



## Otis Franklin Madison

February 23, 1943 - December 29, 2015

Otis Franklin Madison

February 23rd, 1943 to December 29th, 2015

Otis Franklin Madison was born in San Antonio, Texas on February, 23rd, 1943 to Wyetta (Lott) and Otis Madison of Bastrop, Texas. He had two younger sisters Wyetta and Frances. His early years were spent in San Antonio where he attended Brackenridge High School. He married Connell Cade and they had two daughters, Shermain and Shirnell. He served in the USAF during the Vietnam War era and was stationed in Udorn, Thailand. On his return to the USA, he completed a BA in Political Science at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas in 1973. His second marriage was to Joanne Yansen. They had twin sons Taiwo and Kehinde and later, a daughter SidaaKai.

They moved to California in 1975 where he was accepted into the doctoral program in Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He served as a Teaching Assistant in the Political Science and in the Black Studies departments. He was a Research Fellow in the Center for Black Studies He taught summer courses for many years in the STEP program. His success as a lecturer was remarkable. He received the Professor of the Year awarded by UCSB's Mortar Board in 1992. When his stint as a lecturer in the Black Studies department ended (after he had reached the limit of academic quarters allowed) students protested the administration's decision, organizing

public demonstrations and writing letters of support for his re-hire. He was subsequently offered a permanent contract and has been a Lecturer in the Black Studies since 1984.

His teaching career at UCSB had a profound effect on the lives of hundreds of students. His research and courses included the Civil Rights movement, Scientific Racism, Blacks in Sports, in the Media, and in the Military especially in the Vietnam War. He also taught courses on Black Marxism and the Obama Presidency. He challenged students to think critically and to defend their positions with factual evidence. He had strong opinions on everything and did not hesitate to express them. One student has described his teaching style as “simultaneously inspirational and terrifying”. However he always encouraged them to think for themselves and he loved to engage in after class discussions with those students brave enough to challenge his opinions. Many left his class with a changed perspective on American society.

Despite his seemingly tough exterior, his colleagues and friends found in Otis a man of intelligence, integrity, humor, warmth and kindness. He always spoke the truth (as he saw it). He never hesitated to call out any perceived injustice and if this ruffled anyone’s feathers, that was perfectly acceptable to him.

One of his colleagues described him as “an intellectual force in Black Studies, a shepherd of minds and hearts. His faith in ideas and persuasion was so powerful. And thus his belief in our ability to change the world remained palpable and strong.” Somehow everything seems wrong about a world without Otis Madison in it. We will miss him deeply.

He will be remembered for his influence on the lives of his students and the UCSB community. He was a beloved son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otis and Wyetta Madison and his sister Wyetta Battle. He is survived by his wife Joanne Yansen Madison, his sons Taiwo Odion Madison, Kehinde Omwokha Madison and his daughter SidaaKai Madison of Santa Barbara, California. He is also survived by his daughters Shermain Lynette Norton (Ricky) of San Antonio, Texas, Shirnell L

Madison of Aurora, Colorado, his grandsons Justin Madison, and Jeremo Madison and great-grand daughter Alexis Madison of San Antonio. He is also survived by his sister Frances Franklin , nieces Arneca Franklin and Michelle Franklin, Stephanie Madison, Noni Battle and nephew Lumumba Battle all of San Antonio, Texas and by many other relatives too numerous to mention. His service will be on Thursday January 7th, 2016 at 11.00 am at Welch- Ryce -Haider funeral home, 450 Ward Drive, Goleta CA 93117. Visitation will be from 8.00 am to 11.00. Interment will follow at the Goleta Cemetery on San Antonio Rd.

If friends would like to do something in lieu of flowers, a fund is being established to archive Otis's work. Donations may be made to 'Otis Madison Archive Project, Department of Black Studies, UCSB,".

# Cemetery Details

## **Goleta Cemetery**

44 South San Antonio Road  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93110  
(805) 967-3608

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ He was vibrant, energetic, intellectually gifted. It was extremely sad to hear such a powerful presence was laid to rest. Thank you for your classes at UCSB Professor Madison, you spoke the truth and showed us a real way to see history and the world.

