



CENTER FOR CIVIL  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS



The Clark Atlanta University Department of History announces an extraordinary sankofa odyssey, a literary sojourn...

*W.E.B. Du Bois*  
THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY YEARS IN PRINT

# ***SOULS OF BLACK FOLK & THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEGACY OF DR. DU BOIS***

The Center for Civil and Human Rights  
2016 John Lewis Fellowship with Humanity in Action

**Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans**

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Clark Atlanta University

# PREFACE

# SOCIAL REGENERATION

## MY EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF WISDOM, STRENGTH, AND HOPE

The function of the Negro college, then, is clear: it must maintain the standards of popular education, **it must seek the social regeneration of the Negro**, and it must help in the solution of problems of race contact and co-operation.

Du Bois, 1903

“On the Training of Black Men,” *Souls of Black Folk*

It is well enough to pause a moment for retrospection, introspection, and prospection. **We look back**, not to become inflated with conceit because of the depths from which we have arisen, but that we may learn wisdom from experience. **We look within** that we may gather together once more our forces, and... address ourselves to the tasks before us. **We look forward** with hope and trust....

Anna Julia Cooper, 1892

“Womanhood: A Vital Element to the **Regeneration** and Progress of the Race,” *Voice from the South, by a Black Woman of the South*

# OUTLINE

## LOCATING A LEGACY

### History, Story, and Herstory

#### Look Back(pretext)

**History:** Reading Du Bois from various social locations (North, South, Global, and Atlanta U)

#### Look Inside (text)

**Story:** Reading *Souls of Black Folk* through the UN Declaration of Human Rights

#### Look Forward (context)

**Herstory:** Applications and contemporary relevance of Du Bois's legacy

# LOOK BACK

## CHRONOLOGY I - ORIGINS

- ◉ **1868 Born 23 February, Great Barrington**
- ◉ 1884 Graduates, Great Barrington H.S.
- ◉ 1886- 1887 Teaches at Black school near Alexandria, Tennessee, two summers
- ◉ 1891 MA in history, Harvard
- ◉ **1892 Study at Friedrich Wilhelm University** in Berlin, Germany on Slater Fund grant; 1893 Grant extended
- ◉ 1894 Teaching classics, Wilberforce U. Xenia, Ohio
- ◉ **1895 PhD in history. First Black PhD from Harvard**
- ◉ 1896 Marries Nina Gomer, student at Wilberforce. Doctoral thesis, *The Suppression of the African Slave-Trade to United States of America, 1638- 1870*, published as first volume of Harvard's Historical Monograph Series

# CHRONOLOGY II - ATLANTA U

- ◎ **1897 Professor of history & economics, Atlanta University**
  - Founds American Negro Academy with Alexander Crummell
  - **Begins editing the *Atlanta University Studies* (1898- 1914)**
  - First child, Burghardt Corner Du Bois, born in Great Barrington on 2 October
- ◎ **1899 *The Philadelphia Negro* published by University of Pennsylvania**
- ◎ **1900 Attends first Pan-African Congress in London, declares that “the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.”**
  - Enters an exhibit at Paris Exposition and wins grand prize for his display on black economic development
  - Daughter Nina Yolande born 21 October in Great Barrington
- ◎ **1902 Booker T. Washington offers Du Bois teaching position at Tuskegee Institute, Du Bois declines**

# CHRONOLOGY III - NAACP

- ◉ **1903** *The Souls of Black Folk*
- ◉ 1905 Holds the first conference of Niagara Movement
- ◉ 1906 Atlanta riots, wife & daughter to Great Barrington
- ◉ 1909 The National Negro Committee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- ◉ **1910** *Moves to New York City to found and edit The Crisis, official publication of the NAACP.* Appointed director of publications and research for NAACP; only black board member
- ◉ 1915 Booker T. Washington dies
- ◉ 1919 Organizes the first Pan-African Conference in Paris
- ◉ **1920** *Publishes Darkwater: Voices from within the Veil*
- ◉ 1927 The fourth and last Pan-African Conference is held in New York City

# CHRONOLOGY IV - RACE & PEACE

- ◉ 1934 Resigns as editor of *The Crisis* and from NAACP. Accepts chair in sociology at Atlanta University
- ◉ 1935 Publishes *Black Reconstruction*
- ◉ 1940 Founds and edits *Phylon*, a quarterly magazine on black issues. Publishes autobiography, *Dusk of Dawn*.
- ◉ 1944 Despite his protests, he is retired by Atlanta University
- ◉ 1945 Consultant at conference that drafts United Nations charter, in San Francisco with Mary McLeod Bethune and Walter White
- ◉ 1948 Fired from the NAACP after memorandum critical of Walter White and the NAACP board in *New York Times*
- ◉ 1949 Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace in New York City
- ◉ 1950 Nina Gomer Du Bois dies in July; 1951 Marries Shirley Graham, aged 45.
  - Indicted earlier that month as an “unregistered foreign agent” under the McCormick Act: Du Bois, along with four other officers of the Peace Information Center, is alleged to be agents of foreign interests. He is handcuffed, searched, and fingerprinted, released on bail in Washington, D.C. Five-day trial in Washington ends in acquittal

