessible educational and cultural space in New York City that nurtures the next generation of visionaries and organizers who believe that, through collective action, a new world is possible. Our space serves as a movement incubator for working class and marginalized communities to build unity across historic lines of division at home and abroad. We are a group of organizers, educators, visionaries, cultural workers, thinkers and fighters committed to the systemic transformation of society towards one rooted in equity, justice and human dignity. [Visit our website](#) to learn more!

**This year, we are celebrating 5 years of being a home for the people!** Throughout these 5 years, thousands of people from far and wide have walked through our doors or joined us online for accessible political education classes, concerts, films, book talks, cultural events, and lots more. We remain committed to building working class unity, and we need your help to do so. Check out [5years.peoplesforum.org](https://5years.peoplesforum.org) for more information and to support TPF!

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## CONTACT

Please write to our education team at any time with questions or feedback! [education@peoplesforum.org](mailto:education@peoplesforum.org)

Once the program begins, your workgroup coordinator will also serve as another point of contact with any questions or concerns you may have.

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## COURSE MATERIALS

**All materials can be accessed through the Political Education Resource Platform.** There is a student portal specific to this course, which will hold weekly readings, the course calendar, recordings, and other information.

Directions:

- Go to [politicaleducation.peoplesforum.org/rss2023](https://politicaleducation.peoplesforum.org/rss2023)
- Click 'Enter Student Portal'
- Put in password: forourfuture

Feel free to check out the rest of the resource platform, which has related resources, reading lists, multimedia, and lecture recordings, and much more!

**Check out our bookstore [1804 Books](#), which features selections from Pan African revolutionary leaders, such as Thomas Sankara, Kwame Nkrumah, Samir Amin, W.E.B. DuBois, Frantz Fanon, as well as selections about Africa's history and revolution from across the African continent, the U.S., and Latin America and the Caribbean.**

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## **METHODOLOGY**

We have organized all classes and lectures in four **STUDY BLOCKS**:

To build a better society, we need to be able to intervene in the different dimensions of the way society is organized and how we engage with our conditions. These study blocks serve as tools to organize the content of our classes in a way that will build necessary knowledge for both analysis and action.

Classes are often a mix of more than one study block - for example, studying the history of the liberation struggle in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde is not only a study of revolutionary history but of organizational theory! As you go throughout the course and expand your study practice beyond the course, think about which study block(s) each class falls into, and how the blocks interact with each other.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

This study block deals with the way that people think, understand, and analyze the world. Topics will include Marxist philosophy, revolutionary theory, and concrete analysis.

### **POLITICAL ECONOMY**

This study block deals with the laws of motion and mechanics of capitalism. Topics will include global finances and trade, labor, resource exploitation, and the production and distribution of wealth.

### **REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY**

This study block deals with the history of class struggle. Through investigating the material conditions of struggle and development of people's movements we aim to gain a better understanding of our revolutionary legacies, lessons, and potential for the continued development of a unified working class movement. Topics include a wide range of experiences and lessons of class struggle and revolutionary movements both in the US and internationally.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL THEORY**

This study block deals with the way that movements are formed and organized. Topics are best posed as questions: How does the working-class build power? How did revolutionary organizations analyze and make decisions to further their struggle? What obstacles did they face? How do, and how did revolutionary organizations build unity and internationalism?

## **TRANSVERSAL THEMES:**

We consider **GENDER, RACE, CULTURE, and INTERNATIONALISM** as themes that are transversal — in other words, these themes intersect with all topics of study. You will find readings and supplementary materials that consider these themes in form and in content as much as possible for all classes and lectures. We encourage you to consider these themes in your study and discussions.

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## **LOGISTICS AND EXPECTATIONS**

There are two ways to participate in this course. **Please confirm your participation in the course using the [confirmation form](#) by June 30 at midnight.** Please note that collective work track assignments will be finalized after orientation.

### **COLLECTIVE WORK TRACK**

In addition to the weeknight classes, participants in the collective work track are assigned to a work group for the duration of the course. **Work Groups meet on Saturdays from 1-4 PM ET** (and may need to meet outside of class hours) for discussion on lecture topics, conceptual review and to work on completing a group project throughout the 6 weeks.

### **SELF-PACED TRACK**

Participants can join us for weeknight live classes, whether in-person or online, and will be put in touch with other participants in this track to organize discussion groups that work for your schedules, and will receive all course materials. Participants are not assigned to a work group and are not required to attend the Saturday sessions.

**!** Regardless of which option you choose, you will have access to class resources and will receive a **certificate if you complete the course!**



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#### **WHATSAPP CHAT**

You can [join our course whatsapp chat](#) for announcements and to stay updated!

