AFRICANA STUDIES (Div II)
Chair: Associate Professor Neil Roberts


On leave fall/spring: J. Manigault-Bryant, R. Manigault-Bryant

On leave fall only: V. Ford

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Africana Studies Program is an interdisciplinary concentration offering students an in-depth understanding of the history, politics, religion, and culture of peoples of African descent, especially in the Americas. We use music, dance, literature, the arts, and scholarly works to explore the origins of this field of study in the fulcrum of African American and Caribbean movements of resistance. A trans-national program, intellectually influenced by scholars from W. E. B. Du Bois to the present, Africana Studies encourages students to study abroad, and offers travel Winter Study courses designed to expose students to experiential learning settings outside of the classroom.

CONCENTRATION IN AFRICANA STUDIES

Candidates for a concentration in Africana Studies must complete at least five courses listed as Africana courses [note: many Africana courses are cross-listed with departmental offerings; all these are considered Africana Studies courses and can be used to count both for the concentration and for the departmental major of which they are a part]. Two of these five courses are required courses that every concentrator takes. They are the introductory course, AFR 200, normally taken in the sophomore and junior years, but open to all students; and an Africana capstone Senior seminar, normally taken in the senior year, but also open to others at the Professor’s discretion. Additional courses may be taken either with our core Africana faculty or with faculty and visiting professors affiliated with the program. However, at least one of these three additional courses must be listed as “Core Electives” which are each designated in the descriptions below as a “Primary Crosslisting.” We also encourage students to take at least one course in a program/department other than Africana Studies and consider an experiential learning winter study session. Concentrators are expected to meet with the Chair and/or an Africana core faculty member to plan their concentration.

AFRICANA STUDIES AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Students concentrating in Africana Studies are encouraged to pursue concentrations in American Studies, Environmental Studies, Latina/o Studies, Performance Studies, and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Many of the courses counted for these concentrations may also earn credit toward the Africana Studies concentration.

REQUIREMENTS

Africana Studies courses required for the concentration:

AFR 200 Introduction to Africana Studies

and one of the following two AFR 400-level Senior Seminar capstone courses (not all 400-level courses meet the requirement for the concentration):

AFR 440(S) CAPSTONE: Performing Blackness

AFR 476 (S) CAPSTONE: Black Radicalism

One core elective:

AFR 132 / AMST 132 / PSCI 132 Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy

Taught by: Neil Roberts
Catalog details

AFR 140 / COMP 141 Black Autobiography

Taught by: TBA
Catalog details

AFR 200(F, S) Introduction to Africana Studies

Taught by: Rashida Braggs, VaNatta Ford
Catalog details

AFR 205 T / WGSS 207 / COMP 236 She Speaks in Color: Examining the ‘Color Complex’ in Toni Morrison's Writings

Taught by: VaNatta Ford
Catalog details

AFR 208 T / AMST 208 / REL 262 Time and Blackness

Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
Catalog details

AFR 440(S) CAPSTONE: Performing Blackness

Taught by: TBA
Catalog details
Two additional electives (a total of three required for the concentration):

   Most electives are included below. However, students should check with the program chair to see if other courses not listed here might count as electives toward the concentration.

HONORS PROGRAM IN AFRICANA STUDIES

   A student wishing to earn honors must complete an “Honors Dossier” during the Winter Study term and Spring semester of their Senior Year. This Dossier is comprised of three linked essays. Students may begin the project with two essays written for Africana Studies courses and, under their advisor’s guidance complete additional research, incorporate instructor feedback, and substantially re-write and expand these two papers. The third essay must be a new work, written specifically for the Honors project. Students must also write a substantive introduction that explains the theme (theoretical, geographic, chronological etc.) that connects the three essays. The introduction should address the significance of the theme to the interdisciplinary study of the peoples and cultures of the African diaspora. It should also explain the logic of the three papers and how they work together. Dossiers will be due in mid-April (after Spring Break). Under some circumstances, a student may want to include a record of a performance or piece of visual art in the Dossier. In this case, a written analysis and explanation should accompany that piece. The total Honors Dossier should consist of no less than 45 pages of written work.

   Students should submit a proposal for an Honors Dossier in the fall semester of their Senior year, no later than mid-October. They may draw on papers written in Africana courses during any semester including the fall semester of their Senior Year. Students may petition to include a paper written for a course outside of the Africana curriculum. Africana faculty will meet late in the fall semester to approve or decline Honors Dossier proposals. Students whose proposals are approved will be assigned an advisor and should register for W31-AFR 494 in the winter study/spring of the Senior Year.

   At the Honors presentation night in the spring, each Honors student will prepare and give an oral defense of their dossier. During the defense, students will present the key points their overarching project and field questions from select faculty and student critics, all of whom will have read the dossier.

AFR 30  (W)  Sen Project: Africana Studies

To be taken by students registered for Africana Studies 491 who are candidates for honors.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2020
IND Section: 01    TBA    Neil Roberts

AFR 99  (W) Ind Study: Africana Studies

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2020
IND Section: 01    TBA    Neil Roberts
AFR 105  (F)  Materials, Meanings, and Messages in the Arts of Africa  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  AFR 105  ARTH 104

Secondary Cross-listing

This course introduces students to the wealth, power, and diversity of expressive forms that have characterized the arts of Africa and its Diaspora from prehistory to the present. Pulling extensively from the collections at the Williams College Museum of Art and other campus resources, students will not only experience firsthand the wide array of objects that have been produced within this vast geography, but will also come to recognize how multiple senses including sight, sound, smell, and touch play a key role in understanding how these objects work within their respective contexts. As tools of political control, social protest, divine manifestation, and spiritual intervention, these objects and their associated performances also challenge what we might typically consider art in the Western tradition and as such students will be pushed to think beyond such terms in their examinations of these rich creative traditions.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation:  three 2-page response papers, class journal on WCMA objects lab, midterm exam and final exam

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  40

Enrollment Preferences:  Art History and African Studies majors

Expected Class Size:  40

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 105 (D2)  ARTH 104 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  This course fulfills DPE requirements through its exploration of the differences between concepts of art in African and Western traditions, and how this difference has formed the foundation for hierarchies of power within the art world that have long disenfranchised and disempowered artists from the continent. This course highlights this historical platform in order to renovate established biases and assumptions about these objects that position them as ‘primitive’ or ‘exotic’ constructs.

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01    MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Michelle M. Apotsos

AFR 113  (S)  Musics of Africa

Cross-listings:  MUS 120  AFR 113

Secondary Cross-listing

This course introduces a selection of musical cultures from the geographical breadth of Africa. Following an introductory exploration of the fundamental aesthetic and social parameters governing African musical practice, we will engage in a series of case studies considering a diverse array of musical practices and related social and political issues in specific locales. Featured countries include Ghana, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Algeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This course samples a wide range of musical practices from the Ghanaian dance craze, azonto, to Ethiopian liturgical chants, to Shona mbira music in Zimbabwe. Performance analysis and critical reading and listing assignments are combined with a number of hands-on workshops and musical exercises.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation:  grade based on a listening journal, bi-weekly short assignments, a final paper, and class participation

Prerequisites:  no prerequisites: prior musical background is not essential for this class

Enrollment Limit:  20

Enrollment Preferences:  current or prospective Music majors and Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size:  12

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 126 (F) Black Literature Matters (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 126 AFR 126 AMST 126

Secondary Cross-listing
Black literature remains central to struggles for freedom and equality across the African diaspora. In this course, we will examine why black literature matters: What are its aesthetic and political imperatives? How have black writers used certain literary forms in their constructions of identity, freedom, and citizenship? Through our exploration of these questions, we will discover the significant matters of African American literature from the Harlem Renaissance moment to the Black Lives Matter movement. By reading a broad range of texts—essays, novels, drama, music, and poetry—by such authors as Alain Locke, Claude McKay, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, Audre Lorde, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, Jesmyn Ward, and Kendrick Lamar, we will develop a critical vocabulary for evaluating and engaging with this body of literature. This course contributes to the Difference, Power, and Equity requirement by centering on the relationship between black literature and black political movements from the 1920s to the present.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: four papers totaling at least 20 pages, active class participation, class presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level English course; Africana Studies concentrators; American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 126 (D1) AFR 126 (D2) AMST 126 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write and receive feedback on four papers. Papers will range from 3 to 7 pages, and feedback will focus on argument/claim development, critical inquiry, and structure.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Through discussions and short essays, students will develop skills for analyzing the role of literature in defining, responding to, and re-shaping issues of race, class, and gender during the Harlem Renaissance, Black Arts and Black Power, and Black Lives Matter movements. Taking its title from the current movement for black lives, a primary objective of this course is for students to develop skills for articulating the value of black aesthetics to social justice movements in the present.