# CHRONOLOGY V - TO AFRICA

- ◉ **1952 Publishes *In Battle for Peace*, an account of the trial. The State Department refuses Du Bois a passport.** Demands statement declaring he is not a Communist Party member; Du Bois refuses
- ◉ 1958 Du Bois's ninetieth birthday at Roosevelt Hotel, NYC; 2,000 people attend. Begins *The Autobiography of*. Supreme Court allows passport
- ◉ **1960 Participates in Ghana's establishment as a republic.** Travels to Nigeria for inauguration of first African governor-general
- ◉ 1961 Du Bois accepts Kwame Nkrumah invitation to move to Ghana and direct revival of *Encyclopedia Africana*
- ◉ 1962 *Autobiography* published in Soviet Union; Travels to China
- ◉ **1963 Becomes a citizen of Ghana. Turns ninety-five in February. Dies in Accra, Ghana, on 27 August, on the eve of the civil rights march on Washington;** Du Bois is buried in a state funeral in Accra on the 29th
- ◉ **1968 *The Autobiography of W. E. B. Du Bois* is published in the US**
- ◉ 1992 Honored by the United States Postal Service

\* Chronology compiled by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Terri Hume Oliver, *In the Battle for Peace*. Edits and additions by Stephanie Y. Evans



# DEFINING DU BOIS @ ATLANTA:

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## A CONDUCTOR

- **Physics (energy)**      Interdisciplinary scholarship
- **Arts (symphony)**      Atlanta Conferences & Phylon
- **Society (engineer)**      Atlanta School of Sociology

1896 Mortality

1898 Social and Physical Condition

1898 Social Betterment

1899 Negro in Business

1900 College-Bred Negro

1901 Negro Common School

1902 Negro Artison

1903 Negro Church

1904 Notes on Negro Crime

1905 Select Bibliography

1906-1914 Health, Economics, & Family

Earl Wright. “The Atlanta Sociological Laboratory” [Sociation Today](#)

Aldon Morris. *The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology*

“The investigative tools of the Du Bois- Atlanta school encompassed surveys, interviews, participant observation, organizational documents, and census data.”

“Erased generation”: Monroe Work (ATL conferences), Richard Wright Jr. (UPenn PhD 1911), George Edmund Haynes (FISK, CUNY, Labor Dept.), Ellen Irene Diggs (Afro-Latin anthropology)

# DU BOISIAN SCHOLARS

Anne Adams, Prof. Emerita, [Cornell University](#) former Director [Du Bois Memorial Centre \(Ghana\)](#)

Shawn Alexander, [University of Kansas](#)

Derrick Alridge, [University of Virginia](#)

Bernard Bell, Professor Emeriti, [Pennsylvania State University](#)

John Bracey, [University of Massachusetts-Amherst](#)

Henry Lewis Gates, [Harvard University](#)

Gerald Horne, [University of Houston](#)

Joy James, [Williams College](#)

David Levering Lewis, [New York University](#)

Louis Massiah, Filmmaker, [Scribe Video Center](#)

MaryNell Morgan, CAU Alumna [Empire State College](#)

Aldon Morris, [Northwestern University](#)

Reiland Rabaka, [University of Colorado](#)

Bill Strickland, [University of Massachusetts-Amherst](#)

Nagueyalti Warren, [Emory University](#)

Francille Rusan Wilson, [University of Southern California](#)

Earl Wright II, [University of Cincinnati](#) & [ABS President](#)

Tukufu Zuberi, [University of Pennsylvania](#)

Sonia Sanchez, Amiri Baraka, & Arthur McFarlane (great-grandson)

# LOOK INWARD

## DU BOIS'S NARRATIVE JOURNEY

- ◉ *Souls of Black Folk (1903)*
- ◉ *Darkwarter: Voices from Within the Veil (1920)*
- ◉ *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept (1940)*
- ◉ *Soliloquy: The Autobiography of W. E. B. Du Bois (1960)*

# ELEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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- Declaration of Independence (1776); Johan Galtung Peace Studies (1959); Cooper (1892 & 1925) Human Rights as “Progressive Peace”
  - Natural Conflict (Equilibrium of opposing forces, adjustment vs. suppression); Diverse (Harmony of racial differences); Divine (Birthright, “Singing Something” vs. Nordic)
- UN Universal Declaration (1948)