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**Josh** - August 05, 2019 at 01:53 PM

SW

“ I took a Black Studies course from Mr. Madison at UC Santa Barbara in 1991. (At the time he referred to himself as "Mr. Madison." Perhaps that changed later?) He introduced me to critical race theory and the power of scholarly work. Although we never had a personal relationship--in fact, I don't think I even ever went to office hours or had a 1:1 conversation with him--his course profoundly shaped my intellectual growth and continues to affect my own research and teaching. Like a pebble thrown into a pond puts out concentric circles, Otis Madison's work continues to exert influence on how I seek to understand our world and, hopefully, my students as well.

*Scott Wallin*

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**Scott Wallin** - May 03, 2019 at 01:07 PM



“ I just this moment learned of Professor Madison's passing. My condolences to his family and loved ones.

*I graduated in 2003 and Professor Madison was such an important part of my education. I took an American History class with him, and Black Radicals and the Radical tradition. It was his classes, the knowledge and insight he offered was what caused me to first become a politicized woman of color. I remember and use the things he taught on a weekly, if not daily basis. I gained a greater context and understand of the U.S., slavery and also my Caribbean heritage and the importance and role of radicalism and resistance within slavery in the Caribbean. The reason I came upon this page here is that I was looking for a syllabus to find a book from his class - a history of Superior Court cases in the U.S. Fifteen years later, I'm still using the things he taught us.*

*I remember sitting in Professor Madison's classes and feeling a sort of comfort from his authenticity as he peeled away the layers of all the crap we start to believe due to media and imbalanced white supremacist education system. I remember feeling the excitement of my own mind and expanding and knowing that this was happening for the students around me as well. He spoke with authority and passion and patience, and I believe he changed a lot of lives and helped a lot of young people move away from ignorance.*

*Thank you professor Madison.*

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**Alisha Westerman** - May 20, 2018 at 04:59 PM

BF

“ I graduate in 2008 and I'll never ever, ever forget the class I took with Dr Otis about Black Radicals. Regardless of political affiliations, his insatiable passion and energy for his work demanded respect and was a source of inspiration for the students. The importance to question everything was something he projected to everyone. I got more out of a few conversations I had with Dr. Otis during his office hours than I got out of many quarter long classes I had in college. During a time when things seemed bleak during the second Bush term, Dr. Otis was a strong example of how each one of us must still fight the good fight no matter what the cost. Thank you for your work, Dr. Otis, and I express my deepest condolences to his family.

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**Bart Farrell** - May 07, 2018 at 04:22 AM



“ Graduated in 2016 and my favorite class I ever took at UCSB was taught by Dr Otis. I recently watched a video that really reminded me of the class and so much of what he taught that honestly changed my view on this world. Went to look up his email and found this. I know this is a little late but I'm only finding out about his passing now. Prayers to the Madison family, and if course the most real professor I ever had

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**b** - October 14, 2017 at 03:57 AM

SJ

“ I was so surprised and saddened to recently read the news of Otis passing away in December. I send out my deepest condolences to you, Joanne, and his children (I still remember frequently seeing a very young Sidaa (Saidaakai) with Otis or Joanne on campus). Like many of the other graduate students at UCSB when I was there, hanging out in the Black Studies Department and engaging in outrageous debates and spirited conversations was part of our experience and Otis definitely added to this! My thoughts are with all of you.

Shirley A. Jackson

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Shirley A. Jackson - May 01, 2016 at 05:22 PM

JM

Thank you, Shirley. We appreciate your prayers and kindness 🌸  
Joanne

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Joanne Madison - May 06, 2016 at 01:06 PM

HM

“ I am so sad to be just hearing this news. Otis Madison was probably the single most important teacher I have ever had. He permanently opened my eyes to the world of race and media manipulation and my perception, my worldview has thankfully never been the same. I owe this man a tremendous debt of gratitude for his vision, clarity and commitment to truth. He was a brilliant professor and there simply aren't enough superlatives to underscore what a remarkable man Professor Madison was. May your soul know ease and peace as it transitions its next home.