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01 TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am Kimberly S. Love

AFR 129 (S) Twentieth-Century Black Poets

Cross-listings: ENGL 129 AFR 129

Secondary Cross-listing
From Langston Hughes to contemporary poets such as Angela Jackson and Claudia Rankine, African American poets have been preoccupied with the relations of poetry to other traditions. Vernacular speech, English poetry, jazz and other musical forms, folk humor, and African mythology have all been seen as essential sources for black poetry. This course will survey major poets such as Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Countee Cullen, Robert Hayden, Gwendolyn Brooks, Amiri Baraka, Jackson, and Yusef Komunyakaa, reading their poems and their essays and interviews about poetic craft. We will ask how black poetry has been defined and whether there is a single black poetic tradition or several.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: several short papers, a 15-page final paper

Prerequisites: none
**AFR 132 (F) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 132  AFR 132  AMST 132

**Primary Cross-listing**

This introductory seminar investigates the relationship between three major schools of thought in contemporary Africana social and political philosophy, namely the African, Afro-American, and Afro-Caribbean intellectual traditions. We will discuss a range of thinkers including Aimé Césaire, Angela Y. Davis, Édouard Glissant, Lewis R. Gordon, Kwame Gyekye, Paget Henry, bell hooks, Charles W. Mills, Nkiru Nzegwu, Lucius Outlaw, Oyèrónke Oyewùmi, Tommie Shelby, and Sylvia Wynter. A primary goal of the course is to provide students with the intellectual resources to decipher problems central to philosophical discourse and to allow students an opportunity to apply what they learn to critical issues in current geopolitics.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on attendance and participation, two 5- to 7-page essays, and one 10-page final paper

**Prerequisites:** none; open to all

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** first- and second-year students

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 132 (D2) AFR 132 (D2) AMST 132 (D2)

**Attributes:** AFR Core Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  JLST

Interdepartmental Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

**AFR 136 (S) Slavery and the Making of a Literary Tradition**

**Cross-listings:** AFR 136  ENGL 136

**Secondary Cross-listing**

How has the subject and iconography of slavery continued to preoccupy the American literary and cultural imagination? In this course, we will examine the transatlantic circulation of ideas regarding race, nation, citizenship, self-mastery, agency, and freedom in colonial and antebellum America and consider how these debates have continued to the present. We will read such authors as Phyllis Wheatley, Harriet Jacobs, Harriet Wilson, William Faulkner, Mark Twain, and Toni Morrison. Forms will include poetry, slave narratives, novels, advertisements, broadsides, pamphlets, and other ephemera. We will also view cinematic representations of slavery, such as WGN's *Underground*, the adaptation of Solomon Northrop's *12 Years a Slave*, and Issa Rae's parody "Due North" in *Insecure*.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, 4 short papers totaling about 20 pp.

**Prerequisites:** first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course
AFR 140 (S) Black Autobiography
Cross-listings: COMP 141 AFR 140

Primary Cross-listing

Autobiography--whether slave narrative, memoir, or semi-fictional life account--has served as a primary form of writing for people of African descent. Although primarily understood as a textual means for articulating selfhood, Black autobiographies also ask other questions like: How do Black reflections on the self necessitate critiques of society and culture? How have Black autobiographies been utilized for political mobilization? And, what might a collective analysis of Black autobiographies reveal about changes in conceptions of Black selfhood over time? We will explore these concerns by reading autobiographies across time and space by authors like Ottobah Cugoano, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Alice Walker.

Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, two to three short papers (5- to 7-pages), and a 15- to 20-page paper or multimedia final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 141 (D1) AFR 140 (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 164 (S) Slavery in the American South (WS)
Cross-listings: HIST 164 AFR 164 AMST 165

Secondary Cross-listing

This writing intensive seminar will focus on slavery in the southern United States--one of the most difficult and challenging subjects in this country's history. After looking at several different approaches to North American slavery and examining in depth two of the key primary sources for the study of this institution, students will select an aspect of slavery for intensive research. The rich sources of the Chapin and Sawyer Libraries will be examined to show students the extensive body of materials available on campus for their research projects. Separate class sessions on approaches to research and available research materials held with Lori DuBois, Sawyer reference librarian, and Wayne Hammond, Chapin librarian. Instructor holds individual meetings with each student to help them with the selection of a viable research topic.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: class discussion, weekly reading summaries, and final 8- to 10-page research paper
Extra Info: in addition to reading key books in the field, students will engage in primary source research using the College library's extensive holdings of microfilm and local records dealing with slavery
Prerequisites: First-Years and Sophomores
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: First-Years and Sophomores

Expected Class Size: 15-19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 164 (D2) AFR 164 (D2) AMST 165 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: 2- to 3-page summary of class reading assignment for that day; students invited to come in to discuss weekly reading summaries before or after submission, or both. An 8- to 10-page research paper due at end of term. Rough draft of research paper required, individual conferences held with each student on their rough draft prior to submission of final version of their research paper. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

AFR 167 (F) Let Freedom Ring? African Americans and Emancipation (WS)

Cross-listings: AMST 167 AFR 167 HIST 167

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will examine African Americans' transition from slavery to freedom. In the years that encompassed the Civil War and immediately after, most African Americans changed from being legal property, able to be bought, sold, mortgaged, rented out, and leveraged into U.S. citizens, with the Constitutional right to male suffrage. This course examines this transition. How did it come about? To what extent were African Americans able to exercise their rights that the constitution guaranteed? How did Emancipation shape African American family relations, culture and demography? This is a research seminar. We will examine work of historians and discuss the contradictions and nuances of emancipation. Readings will include monographs, scholarly articles and heavy dose of primary sources, as many as possible written by African Americans themselves. Assignments include an original research paper on an aspect of Emancipation. We will devote considerable time throughout the semester to finding primary and secondary sources and on the writing process.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: research paper, short writing assignments, class participation

Prerequisites: First-Years and Sophomores

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students, and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 167 (D2) AFR 167 (D2) HIST 167 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will work throughout the semester on research paper that concerns Emancipation in the US. Students will turn in segments of this paper in separate assignments. During the final weeks of the course students will stitch these components together. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada JLST Interdepartmental Electives

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01 W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Gretchen Long

AFR 200 (F)(S) Introduction to Africana Studies

This course introduces students to the content and contours of Africana Studies as a vibrant field of knowledge. Through exploration of the genealogy, disciplinary diversity, and evolution of the field, we will examine the depth and range of experiences of African-descended peoples throughout the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa. We will also give some attention to how members of the Diaspora remember and encounter Africa, as well as their diverse responses to the history of enslavement, colonialism, apartheid, racism, and globalization. Through materials that embrace both
historical and contemporary perspectives, we seek to help students develop critical frameworks for understanding African diasporic experience while simultaneously illuminating disjunctures and challenges for the field. This course features two pedagogical strategies: 1) a rotational, interdisciplinary approach that includes the expertise, methods, and specializations of Africana faculty; and 2) the incorporation of aesthetic materials--film, photography, music, dance, performance, and artwork--to enhance student ability to draw ongoing connections between visual and textual sources covered in the course. Close textual analysis, vibrant debate, and engaging discourse are expected.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based upon class participation, weekly reading response papers, two short essays, and a final research project

