Du Bois

- Not clearly embedded in general theories of the canon
- Published the very empiricist study, ‘The Philadelphia Negro’ – 1899
- Why is Du Bois in our text and Gilman is not? (prolific writing career like Gilman)

- Reading from 1945 (see other set of notes)

Why is this reading so different from the others in our text?
- Talks in the first person
- Personal experiences
- Offers antidotes at the very beginning
- Created a language of his experience

What are Du Bois concepts? (pg. 282)

**Double consciousness:** a sense of intuition of being a subordinate
  - the ruled have to understand the **whole** system to survive (where they are in the hierarchy)
  - what happens on both sides of the “veil”

**The Color Line:** “big idea”: that not everyone must know and understand their own position

*How ourselves are shaped*

What are the things the African American community has come up with?
- Emancipation
- Enfranchisement (political power)
- Education (difference between craft and book)

**The “veil”**: metaphor for the materiality of an idea
- Theorizing as a concrete object: racism, the color line
- The social world is a divided world for Du Bois

Theorists talking about the **social** in different ways:

1. **Mead:** reflexive formation of self as both subject and object thru communication as symbolic interaction
2. **Freud:** traumatic formation of self: divided self b/n conscious and unconscious (id, ego, superego) universities = we all go thru it
   Ourselves are divided not the social world
   Micro level power struggles
3. **Du Bois:** conflicting formation of self, conscious of individual hierarchy of a divided world
Privileged Agent: the one who has the double consciousness, the one who wears the “veil”

History and Social Change: progress thru persuasion and activism

The” thing” that drives Du Bois: the pathologies of exclusion (wounds of the social)

IDIOM: empiricism and cultural analysis

GOAL: racial justice

pp. 283 “The double aimed struggle of the black artisan…”
  • Social criticism of African Americans

STAND-POINT EPISTIMOLOGY: where you are can help you have a privileged idea