#### **IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION**

For those in the New York area, please join us in-person at The People's Forum, at 320 W 37th Street, New York NY 10018 (between 8th and 9th avenues). To get to TPF, you can take the 1, 2, 3, 7, A, C, E, M, N, Q, R trains. TPF is an accessible building, with elevators and wheelchair accessible gender neutral bathrooms



#### **VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION**

The classes will be held over Zoom. If you do not have Zoom installed on your device, [please download it here](#). Please contact us if you need any assistance.

Zoom links for the classes will be shared each week so please keep an eye on your email inbox, and your spam folder just in case. Please do not share this, it is for enrolled participants only. When you join the Zoom call, edit your name so that it shows how you would like to be addressed (preferred name, pronoun, any other preferences). Let us know if you need assistance with this.

During class, please mute your microphone unless it is your turn to speak. With a large number of participants, we will often rely on the use of the chat to moderate discussion and take questions. If you would like to make a comment or ask a question, type your name into the chat. We will use the chat to take stack and we will let you know when it is your turn to speak. Please follow the educator's proposed method to make your comments and questions.

Please do not screen record, take photographs, or share the recordings or any information about the individual participants outside of this class or on social media. This space is a private space for participants to feel comfortable engaging and challenging themselves, and we will rely on your understanding to ensure we can maintain it in this way.

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#### **ATTENDANCE**

Classes are held on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 6:30-8:30 PM ET with some exceptions (see the class schedule below). Collective work sessions take place on Saturdays between 1 - 4 PM ET. If anything changes with the schedule, we will notify you beforehand.

*\*Work groups may need to meet outside of the scheduled times as well. Your group coordinator will find a time that works for the group needs.*

We will take attendance and keep track of participation - participants must write their name in the zoom chat upon entering to be considered present. Those who have completed the full program will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

We understand that life happens! If you need to miss a session, please reach out to us and let us know, and please use the provided study materials and/or reach out to your fellow participants to go over what you have missed. Ongoing participation is required to complete this course.

#### **WORK GROUPS**

Work group assignments will be announced during the first week of the course in preparation for the first work group meeting on **Saturday, July 8 at 1 PM ET**. We will do our best to create work groups balanced in composition and size to allow for collaboration and discussion.

The main activities of the work group will be concept review and discussion during the first half of Saturday meetings and collaboration on a group project during the second half of the day. Collaborative projects will likely need to be continued outside of class time, and your group will self-organize any necessary meetings.

Each work group will have two group coordinators. Coordinators will be responsible for organizing meetings outside of class time and following up on the tasks related to the collaborative project, as well as joining in coordinator meetings.

We will provide more detailed orientation and guidance regarding the form, content, and theme of the collaborative projects during Week 2 of the course.



## CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME (ET)
0	Participant Orientation (online only)	TPF Education	June 29	7 PM ET
1 The African Continent	Africa: The Continent, Peoples and Struggles	Mikaela Erskog	July 5 + 6	6:30-8:30 PM
	Geography of Colonialism and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	Mikaela Erskog	July 7	6:30-8:30 PM
COLLECTIVE WORK SESSION		—	July 8	1-4 PM
2 Pan Africanism: Foundations and Proposals	Precursors of Pan Africanism	Hakim Adi	July 12 + 13	6:30-8:30 PM
COLLECTIVE WORK SESSION		—	July 15	1-4 PM
3 Building Socialism	Bolshevik Revolution and its Impact on the Third World	Manolo de los Santos	July 19	6:30-8:30 PM
	Internationalism and Pan Africanism	Manolo de los Santos	July 20	6:30-8:30 PM
	Education for Liberation	Sonia Vaz Boges	July 21	6:30-8:30 PM
	Reading Cabral in Context	Desmond Fonseca	July 22	12-2PM [open to all participants]
	'Navigating the Pilot School' and 'Mangrove School' Film Screening + Discussion	Sonia Vaz Borges	July 22	4:30 PM ET [in-person only]
COLLECTIVE WORK SESSION		—	July 22	2-4 PM

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WEEK	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME (ET)
4 <b>Pan Africanism: The Political Project of the Diaspora</b>	Pan Africanism and Black Liberation in the US	Joshua Myers	July 25	6:30-8:30 PM
	Pan Africanism in Latin America and the Caribbean	David Austin	July 26	6:30-8:30 PM
	Formation of the Black Left in the US	Eugene Puryear	July 27	6:30-8:30 PM
<b>COLLECTIVE WORK SESSION</b>		—	July 29	1-4 PM
5 <b>The Imperialist Assault</b>	Debt and Neocolonialism	Grieve Chelwa	August 1	6:30-8:30 PM
	AFRICOM and Hybrid War	Kambale Musavuli	August 2	6:30-8:30 PM
	NATO and US Intervention	Essam Elkorghli and Samar al-Bulushi	August 3	6:30-8:30 PM
	Intro to Eritrea	Amb. Sophia Tesfamariam Yohannes	August 4	6:30-8:30 PM
<b>COLLECTIVE WORK SESSION</b>		—	July 5	1-4 PM
6 <b>Pan Africanism Today</b>	African Cinema	Yasmina Price	August 8	6:30-8:30 PM
	Today's conjuncture and sites of struggle	TPF Education	August 9 + 10	6:30-8:30 PM
	Perspectives on the Pan African Horizon	TPF Education	August 11	6:30-8:30 PM
<b>COLLECTIVE WORK SESSION</b>		—	August 12	1-4 PM