Prerequisites: none

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora GBST African Studies Electives LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Rashida K. Braggs

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm VaNatta S. Ford

AFR 201 (S) African Dance and Percussion

Cross-listings: AFR 201 DANC 201 MUS 220

Secondary Cross-listing
We will examine two forms that embody continuity of tradition or the impact of cultural shifts in generations. Lamban was created by the Djeli, popularly called Griots who historically served many roles in traditional society from the Kingdom of Ghana and Old Mali spanning the 12th-current centuries. This dance and music form continues as folklore in modern day Guinea, Senegal, Mali and The Gambia where it was created and practiced by the Mandinka people. Bira is an ancient and contemporary spiritual practice of Zimbabwe's Shona people. Both of these forms are enduring cultural practices while Kpanlogo from the modern West African state of Ghana represents the post-colonial identity of this nation's youth at the end of the 1950s. This course can be taken for academic and/or PE credit

Class Format: class hours will be divided among research and discussion of the dance, percussion, and music of two forms, as well as physical learning and group projects; also includes field trips to view an area performance and the archives at Jacob Pillow

Requirements/Evaluation: discussion of assignments, group response performances, and short research paper. Students enrolled for PE credit are responsible only for the performance-based projects

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: students who have taken DANC 100 or DANC 201; have experience in a campus-based performance ensemble; or have permission of the instructors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 201 (D2) DANC 201 (D1) MUS 220 (D1)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives MUS World Music/Ethnomusicology

Spring 2020
AFR 204 (F) Introduction to Francophone Literatures

Cross-listings: AFR 204 RLFR 203 COMP 282

Secondary Cross-listing

What is the Francophone world comprised of? Who speaks French today and why? What does the idea of Francophonie really mean? Is this term really relevant? Why, how, and by whom is this idea being criticized? How does the littérature-monde manifesto fit within these interrogations? Is the French-speaking world merely a linguistic community or is it also a political, cultural, and economic project? Last but not least, why is the idea of Francophonie so important for France? We will answer these questions through the lens of literary and cinematic texts from Québec, Sénégal, Vietnam, France (l'hexagone), and Haiti among others.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: presentation, journaling, final project, participation
Prerequisites: RLFR 105 and above, placement exam or by permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: French majors and certificate, Africana and Comp. Lit
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 204 (D1) RLFR 203 (D1) COMP 282 (D1)
Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 205 (F) She Speaks in Color: Examining the 'Color Complex' in Toni Morrison's Writings

Cross-listings: COMP 236 AFR 205 WGSS 207

Primary Cross-listing

The practice of colorism, or skin color discrimination, is very familiar to people of color globally. Often described as intra-racial racism, colorism within the Black American context is part of the colonial legacy of institutionalized slavery where the vestiges of white supremacy have created color castes among Blacks that still, to this day, have serious consequences for those on the darkest end of the color spectrum. The impact of this practice is far-reaching, influencing everything from romantic partnering, economic and educational attainment, and perceptions of beauty, attractiveness, and criminality. Although the vast majority of colorism scholarship is empirically based, there is much that we can glean from a literary investigation of this practice by analyzing the works of renowned writer, theorist, and folklorist Toni Morrison. Her work is particularly useful in examining issues of skin color, as this topic has been persistent yet underexplored in Morrison's writings. Employing the methods of literary and rhetorical criticism, this tutorial will investigate five Morrison novels, The Bluest Eye (1970), Sula (1973), Song of Solomon (1977), Love (2003) and God Help the Child (2015). In our discussions of each text, we will examine the problem of the "color complex" at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, class and sexual violence, and how the characters manage these overlapping issues. We will bring the novels into conversation with social science articles on the practices of colorism in daily life. Because the tutorial blends different kinds of investigations into colorism, it will equip first year students with tools to critically engage and interrogate fictional literature; help them identify the real and nuanced ways that color discrimination affects Black communities; and consider how Morrison, one of our foremost writers, bridges literary creativity with ethnographic observation.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: six 2-page papers, two 5- to 7-page papers, 10 minute vlog, annotated bibliography
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: this course is specifically for first-year students and they will receive preference in this class
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 236 (D2) AFR 205 (D2) WGSS 207 (D2)

Attributes:  AFR Core Electives  AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 206  (F)  African Dance and Percussion
Cross-listings:  AFR 206  MUS 221  DANC 202

Secondary Cross-listing

Before the 20th century, the African continent was the source of dance and music that influenced new forms rooted on and off the continent. These forms are shaped by the impact of religion, colonialism, national political movements, travel, immigration, and the continuing emergence of technology. In South Africa, the labor conditions of miners instigated the creation of Isicathulo, Gum boots, and in Brazil the history of colonialism is a factor that anchors Samba as a sustaining cultural and socioeconomic force. The birth of Hip Hop in the 20th century finds populations across the globe using its music, dance, lyrics, and swagger as a vehicle for individual and group voice. Hip Hop thrives as a cultural presence in most countries of the African continent and in the Americas. We will examine the factors that moved this form from the Bronx, New York, to Johannesburg, South Africa, and Rio, Brazil. We will examine at least two of these forms learning dance and music technique and composition material that will inform their practice. Each of these genres generated new physical practices, new and enduring communities while continuing to embody specific histories that have moved beyond their place of origin. What is their status in this century?

Class Format: class hours will be divided among discussion of media and readings; rehearsal of dance and music techniques; field trips to view performances; research at the Jacob Pillow's archives; and interaction with visiting artists

Requirements/Evaluation:  a series of discussion, research, and individual and group projects; all of which will inform collaboration on mid-term and final projects

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  20

Enrollment Preferences:  students who have taken DANC 100 or DANC 201; have experience in a campus based performance ensemble; or have permission of the instructors

Expected Class Size:  20

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

Fall 2019
STU Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm  Sandra L. Burton,  Tendai Muparutsa

AFR 207  (F)  "Out of Africa": Cinematic Por(Be)trayals of a Continent  (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings:  AFR 207  ARTH 207

Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial provides a focused study of the politics / poetics of visualization and identification associated with film and cinema about Africa from past to present. From colonial-era propaganda newsreels about Africa’s ‘fighting men’ to contemporary white-savior narratives that exploit current socio-political ruptures on the continent for epic effect, films about Africa produced by a primarily Western cinematic regime have proven themselves to be highly effective apparatuses for framing “Africa” as a concept to be summoned time and time again to tell different stories for different audiences, and in doing so privilege particular viewpoints and imaginaries. This tutorial will provide a space for robust discussion and debate about the various representative tropes, conceptualizations, and visualizations that have been used to shape the contours of "Africa" as understood by a primarily Western audience from past to present, and how these same tropes in many ways have come to define the nature of the relationship between film / cinema and the continent over the history of their engagement. In doing so, it will also address how strategic displays and narratives deployed by cinematic productions often support specific power dynamics that locate an idea of "Africa" within paradigms of specific cultural and political
understanding. In zeroing in on how such films promote targeted realities for people and places within the continent, this tutorial will address how "Africa" in Western film and cinematic traditions is positioned within a particular framework of understanding that is more often than not irrevocably tethered to a Western imaginary.