Ho'oponopono I love you, thank you.

Hayden McComas

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Hayden Mccomas - April 14, 2016 at 10:51 PM

JM

“ I miss my Grandfather already

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**Justin Madison** - April 07, 2016 at 01:18 PM

RI

“ I just stumbled upon this news tonight. I was telling a friend about how disappointing I found my college education until I walked into Otis Madison's class for the first time. To be completely honest, I breezed through most of my education. Today's classes are generally geared towards the lowest common denominator. Every college class was an easy A. Then I took my first class with Mr. Madison. He didn't just demand more, he deserved more. I got my first college B from him. And then another. And then another. I kept coming back because he never settled for less than my best effort. He was a truly bright spot at UCSB and I'm lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from him.

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**Rich** - February 21, 2016 at 01:24 AM

AS

“ I only recently met Professor Madison. I became a student of his this past Fall quarter. From the very first lecture I was fascinated by his knowledge and wisdom. I wasted little opportunities in speaking with him after class. He was an extremely intelligent man with a good sense of humor. I am very thankful the opportunity I had to be his student. He has inspired me to strive for justice and freedom, and to question every authority and its intentions. You will truly be missed Professor Madison, yet your knowledge will remain for generations through the people your ideas have been shared with, like a light that cannot be contained. Thank you.

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**A student** - January 20, 2016 at 10:30 PM

JM

“ I love my grandfather and was very moved by all of the memories that everyone shared about my grandfather thank you all so much



Justin Madison - January 11, 2016 at 04:21 PM

YM

“ Yolanda L Marquez lit a candle in memory of Otis Franklin Madison



Yolanda L Marquez - January 10, 2016 at 01:41 AM

YM

I got a chance to work with Otis on many occasions over 6 years in his lectures. Whether it was the "Civil Rights Movement, or Blacks in the Media, or dealing with Eugenics, " he was already to talk about issues that impacted minorities. He was a great lectures, and he kept his students on the edge of there seats as he presented different films so they could see first hand how it affected individuals in the US.

Yolanda L Marquez - January 10, 2016 at 01:45 AM

TM

“ Otis told us "I hope you don't believe the lies that you've been told." I had to know more. I added Black Studies to my major. I read, researched, studied, discussed, and learned all I could. He challenged me to think, analyze, critique, and examine the world. I hope I can impact my students to the small degree of the way in which Otis impacted me.

trina moore-southall - January 07, 2016 at 07:19 PM

AO

“ Dear Joanne,  
I still lack the words to say what I've been feeling and thinking since I read your message. Otis was a special man to me. When I first met him at your house I thought he was quite.



Well--that thought changed when I saw him at the Robinson"s!  
Because it was there that I heard him speak. I enjoyed listening to Otis talk. It was like the lion woke up and said,"no,you all have it wrong..."

Otis was sweet and kind. I remember talking to him about a Sudanes woman we had brought to your house. The woman had been physically abused by her husband. Otis listened as I told him the woman's story and then he told us what we should do. I will never forget how kind he was to that woman.

I've been humming "kumbaya my lord" each day. I'm praying for you, and your children. I wish I could be there with you today. But, I know that God's Holy Spirit is with you and He will send His Angels to surround you and give you strength.

Love & prayers always,  
Annette

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Annette Onema-Orbach - January 07, 2016 at 04:59 AM

JM

Thank you for sharing your memories of Otis 🌸Annette. When I read this, it brought comfort to my heart and a smile to my face 😊  
Thank you ❤️

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Joanne Madison - January 14, 2016 at 11:44 PM

PB

“ Dear Joanne:

*I share your sorrow and loss. Otis was more than my ex-brother law, he was my friend.*

*Paul Battle*

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**Paul Battle** - January 06, 2016 at 06:57 PM



*PAUL, I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR FRIEND BUT WE SHARE IN YOUR LOSS. A.J. MOORE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 64'*

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**Jo Johnson** - January 07, 2016 at 01:17 AM

EM

“ So sad to hear of Professor Madison's passing. My wife and I both had the pleasure of having him for a teacher, and he quickly became our favorite professor at UCSB. He always inspired us to think deeply about the world around us, and ask deep, meaningful questions about why things were the way they were. I just loved to hear him lecture. He was so passionate, brilliant, and funny. Rest in Peace Professor Madison. Our condolences to his family, he will be greatly missed.

