



# THE RIDDLE OF CASSIUS CLAY: THE MAKING OF MUHAMMAD ALI

How did Cassius Clay become  
Muhammad Ali?

Why was he the most polarizing  
athlete in America during the 1960s?

Historian Johnny Smith will answer these questions and discuss his new book, *Blood Brothers*, the first in-depth portrait of the pivotal friendship between Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X. Professor Smith will explain the central role Malcolm X played in the life of Muhammad Ali and how the politics of the Nation of Islam broke the bond between these two icons. *Blood Brothers* is a tale of friendship and brotherhood, love and deep affection. It is also a story of deceit, betrayal, and violence—inside and outside the ring—during a troubled time in America.

Johnny Smith is an Assistant Professor of History at Georgia Tech. He is the co-author of *Blood Brothers: The Fatal Friendship Between Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X*. He is also the author of *The Sons of Westwood: John Wooden, UCLA, and the Dynasty That Changed College Basketball*. He is currently writing *The Year of the Slugger: When Mickey Mantle Became an American Hero*.



## Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Memorial Union  
Ventana

Lecture: 4 p.m.  
Book Signing: 5:30 p.m.