Class Format: Tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: targeted bi-monthly writing assignments (5-7 pages in length) and bi-monthly peer response papers (2 pages in length)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Art History majors and seniors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 207 (D2) ARTH 207 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: This course fulfills Writing Skills requirements through its focus on the development of writing proficiency in terms of writing mechanics, syntax, and organization. It is also designed to help students craft a general approach to formulating a well-articulated, compelling argument. Students will receive extensive feedback on bi-monthly writing assignments from both the instructor and their peers as well as a comprehensive mid-semester critique from the instructor.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course fulfills DPE requirements through its exploration of issues of ‘authentic’ representation as they have been applied to representations of "Africa" displayed within the contexts of Western film and cinema. Through discussions of cultural capital and the politics of representation, students analyze how a general African 'identity' has been dictated by Western film culture and how this hegemony is currently being disrupted by an emergent generation of African artists and filmmakers.

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Fall 2019
TUT Section: T1 TBA Michelle M. Apotsos

AFR 208 (F) Time and Blackness

Cross-listings: REL 262 AMST 208 AFR 208

Primary Cross-listing

The concept of time is one of the most examined, yet least theorized, concepts in Africana Studies. While the field is saturated with historical studies and literary analyses that take up issues of cultural memory, both of which involve thinking about time, time itself is rarely the subject of sustained inquiry. This may be due to its abstractness as an idea and the level of analysis its conceptualization demands, or because time in the African American experience cannot be understood outside of the meaning of race, which itself is far from tangible. In this tutorial, "Time and Blackness," we will explore how African American writers across a number of genres understand time. We will read select texts of fiction as well as spiritual autobiographies, historical narratives, and sociological studies to understand how writers draw from--and create--paradigms of time to organize their work. The following questions will structure our investigation: What are the constituent elements of time in African American writing? How does race shape the ways a writer conceives of the experience of time? In examining writings across genres, is there something that we can call an identifiable African-American "timescape"?

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: assignments will include six 2-page response papers; two 5-page writing assignments; and a final, 10-page review essay on how time is understood in a genre of writing

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: concentrators in Africana Studies, majors in Religious Studies, and majors in American Studies

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

REL 262 (D2) AMST 208 (D2) AFR 208 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  AMST Arts in Context Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AFR 211  (F)  Race and the Environment

Cross-listings: ENVI 211  SOC 211  AMST 211  AFR 211

Primary Cross-listing

In contemporary societies, race remains an enduring impediment to the achievement of equality. Generally understood as a socially meaningful way of classifying human bodies hierarchically, race manifests itself in a number of arenas, including personal experience, economic production and distribution, and political organization. In this course, we will explore how race emerges in local and global environmental issues, like pollution and climate change. We will begin with a review of some of the landmark texts in Environmental Studies that address “environmental racism,” like Robert Bullard's *Dumping in Dixie* and David Pellow's *Garbage Wars*. We will examine how and to what extent polluting facilities like landfills, oil refineries, and sewage treatment plants are disproportionately located in communities of color; we will also pay attention to how specific corporations create the underlying rationale for plotting industrial sites. After outlining some of the core issues raised in this scholarship, we will turn to cultural productions--like literature, film, and music--to understand how people of color respond to environmental injustice and imagine the natural world.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, 2-3 short papers (5-7 pages), and a self-scheduled final

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENVI 211 (D2) SOC 211 (D2) AMST 211 (D2) AFR 211 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Space and Place Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  PHLH Nutrition, Food Security + Environmental Health  PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Not offered current academic year

AFR 212  (S)  Jazz Theory and Improvisation I

Cross-listings: MUS 104  AFR 212

Secondary Cross-listing

The theory and application of basic techniques in jazz improvisation and performance styles, including blues forms, swing, bebop, modally based composition, Afro-Cuban, etc. Appropriate for students with skill on their instrument and some basic theoretical knowledge. Knowledge of all key signatures, major/minor keys and modes, intervals, triads and basic seventh chords and their functions within keys. Students should be able to play and demonstrate these concepts on their instruments: competence on an instrument is essential (vocalists and drummers will be encouraged to study the piano). Pianists and guitarists should be able to sight read chords on a jazz lead sheet.

Class Format: alternates between lecture style exposition of theoretical topics and a master class where students will perform and be evaluated on assigned repertoire

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on weekly assignments, (e.g., harmonic analysis and exercises in transposition and transcription), a midterm, a transcription project and the end of semester concert, as well as improvement as measured in weekly class performance

Extra Info: this course will share aural skills labs with MUS 104a; students considering taking this course should consult the lab times and plan their schedules accordingly

Prerequisites: MUS 103 and/or permission of instructor; musical literacy required as per above description; private study on student's individual instruction strongly encouraged

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: prospective Music majors, then Jazz Ensemble members, then Music majors

Expected Class Size: 12
AFR 213 (S) Race, Gender, and the Alien Body: Octavia Butler's Science Fiction

Cross-listings: WGSS 213 SCST 213 AFR 213

Primary Cross-listing

Science fiction is a genre well known for its ability to envision new realities, and Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006) is among the most highly regarded science fiction writers. Butler's uncanny ability to imagine the future anew and to merge those ruminations with her experiences as an African American woman provide powerful commentary on--and often disrupt--modern understandings of race, gender, and human embodiment. We will explore questions such as: What role does 'gender' play in Butler's fiction? How does Butler's treatment of the 'alien' cause us to reconsider what it means to be human? How does Butler incorporate 'race' and the concept of 'other' into her fiction, and how do these techniques help us situate contemporary discussions of a post-race society? We will examine the relationship between Butler's visions for the future and what her narratives of future worlds invariably suggest about the present. We will read key texts including the best-selling text *Kindred* (1979), the haunting dystopian novel *Parable of the Sower* (1994), the popular vampire text *Fledgling* (2005), and the collection *Bloodchild and Other Stories* (1996). We will also explore contemporary engagement with Butler's work including the relationship between the main character from her book *Dawn* (1987), and Henrietta Lacks, the African American woman from whom the immortal cell line (HeLa) used for medical research derives. This tutorial will engage Octavia Butler's work broadly, and with particular attention to how the concepts 'race,' 'gender,' 'alien' and 'body' are interrogated in her writings.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance, paired weekly reflection/response papers, a 5- to 7-page creative writing assignment, and a final essay of 10 pages

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: students with interests and/or prior coursework in Africana Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 213 (D2) SCST 213 (D2) AFR 213 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 214 (S) Jazz Theory and Improvisation II

Cross-listings: MUS 204 AFR 214

Secondary Cross-listing

A continuation of MUS 104b, this course builds upon theoretical knowledge, performance and aural skills developed previously. Students will deal with more complex theoretical and performance issues, including the use of symmetric scales, strategies for chord reharmonization, pentatonic and hexatonic scale shapes, and Coltrane's "Three Tonic" harmonic system.
Class Format: two weekly seminar meetings, alternating between theory and performance sessions

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly compositional, analysis, transcription or performance exercises and final transcription project

Prerequisites: MUS 104b or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Music majors and Jazz Ensemble members

Expected Class Size: 5-8

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MUS 204 (D1) AFR 214 (D2)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 215  (F)  Ways of Knowing: Music, Movement, Memory

Cross-listings: THEA 202  AFR 215  WGSS 215  DANC 215

Secondary Cross-listing

This interdisciplinary seminar proceeds from the premise that the body knows. Ongoing colonial modernity is rooted in a racialized hierarchy: the "civilized" life of the mind vs. the "primitive" instincts of the flesh. According to this binary, the body is marked as irrational, sinful, outside of the archive. The body cannot know because the happenings of the body are ephemeral: unlike documents, they don't last. In this course, we will subject this logic to close scrutiny. As performance scholar Diana Taylor asks, "Whose memories, traditions, and claims to history disappear if performance practices lack the staying power to transmit vital knowledge?" In this course, we look to music, movement, and other repertoires as ways of knowing, remembering, and world-making. How does embodied knowledge travel across time and space? How have performance practices served as modes of what Ashinaabe cultural theorist Gerald Vizenor calls "survivance" (survival + resistance) for indigenous, nomadic, queer, and colored communities. Case studies include: the Middle Passage and the syncretic birth of the Blues in the Americas; nomadism, the nation-state, and the migration of Romani music; and the evolution of queer ball culture. Students will engage with a variety of texts (verbal, sonic, visual, kinesthetic) and respond to them critically not only through writing and discussion, but also through their own performance practices.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class participation, creative/critical responses to texts, final paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: if overenrolled, theater majors will get preference