Greek Temple => God’s Universe. *Six Elements (CHNOPS):*

Carbon, Oxygen, Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Sulfur, Phosphorus

SPACE	divine	AIR	political
WATER	individual	EARTH	social
FIRE	communal	CORE	global democratic

# SOULS OF BLACK FOLK & SIX ELEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

<b>SPACE</b>	divine	Spiritual Strivings Alexander Crummell Sorrow Songs Faith of Our Fathers
<b>WATER</b>	individual	Meaning of Progress
<b>FIRE</b>	communal	Passing of the First Born
<b>AIR</b>	political	BTW & Others Sons & Masters of Man
<b>EARTH</b>	social	Training of Black Men Black Belt Wings of Atalanta
<b>CORE</b>	global democratic	Dawn of Freedom

# LOOK FORWARD

## CAU DU BOIS LEGACY PROJECT

- 2003 Evans graduates from U Massachusetts-Amherst Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies
- 2011 Arrive at CAU Georgia Humanities Council grant for Du Bois Legacy Project Website
- 2012 Year-long Major Works Seminar
- 2013 Wings of Atlanta 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Conference
- 2013 Bust dedicated to campus
- 2013 Fall graduate course on Du Bois
- 2014 Fall *Phylon* re-launch

# LOOK FORWARD

## HERSTORY OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

Forethought: the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line. ... I who speak here am bone of the bone and flesh of the flesh of them that life within the Veil.

“Sleep, then, child, --sleep till I sleep and waken to a baby voice and the ceaseless patter of little feet—above the Veil.”

~ Of the Passing of the First Born

◎ Ida B. Wells & Anti-Lynching Scholar-Activist

◎ Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi, Patrisse Cullors

“I created #BlackLivesMatter with Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, two of my sisters, as a call to action for Black people after 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was post-humously placed on trial for his own murder and the killer, George Zimmerman, was not held accountable for the crime he committed.”

# DISCUSSION

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans

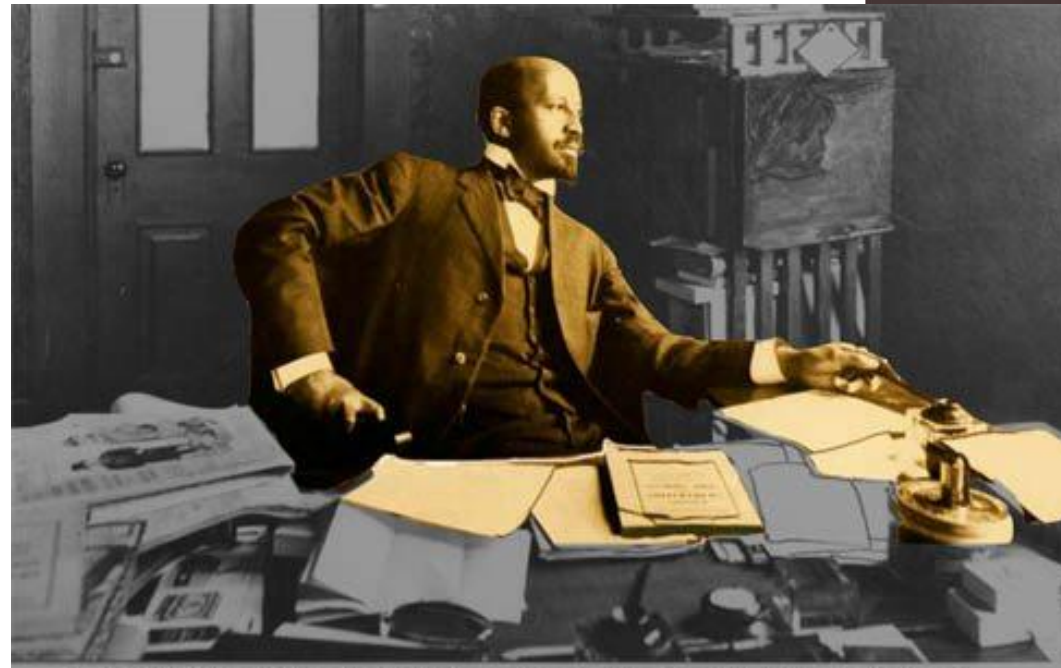
Professor & Chair

Clark Atlanta University

Department of African American  
Studies, Africana Women's  
Studies and History

## RESOURCE WEBSITES

- ◉ [www.professorevans.net](http://www.professorevans.net)
- ◉ <http://cauduboislegacy.net>
- ◉ [www.civilandhumanrights.org](http://www.civilandhumanrights.org)



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Image: Donna Brock