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**Eric Mayes** - January 06, 2016 at 05:51 PM

JM

*Thank you Eric 🌸 I can just imagine him beaming with happiness at the impact he had on your lives. He LOVED teaching and had no plans to retire soon. He often said " I would teach even if they couldn't pay me a salary ... But shhh don't tell them I said that 😊"*

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**Joanne Madison** - January 14, 2016 at 11:50 PM

MN

“ Dear Joanne,

*Gillian told me of Otis' death. Know that I share your sorrow and hold you in my prayers at this time.*

*I send you a virtual Hug !*

*Love and bless you .*

*Mary Peter*

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**Mary Peter Ngui** - January 05, 2016 at 08:43 PM

JM

*Thank you so much Mother Mary Peter 🌸 It comforts me to know that you are praying for us ❤️*

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**Joanne Madison** - January 12, 2016 at 12:42 PM

 Derya Fuller

“ *Ms. Madison, I'm very sorry to hear about your loss. I have been reading the posts about Dr. Madison, and I am sorry to have missed the opportunity to meet him. I think I would have loved listening to him speak about Obama. My condolences to you and your family.*

*-Derya*

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**Derya Fuller** - January 05, 2016 at 05:12 PM

JM

*Thank you for your kind words, Derya 🌸 I appreciate your support ❤️*

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**Joanne Madison** - January 14, 2016 at 11:53 PM

JE

“ Thank you Mr. Madison. You turned me on to the Black Radical Tradition for sure. I remember being in Francisco Torres dorms in UCSB reading Autobiography of Malcolm X, feeling furious. You helped open my eyes to racial injustice in the world, and to become a leader in UCSB's Black community. It was also hilarious, exciting and entertaining to hear you get going on stage (in class). We also had you speak at the Black Student march in 2003. Thanks for all you've given. Ashe.

Jewel - January 05, 2016 at 12:13 PM

JM

Thank you for sharing your memories, Jewel 🌸 I appreciate your kind words and support ❤️

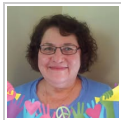
Joanne Madison - January 14, 2016 at 11:55 PM



“ Judy Hendler lit a candle in memory of Otis Franklin Madison



Judy Hendler - January 05, 2016 at 10:45 AM



May God bless you every day with Otis's loving presence, compassion, and strength. Love and Blessing, Judy

Judy Hendler - January 05, 2016 at 10:51 AM

JM

Thank you for your prayers and support, Judy 🌸 It means the world to us ❤️

Joanne Madison - January 14, 2016 at 11:57 PM

AC

“ Otis and Joanne have always been a force for justice and good in the world. Now that force is even greater. Otis has not abandoned the love of his life. He surrounds her with his strong spirit and his unending love.

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**abbie cotrell** - January 05, 2016 at 10:41 AM

JM

Abbie, your love and support mean the world to us 🌸 I am so glad we had that chance to visit in San Antonio ❤️ Thank you

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**Joanne Madison** - January 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ The world will not be the same without the powerful voice and words of Otis Madison. Abbie and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to Joanne, Taiwo, Kehinde, Saidaakai and all of the grandchildren for the loss of Otis. We were very fortunate to spend an evening with Otis and Joanne during their recent San Antonio visit. It brought back the memories of Otis in my classes at St. Mary's University in the '70's. Then, as now, Otis spoke against discrimination and institutional racism in American society. He was joined by Curtis Stokes, Henry Flores, Gloria Guerrero, Jackie Lee Burke, and Paul Battle in those classes. In my recent conversation with Otis, we both endorsed the calling of teaching. Upon leaving our house that evening, his last words were for me to stay in the classroom--"You belong in the classroom." As it was with you my friend! Your legacy and words continue to inspire. --Charlie Cotrell