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
THEA 202 (D1) AFR 215 (D1) WGSS 215 (D1) DANC 215 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

AFR 216  (S)  Moving While Black

Cross-listings: AFR 216  DANC 217

Primary Cross-listing

Opening your apartment door, driving down the highway, taking a knee, raising a fist, sitting at the lunch counter then or sitting in a café now, these movements have historically and presently prompted fear at a minimum and in the most grave cases death for black people. Whether in the U.S. or globally, moving in the world as a black person often means being perceived as different, foreign and threatening. Crawling, dancing, running and boxing, these movements have countered fear and articulated the beauty, pride, creativity and political resistance of black people. In both cases, black movement matters and means much. While many consider movement to be just organized dance moves, this course expands students' definitions of
black movement and teaches them to analyze multiple perceptions, uses, and reactions to it. "Moving while Black" offers examples of physical movement in improvised and practiced performance, quotidian movement, geographical movement across national borders and symbolic, politicized gestures. Students will investigate black movement via interdisciplinary sources that reflect various time periods and locations. They will analyze such texts as Jacob Lawrence's visual art in *The Migration Series*, the movement of the rumba dance form between Cuba and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's "Revelations," William Pope.L.'s choreographed crawls, the 1995 World Rugby Cup in South Africa, and the 2018 case of a Kansas resident arrested while moving into his own home. Additionally, this course features an important practice element, in which students experiment with in-class dance exercises and workshops, engage with dance archives at Jacob's Pillow, interview participants of Kusika, and create and perform their own choreographies. While no previous experience in performance is required, curiosity and openness to learning through one's own body movement is expected.

**Class Format:** seminar; classes will rotate throughout the semester between seminar discussions in the classroom and performance exercises in the studio

**Requirements/Evaluation:** multiple reading/viewing responses; two short essays closely analyzing movement; two graded movement performances; final movement performance with a proposal

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 14

**Enrollment Preferences:** Africana Studies concentrators and students involved in Dance, Theatre, other performance courses or campus performance groups

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 216 (D2) DANC 217 (D1)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Rashida K. Braggs

AFR 218 (S) Gender and Sexuality in the Neo-slave Narrative (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** WGSS 218 AMST 218 ENGL 218 AFR 218

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Hortense Spillers has noted that ex-slave Harriet Jacobs, "between the lines of her narrative, demarcates a sexuality that is neuterbound" and we live with the aftermath of her observation. "Ungendering," one of the transformations undergone by bodies subjected to the Middle Passage, is one of the keywords that forms the foundation for a conversation about slavery, blackness, gender, sexuality, and archive. Throughout this course we will wrestle with the questions: How does the designation "slave" rupture, reify, or expand our understandings of sexuality and gender? What conditions have necessitated the neo-slave narrative form? Texts include: slave narratives and neo-slave narratives in the forms of novels, visual art, and film. Course texts include: Octavia E. Butler's Kindred, Jewelle Gomez's Gilda Stories, Glenn Ligon's "Runaways", and Jordan Peele's Get Out. Critical theories of blackness, gender, and sexuality are also central texts in this course including that by Darieck Scott, Saidiya Hartman, Hortense Spillers, Matt Richardson, and others. Given that neo-slave narratives intervene in the sexual and gendered silences of slave narratives and the power relations that produced them, students who are hesitant to study sexual violence might consider taking another course.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** mandatory participation in discussion, four papers including one critical revision (total 20 pages), keyword glossary

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 218 (D2) AMST 218 (D2) ENGL 218 (D1) AFR 218 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Three thesis papers at 5 pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one thesis paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the work of black writers and artists engaged with the archival silences imposed by the power dynamics of racial hierarchy which constrained the birth of African American literature (the slave narrative). In particular, we examine the meaningful/willful/and censorial omissions that shape the treatment of gender and sexuality in these texts including and especially the silences around sexual abuse and sexual assault practiced by beneficiaries of white supremacy.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Ianna Hawkins Owen

AFR 219 (S) Spiritualities of Dissent

Cross-listings: AFR 219 REL 220

Secondary Cross-listing

This course seeks to understand how protest fuels the creation and sustenance of black religious movements and novel spiritual systems in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will examine the dissentive qualities of selected African-descended activists, community workers, scholars, spiritual/religious leaders and creative writers. By the end of this course, students will be able to thoughtfully respond to the questions, "What is spirituality?"; "What is dissent?"; and "Has blackness required resistive spiritual communities?"

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, weekly reading responses, a critical book review, and a final paper or project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors; Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 219 (D2) REL 220 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

AFR 220 (S) Introduction to African American Literature

Cross-listings: AFR 220 AMST 220 ENGL 220

Secondary Cross-listing

What does it mean, socially, culturally, historically, personally, and spiritually, to be African American? No single, simple answer suffices, but African American literature as a genre is defined by its ongoing engagement with this complex question. This course will examine a series of texts that in various ways epitomize the fraught literary grappling with the entailments of American blackness. Readings will include texts by Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Amiri Baraka, Toni Morrison, and Ishmael Reed.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: writing assignments for the course will total 20 pages, distributed over 3 papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 220 (D1) AMST 220 (D1) ENGL 220 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

AFR 221  (S)  Giving God a Backbeat: Rap Music, Religion & Spirituality
Cross-listings:  REL 263  AFR 221

Primary Cross-listing

On the surface, religion and rap music may seem as if they have little in common. Yet, like other Black musical traditions such as spirituals and the blues, rap is rooted in African American religious traditions. In this course, we will explore the ways in which rap music intersects with the sacred and secular worlds. Through an examination of black religious traditions, lyrics, music videos, and digital media, we will unearth what Anthony Pinn calls the "spiritual and religious sensibilities" of rap music. Grounded in culture-centered criticism, we will investigate the rhetoric of rap and religion through the theoretical ideas of Black Liberation Theology and hip-hop feminism.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: students will be evaluated on their class participation, response papers, quizzes, and a final class group project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 263 (D2) AFR 221 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 223  (F)  Politics of Performance/Performing Politics in Contemporary Africa  (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings:  MUS 222  AFR 223

Secondary Cross-listing

Using select examples from throughout Africa, this course highlights genres, artists, and works that engage with social and ideological change. Students practice critical listening and performance analysis, while also considering the social contexts that render these performances meaningful and provocative. Topics include: challenges to mass mediated stereotypes of African populations, the social and economic impact of cultural tourism, music as a form of social critique, changing attitudes toward women and the LGBTQIA community, issues of migration and displacement, and the changing roles of traditional musical occupations. Popular genres-among them Afrobeat, kwaito, soukous, rap, mvalaxa, Chimurenga music, and a variety of rap and hip-hop styles—are discussed alongside numerous traditional and ceremonial genres, national/political anthems, and concert pieces. Active participation in class discussion is an important component of this course.

Class Format: seminar; this class places a strong emphasis on discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: based on in-class preparation and participation, bi-weekly short writing assignments, a midterm paper and a final project

Prerequisites: some familiarity with music terminology encouraged

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores, juniors, or seniors who are current or prospective Music majors, as well as current and prospective Africana Studies and Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MUS 222 (D1) AFR 223 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students receive regular feedback on multiple short assignments throughout the semester. Particular focus is dedicated to crafting and substantiating written arguments.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Throughout the course, students engage with case studies concerning specific socio-political contexts within Africa, with an emphasis placed on music's role as a social agent. Topics include representational politics, music as a tool for the powerful as well as the politically disempowered, and music's role in conflict resolution.