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## **STUDY TIPS FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION**

### **1 Planning for Study**

**Necessary:** Making time for study is very difficult for most of us. To make sure to devote any time to study and especially to turn it into a habit, putting it on a schedule is absolutely necessary. At the beginning of the week, make a schedule and think carefully about what time that week you could fit in any amount of studying. Consider things like, when you are likely to achieve better focus (for some people the early morning hours are ideal because a busy home is quiet and still), the times of the day when you are most productive and awake, moments of the day or the week where you can be undisturbed and have access to places in your home that others won't be using, etc.

### **2 Have a clear objective**

**Necessary:** Having a clear sense of what you want to achieve with your study is very helpful to stay motivated and to stick to a study commitment. You can start by reminding yourself why you have decided that doing this study is important. Political education unlike academic study is not oriented by the achievement of personal and/or professional aspirations, but rather is connected to a commitment to the development of a political project for our class. Therefore it may be helpful to constantly remind yourself why your organization is counting on you to develop and cultivate knowledge and to think of how important your contribution as an educator is, to the movement you are a part of.

**Optional:** Specific study goals such as, hours or minutes of study per week, or number of pages read can be helpful for some people to stick to a study program. It's also an option to create daily, weekly or monthly trackers of how much study hours or pages you are completing which for some people can be encouraging. Studying theory, especially dense content like economy or philosophy requires endurance, much like exercise. At first it is very common for people to only manage to concentrate for 10 minutes or less. However, with time, your endurance is likely to improve and you will be able to sit for much longer and focus on difficult reading.

### **3 Create the necessary conditions for focused studying**

**Necessary:** Having a space to study that is conducive to focus is key. The most important elements to guarantee are a space where you are comfortable and undisturbed. Make sure you have comfortable seating and appropriate lighting because if your back starts aching and your eyes start hurting you are unlikely to sit for more than a few minutes and you won't be able to focus. Also essential to focused studying is that you put your phone on do not disturb, close e-mail apps, and make sure that you will not be called on to attend to any domestic chores during the time that you are planning to study.

**Optional:** For some people, creating a "study ambience" by playing music, having a clutter-free space, and even some form of decoration, can really help to make study a pleasant experience and not feel like a punishment.

## **4 TAKE NOTES!**

Necessary: Your ability to understand, absorb and remember what you are studying requires some form of organized note-taking, and a system. Very few people are able to remember the content of a theoretical text well, in such a way that they can explain it, use it to teach, refer to it when writing an article or even to disagree with its arguments. There are many note-taking methods and there is a lot of content on YouTube and Instagram that explains all of them.

### **Some basic ideas to get started:**

Theoretical texts are always making one major argument, with many supporting arguments. It is important to try to identify these. You can do this by highlighting what looks like a major argument with one color and the supporting arguments with another color; by articulating the question that the author is trying to answer and writing that in your notes; and by making an outline of the key arguments in your notes. Arguments are often if not always supported by evidence that the author is providing. It is important to distinguish in your notes (or in highlighting colors) what is an argument and what is the evidence that is being provided for that argument.

Always start reading notes with a heading that includes the name of the text, the author, and the date the text was written (you may also want to write a complete citation which includes the publisher or publication and other information). This is very important because if you find notes in the future and you can't remember what text they came from, it will become very difficult to use them for either a piece you are writing, a class or even to make an argument.

Create a system to save your notes in an organized way. Your notes can be very useful months or years from now as you are preparing to teach a class or maybe as you are taking on another reading that has a relation to what you are reading now. Filing your notes in a way that they are easy to find is key because it saves you all the effort of having to re-read something you already read just because you can't remember where your notes are.

**Optional:** As you go through the course, create your own glossary of terms and concepts that you are learning and that are often referenced in your readings. You can also reference the [TPF glossary](#) in this process, and add examples, expand upon definitions, etc. Also, create a list organized by topics of other readings that you think you may want to or need to read. Most theoretical texts are building on previous knowledge or arguing with other ideas, or supporting theses that other authors have created with new evidence. Reading through footnotes and the bibliographies of a text can also help you to find more sources for a specific topic that interests you, and that the author didn't necessarily go deep into. Keeping a list of texts you want to read later, ensures that you are continuing to deepen your knowledge base.

[Here are some note taking methods.](#) Try them out and see which of them you like best for your way of studying!