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**Charlie Cotrell** - January 05, 2016 at 10:17 AM

JM

*Charlie, Otis loved, admired and respected you very much 🌸 He always spoke of you as his first Mentor and those days of classroom debate at St Mary's University were among his most cherished memories. He attributed his academic / intellectual training to his experiences in your classes. We are so fortunate to have your love and support ❤️ Thank you.*

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**Joanne Madison** - January 15, 2016 at 12:10 AM

SM

“ *My 1st love; my Daddy! Love you to the moon and back. I don't think I will ever " get over" losing you ; but your memory will stay with me always.*



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**Saidaakai Madison** - January 04, 2016 at 10:55 PM

 Darryl Dickson-Carr

“ *I sat in on Otis's class when he was discussing Malcolm X and Harold Cruse. I learned more in 75 minutes than most students learn in a quarter or semester. It wasn't just information; Otis challenged his students constantly. It was a pleasure to listen to him talk. He made it impossible to be comfortable with your old beliefs and ignorance. He was a master teacher, and kind to all. I've never stopped thinking about him since then.*

*Love, peace, and blessings to the family. Our hearts go out to you.*

*Darryl Dickson-Carr*

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**Darryl Dickson-Carr** - January 04, 2016 at 10:45 PM

Alfredo  
Carlos

“ I only took one class, the Black Radical Tradition with Dr. Madison. But it has had a profound influence on my life. It is why as now as a Faculty member at CSULB I teach the Black Power movement in my racial and ethnic politics courses. It is why I teach about self-determination, dignity and power. Rest in Power!!!

Alfredo Carlos - January 04, 2016 at 09:24 PM

Alfredo  
Carlos

*apologies for the typo*

Alfredo Carlos - January 04, 2016 at 09:24 PM

Shannon  
Butler-

*The 1st cladding I took with him I was in awe and confused! He inspired me to be analytical and critical in my reading, writing, and speech. Dr. Madison is part of the reason I teach my diversity courses at SSU the way I do.*

Shannon Butler-Mokoro - January 05, 2016 at 04:35 AM

Monique  
Dear

“ Monique Dear lit a candle in memory of Otis Franklin Madison



Monique Dear - January 04, 2016 at 07:04 PM

Monique  
Dear

*The most loving and giving man. Made you feel welcome and not a stranger in his home.*

Monique Dear - January 04, 2016 at 07:06 PM



“ Life has been hard this pass day my heart has a big hole in even though know you are at piece and not in pain I just want to hear your voice again. I love you so much daddy your life will live on through all of us. SHERMAIN



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**Shermain Norton** - January 04, 2016 at 06:58 PM

DH

“ Otis and Joanne were our neighbors for many years when we lived in Goleta. James will miss talking to Otis about his favorite football team the Dallas Cowboys and his team the Steelers. James and I have known the Madison's for over 35 years. They have always been our cherished friends. We regret that we cannot be at the service but we will be with the family in spirit. Otis will be missed and always remembered in our hearts.



*Our love and prayers for the family  
Diane and James Hale Culver City, Ca.*

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**Diane and James Hale** - January 04, 2016 at 06:34 PM

DB

*Although I did not know Professor Madison, I do know his lovely wife Joanne. My heartfelt sympathy to Joanne and the entire Madison family. May God comfort Joanne and the entire family. With utmost heartfelt sympathy . Darlene Bayer, Solvang, CA*

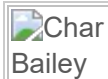
**Darlene Bayer** - January 04, 2016 at 09:27 PM

KI

“*Dear Joanne & Family, just heard of Professor Madison's passing...sending sincere condolences and wishes for love and strength now and always, Suran*



**kim** - January 04, 2016 at 05:08 PM

Char Bailey

*Ton the Otis family,  
Sending my sincere condolences and prayers for the family. Otis was one of my hardest teacher at UCSB.*

**Char Bailey** - January 05, 2016 at 04:02 AM

SR

“*1 file added to the album New Album Name*



**Scott C. Reid** - January 04, 2016 at 04:20 PM