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives MUS World Music/Ethnomusicology

AFR 225 (S) Musics of the Caribbean

Cross-listings: AFR 225 MUS 225

Secondary Cross-listing

From witty and politically charged calypsos to soulful bachatas, from folkloric displays that advertise a country's cultural diversity to ritual performances that facilitate communication with the spirit world, the music of the Caribbean is astonishingly diverse, both sonically and in its social application. This course serves as an introduction to a wide spectrum of Caribbean music in its broader social and historical context. Through engaging with audio and video sources, readings, performance exercises and workshops, students will learn to identify distinguishing features associated with particular countries and regions, while also exploring the sounds and musical structures that are shared between them. Featured genres include reggae, steel pan, calypso, zouk, Maroon music from Suriname and Jamaica, chutney, salsa, merengue and music from Haitian Vodu and Cuban Santería religions. Interlaced with discussion of musical genres and innovative musicians are a number of central questions about the social role of music within the region: How has slavery and colonial enterprise shaped the musical landscape of the Caribbean? How do the realms of sacred and secular performance relate to each other? What role does tourism and global circulation play in influencing musical tastes and practices? Finally, how do music and dance interconnect?

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, multimedia project, midterm paper, intermittent short assignments, final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Music majors and Africana Studies or Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 225 (D1) MUS 225 (D1)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives MUS World Music/Ethnomusicology

Not offered current academic year

AFR 226 (S) Black France/France Noire

Cross-listings: RLFR 226 AFR 226

Secondary Cross-listing

On the eve of the new millennium, the year 1998 saw the emergence in France of "Black studies à la française" (Ndiaye). Inspired, in part, by the 150th anniversary of the 1848 abolition of slavery, the French black minority "made itself more visible" (Faes and Smith). This course examines a wide range of discursive practices through which athletes, artists, authors, politicians, activists, and scholars amplified their voices in the French hexagone. It retraces the rise of these discourses and how they assert, reframe, and establish blackness as a legitimate field of knowledge and a space of
affirmation and contestation. Following a study of the interwar period (1918-1939), when the work of "negritude women" (Sharpley-Whiting) such as "afro-latinité" spurred the negritude movement, we will discuss publications, documentaries, and seminal moments of protest in the early twenty-first century. Course material may include works by Suzanne Césaire, Jane and Paulette Nardal, Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Achille Mbembé, Françoise Vergès, Pascal Blanchard, Nicolas Bancel and Sandrine Lemaire, Pap Ndiaye, Gaston Kelman, Rokhaya Diallo, Alice Diop, Léonora Miano, and Fabienne and Véronique Kanor. Conducted in French.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: response papers, midterm paper, TV show, colloquium
Prerequisites: RLFR 201, 202, or 203, or by permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: French and Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
RLFR 226 (D1) AFR 226 (D1)
Not offered current academic year

AFR 228 (F) Revolt and Revelation in 20th-Century Americas
Cross-listings: AMST 228 AFR 228 LATS 228 REL 223
Secondary Cross-listing
Writing in 1971, Dominican priest and Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutierrez asked "Is the Church fulfilling a purely religious role when by its silence or friendly relationships it lends legitimacy to dictatorial and oppressive government?" Such a question encapsulates the sometimes agonistic and other times deeply intertwined relationships between religious institutions, religious thought, and movements for political transformation in the 20th century Americas. This course examines those forms of "God-talk" broadly termed "liberation theologies" that responded to and challenged social relationships of class, colonization, race, culture, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, and ecology. These theologies were borne out of and in turn deeply shaped struggles against oppressive regimes and structures in the Americas, and as such we will focus on some specific theological writings--such as those of Gutierrez--and their relationship to distinct social movements and struggles over land, economy, and political power, especially in Brazil, El Salvador, Perú, and the United States of America between 1960-2000.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: participation, short writing exercises, a 5- to 6-page take-home midterm essay, and an 8- to 12-page final review essay
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: majors and concentrators
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 228 (D2) AFR 228 (D2) LATS 228 (D2) REL 223 (D2)
Attributes: LATS Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 230 (F) Gender, Sexuality, and Global HIV/AIDS
Cross-listings: WGSS 230 AFR 230
Secondary Cross-listing
The global pandemic of HIV/AIDS is now entering into its fourth decade. Throughout this history sexuality, gender and race and inequality have played a central role in the spread of the virus, and its apparent entrenchment in certain communities. This class will use a gendered, interdisciplinary
perspective to investigate the pandemic's social, economic and political causes, impact, and conundrums—the problems it poses for scholarship, activism, public policy, and public health. Issues discussed will include the role of transaction sex and economic structures in both susceptibility to HIV and vulnerability to its impact; stigma and its challenges for HIV prevention, testing and treatment uptake; the role of positive youth in the next stages of the pandemic; and the evolving expressions of biopower in the global AIDS response. The class will look at examples of successful policies and activism as well as the failures, corruption and complacency that have characterized the global pandemic. There will be a particular geographical focus on experiences in the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers and a research paper; class participation will form part of the grade

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, Public Health concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 230 (D2) AFR 230 (D2)

Attributes: PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Not offered current academic year

AFR 231  (F) The African Anthropocene  (DPE)

Cross-listings: STS 231  AFR 231  ENVI 231

Secondary Cross-listing

Despite its low contributions to global carbon emissions, the continent of Africa is predicted to experience some of the worst effects of climate change. This interdisciplinary course investigates the causes and consequences of this troubling contradiction. It positions the African continent as an important site for understanding how legacies of empire, racial and gendered inequality, resource extraction, and capital accumulation impact contemporary global environmental politics. Students will engage theoretical texts, reports from international organizations, films, poetry, novels, and web-based content. Topics include: humanism/post-humanism; migration and displacement; representations of conflict; and sustainable development.

Class Format: seminar; non-traditional technologies: web-streams; social media (Tumblr/Twitter)

Requirements/Evaluation: assignments include: short written commentaries, current event analysis, presentations, and a final analytical essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Environmental Studies majors and concentrators; juniors and seniors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 231 (D2) AFR 231 (D2) ENVI 231 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The African Anthropocene considers inequity in environmental politics from the vantage of the African continent. Through selected readings and classroom discussions students will tackle questions of power, racial and gendered difference, empire, and economic stratification. The course contributes to the DPE requirement by helping students to develop skills to better analyze abiding challenges in global society.

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01    TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am    Brittany Meché

AFR 237  (F) Islam in the United States: From Black Muslims to the War on Terror
Malcolm X is likely the most prominent and influential Muslim figure in the history of the United States. His story represents two fundamental themes in the history of Islam in America: conflict between Muslims over what is "authentic" or "orthodox" Islam; and the ways that American history, politics, and culture determine the contours of "American Islam". This course will explore these two themes through an array of topics in the history of American Islam. In so doing, we will examine the complex relation between religion, politics, and culture in the United States. Beginning with the story of Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam, and other African-American Muslim movements, we will try to understand: What made Islam so appealing to millions of African-Americans throughout the 20th century? And were these genuinely "religious" and "Islamic" movements, or just racial/political "black nationalist" movements in the guise of religion? What counts as legitimately "Islamic", and who gets to decide? We will then move into the latter half of the 20th century and the post-9/11 debates over authentic Islam. What happened to American Muslim communities and organizations after the waves of post-1965 immigration from Muslim countries? How have debates about Muslim identity shifted over time, from being configured in terms of black separatism, to transnational/diasporic identity, to the attempts at articulating an indigenous "American-Muslim" identity? How have national narratives around 9/11 and the "War on Terror" impacted these debates over identity and "true Islam"? And how have these debates intersected with gender, racial, and ethnic politics? Throughout the course, we will be studying historical and anthropological material, autobiographies, novels, documentaries, films, and social media. The course fosters critical thinking about diversity by challenging assumptions of who Muslims are, what being American means, and what Islam is. It also focuses on the complex interaction of different dimensions of diversity, from religion to race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, gender, language, and age.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: in-class participation and presentations; 3 short essays; final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 237 (D2) AFR 237 (D2) REL 237 (D2)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora
Not offered current academic year

AFR 241 (S) The Banlieue in Literature, Music, and Film
Cross-listings: AFR 241 COMP 281 RLFR 240
Secondary Cross-listing
In this course we will read, watch, and listen to various constructions of the banlieue in French music, film, and literature to focus on the contestatory and affirmative dimensions of these narratives.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: journaling, presentation, in-class discussion, and final project
Prerequisites: RLFR 105 and above
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: French majors, certificate, Africana and Comparative literature students
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 241 (D1) COMP 281 (D1) RLFR 240 (D1)
Attributes: FMST Core Courses
Not offered current academic year
AFR 242 (F) Introduction to the Music of John Coltrane

Cross-listings: AFR 242 MUS 252

Secondary Cross-listing

This course offers the serious music student an opportunity to study the unique body of work produced by saxophonist and composer John Coltrane (1926-1967). The course traces the evolution of Coltrane's compositional and performance styles in the context of the musical and cultural environment in which they developed. Emphasis placed on Coltrane's musical style, representing a unique synthesis of influences, including jazz, world, and European Classical music and spirituality. Substantial listening and reading assignments, including a biography and related criticism, as well as detailed score analysis and study, are required.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class participation including small quizzes, midterm, class presentation, and final paper

Prerequisites: MUS 103 and/or 203 strongly recommended; musical literacy sufficient to deal with the material and/or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: musically literate students and Music majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 242 (D2) MUS 252 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Kris Allen

AFR 243 (S) Asian/American and Black Literary and Cultural Thought

Cross-listings: AFR 243 AMST 243

Secondary Cross-listing

One durable legacy of white settler colonialism has been to its divide-and-conquer management of minority populations-an amazingly effective strategy still widely practiced in a variety of forms today. While Asian Americans have been deemed "model minorities" in contrast to "unmodel" minorities-namely, African Americans-and racial minorities have been pitted against one another in the oppression Olympics and on the issue of affirmative action, there has, in fact, been a long history of political, literary, and cultural thought that have joined blacks and Asian/Asian Americans, from W.E.B. Du Bois to current ideas about digital possibilities (and constraints). In this course we will examine the theory, political writings, art, music and literature that sprang from and attended the early Marxist-Communist fight for universal brotherhood; movements against colonialism, capitalism, and the Vietnam War; Yellow Power and Black Power; and topics such as black and Asian diasporas, Afro-futurism multiculturalism, "Afro-pessimism," racial melancholia, and digital futurities.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: one shorter paper (4-6 pages), midterm; final paper/project (10-12 pages), response papers and/or posts on GLOW; participation (class discussion and attendance)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors, sophomores

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 243 (D2) AMST 243 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives
AFR 246 (S) African American History, 1619-1865

Cross-listings: HIST 281 AFR 246

Secondary Cross-listing

This course provides an introduction to the history of African Americans in United States during the colonial, early republic, and antebellum eras. The experience of enslavement necessarily dominates this history, and it is the contours and nuances of slavery-and the development of racial classifications-that give this course its focus. We will also explore African cultural influences, the significance of gender, the lives of free blacks, and the cultural and intellectual significance of the abolitionist movement. The course closes on the themes that emerge from the Civil War, and on the meaning of freedom and emancipation. Our readings will include primary sources and secondary literature. Class meetings will combine lecture and discussion. Informed participation in class discussion is essential. This Power etc course explores the experiences and expressions of the culturally diverse peoples of African descent in the New World (and the Old), as well as the myriad ways in which they confront, negotiate, and at times challenge dominant U.S. and/or European hierarchies of race, culture, gender and class.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: class discussion, short informal writing assignments, three formal papers from 3-7 pages, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 281 (D2) AFR 246 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

AFR 248 (S) The Caribbean: From Slavery to Independence

Cross-listings: AFR 248 HIST 248

Primary Cross-listing

This class will begin with and foreground the current crisis in Puerto Rico, an island emblematic of the history of colonialism, racism, environmental destruction, and economic exploitation of the region. But as the Caribbean has suffered, so has it resisted. From the Haitian Revolution to the Manley `Revol' in Jamaica, the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, the Cuban Revolution, and the Grenadian Revolution, the Caribbean has been at the forefront of radical change in the New World. Pioneering slave emancipation, independence from European empires, and unique experiments in socialism, communism, and Black Power, these small islands have been world leaders. But their innovative social and political experimentation--expressed in vivid artistic and musical forms--have all too often met with disdain and repression by their more powerful neighbors or former colonial rulers. This course will examine the audacious experiments of the Caribbean people from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries as well as the repression they have faced from abroad. We will pay attention to the rich cultural diversity of the region, using film, music, literature and art to examine diverse phenomenon, including voodoo, Santeria, and Rastafarianism. We will also explore the prospects for continuing change in the contemporary Caribbean, paying special attention to the environmental challenges they face amidst rising sea levels, drought, heat waves, and the effect of two hundred years of environmental destruction at the hands of rapacious foreigners, from slaveowners to cruise ship lines to bauxite and oil producers.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, a mid-term and final paper, and a 10-12 page research paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators; History majors
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 248 (D2) HIST 248 (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives GBST Latin American Studies Electives HIST Group D Electives - Latin America + Caribbean HIST Group P Electives - Premodern LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect MAST Interdepartmental Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 254  (F)  Bebop: The (R)evolution of Modern Jazz
Cross-listings: MUS 254  AFR 254
Secondary Cross-listing
In the 1940s, Jazz turned a corner, transitioning from the functional and popular music of the swing era to the increasingly complex art music known as bebop. The practitioners of this new sub-genre were seen not as showmen or entertainers, but (in the words of poet Ralph Ellison) as "frozen faced introverts, dedicated to chaos." This music was simultaneously old and new, a musical evolution interpreted through the lens of cultural revolution. This class will survey the lives, music and continuing impact of bebop's most pivotal figures: Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell and Kenny Clarke among many others. Through score study and guided listening assignments, the class will examine the melodic, harmonic and rhythmic innovations associated with this pivotal era in jazz history. We will evaluate, compare and contrast examples of contemporary theoretical scholarship concerning this musical vocabulary and it's evolution. Intersections between the music and parallel artistic, social and political movements will also be addressed.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading, listening, short written responses to discussion prompts and participation in class discussion; quizzes on assigned readings and listening, and final exam
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Music majors, Jazz Ensemble members, Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MUS 254 (D1) AFR 254 (D1)
Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 256  (S)  Politics of Africa
Cross-listings: AFR 256  PSCI 243
Secondary Cross-listing
This course provides an introduction to the politics of contemporary Africa, emphasizing the diversity of African politics. It seeks to challenge the widespread image of African politics as universally and inexplicably lawless, violent, and anarchic. We begin by examining the colonization of Africa, nationalist movements, and patterns of rule in the first 30 years of independence. From there, we analyze the causes, achievements and limitations of the recent wave of political liberalization across Africa. We then consider patterns of economic development in Africa. Finally, we examine China's growing expansion into Africa and ask whether this is a new colonialism.
Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class discussion, four short papers and final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 35

Expected Class Size: 30

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 256 (D2) PSCI 243 (D2)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 257 (F) Social Justice Traditions: 1960s to #Black Lives Matter (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 256 HIST 256 AFR 257

Secondary Cross-listing

We live in a time of renewed social justice activism, as people from all walks of life confront economic inequality, police violence, discrimination against transgender individuals, and other forms of oppression. This course is designed to clarify where recent initiatives like Black Lives Matter and Occupy Wall Street came from, and to evaluate how they might shape American life in the near future. Movements have histories, as today's activists draw on the "freedom dreams," tactics, and styles of rhetoric crafted by their predecessors, while making use of new technologies, such as Twitter, and evolving understandings of "justice." Taking a historical approach, we will begin by studying the civil rights, Black Power, anti-war, counter-culture, and feminist initiatives of the 1960s. We will then explore how progressive and radical activists adjusted their theories and strategies as the country became more conservative in the 1970s and 1980s. Making use of movement documents, documentary films, and scholarly accounts, we will study the development of LGBTQ, ecological, and economic justice initiatives up to the present day. Throughout, we will seek to understand how movements in the United States are shaped by global events and how activists balance their political work with other desires and commitments.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation; four 2 page reading response papers; discussion of films via GLOW forums; and a final 7-8 page analytical essay

Enrollment Limit: 35

Enrollment Preferences: first years, sophomores, and American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 256 (D2) HIST 256 (D2) AFR 257 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The class focuses on struggles for rights, recognition, and redistribution of resources of people of color, women, LGBTQ folks, the working poor, and immigrants. We focus on the tension between groups asserting they are the "same" as others in society, and hence deserving of equal rights, and the celebration of difference as a means of asserting pride and building solidarity. We discuss how movements borrow and adapt tactics, slogans, and ideas of justice from other movements.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

AFR 259 (S) Bilad al-Sudan and Beyond: Arts of the Afro-Islamic World

Cross-listings: ARAB 259 ARTH 259 AFR 259

Secondary Cross-listing

From the Swahili stone houses of East Africa to the massive earth and timber mosques of the Sahel, the story of Islam in Africa is one of cultural and spiritual hybridity expressed through material form. In this course, students will explore how artistic forms and traditions in Africa have functioned as vehicles of access and integration for Islam, enabling it to assimilate itself with numerous African contexts towards becoming the dominant religious force on the continent. In addition, students will investigate how the forms, functions, and meanings of Afro-Islamic objects across the continent reflect not just one African Islam, but many different iterations, each shaped by the specific frameworks of its cultural context. The contemporary component
of the course will examine how modernity in the form of globalization, technology, and Westernization has affected Afro-Islamic artistic traditions, and how these shifts reflect larger evolutions within understandings of Islam in Africa in the contemporary period.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: three reading response papers (2 pages each), class journal, a mid-term exam, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none, although an introductory course in art history or Islamic studies would be useful

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: if the course is oversubscribed, preference will be given to students who have declared a major in Art History or Africana Studies

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARAB 259 (D1) ARTH 259 (D1) AFR 259 (D2)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

AFR 261  (F)  Haitian and French Caribbean Literatures and Films

Cross-listings: COMP 283  AFR 261  RLFR 261

Secondary Cross-listing

Over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, authors and filmmakers have questioned prevalent representations of the Creole and French-speaking Caribbean such as the idea of Haiti as the First Black republic and the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere and of Martinique and Guadeloupe as the "French" Caribbean. They have also interrogated their forebears by reclaiming modernity, reframing History, and telling "intimist" stories (Ferly). This course focuses on the diverging paths by Haitian and French Caribbean literatures (short stories, play, poem, novels) and film (short, feature and documentaries) as critical interventions that bring into focus gender, slavery, identity, exile, migration, imperialism, culture, and (non) sovereignty.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class discussions, journaling, steps towards final project, final project and presentation

Prerequisites: French majors, French certificate, Africana and Comparative Literature students

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: 105 and above, French majors, French certificate, Africana and Comparative Literature students

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 283 (D1) AFR 261 (D1) RLFR 261 (D1)

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 275  (S)  Southern Literary Aesthetics  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 275  AMST 276  ENGL 275

Secondary Cross-listing

Hip-Hop artists signify as "the dirty South" the distinct sounds, rhythms, landscapes, gestures, desires as well as frustrations of Black residents living in the southernmost regions of the U.S. American continent. In this course, students will examine what the South means to American concepts and how the South is used to make meaning in literature, music, art, digital archives, and film. We will give particular attention to how representations of
the South are informed by region, gender, sexuality, and class. At the end of the course, students will be able to identify Black southern aesthetes across various genres and mediums with attention to historical and regional specificity despite the opacity of these categories. Potential artists include Jean Toomer, Alice Walker, Ernest Gaines, William Faulkner, Jesmyn Ward, Zora Neale Hurston, Natasha Trethewey, E. Patrick Johnson, Trudier Harris, Kiese Laymon, Julie Dash, Spike Lee, Askia Muhammad Touré, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Alison Janae Hamilton, Outkast, DJ Khalid, Beyoncé Knowles, and Solange Knowles.

Class Format: Seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: four or five writing assignments that total about 20 pages; discussion facilitation

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 275 (D2) AMST 276 (D2) ENGL 275 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will develop a writing practice through short in-class assignments that culminate in four or five formal submissions. Students will receive group as well as one-on-one feedback on useful writing principles. Feedback will focus on structure, style, argumentation, and audience.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will analyze the "shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change" in the South. Students will discover how region impacts race, gender, sexuality, and class.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am     Kimberly S. Love

AFR 276 (S) Black Europeans

Cross-listings: COMP 276  GERM 276  AFR 276

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores the in/visibility of Black Europeans from the Enlightenment to the present with a particular focus on French, German, Austrian, Dutch, British, and Russian history. With the European Enlightenment as point of departure, the tutorial investigates the large presence of Blacks as objectified subjects in paintings and decorative artifacts of the 18th and 19th centuries while interrogating their century-long absence from European historiography until fairly recently. In this tutorial, we will start discussing the significance of the Code Noir (1685) as well as the major economic impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on European countries such as Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands. We will read historical biographies about a handful of outstanding Black Europeans in France (composer Monsieur de Saint George), Germany (Prussian officer Gustav Sabac el Cher, philosopher Wilhelm Anton Amo), Austria (royal tutor Angelo Soliman), Holland (Prince Kwasi Boachi), and Russia (military leader Abram Petrovitch Gannibal) during the 18th and 19th centuries, study paintings and decorative artifacts of the 18th and 19th centuries depicting black servants—such as Hyacinthe Rigaud's Portrait of Marquise de Louville (1708), Nicolas Lancret's The Escaped Bird (1730), and Manet's Olympia (1863) to name a few—and watch the biopic Belle by Amma Asante (2013), narrating the life of black heiress Dido Elizabeth Belle in 18th-century England. We will also do a quick survey of 20th-century European cinema, that has until now cast very few black actors in supporting and leading roles, and we will ponder the representation of black people in recent films that were commercially successful at the box office (such as Les Intouchables by Nakache/Toledano, France 2011). Finally, we will reflect on the deep roots of European colonialism that takes the form of national debates surrounding the naming of chocolate-coated treats and licorice sweets (Têtes de nègre, Mohrenkopf, and Negerkuss) or of a controversy around cultural identity resulting from the grotesque depiction of black men in folkloric tradition (like Zwarte Piet in the Netherlands).

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: six 5- to 7-page argumentative papers; six 2- to 3-page response papers; final paper optional

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first-years, sophomores, and juniors
Expected Class Size: 8
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 276 (D1) GERM 276 (D1) AFR 276 (D2)

Spring 2020
TUT Section: T1 TBA Christophe A. Kone

AFR 283 (F) Black Queer Looks: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary African-American Film
Cross-listings: WGSS 283 ENGL 286 AFR 283 AMST 283

Secondary Cross-listing
In this course we will foreground questions around visibility and memory. We will explore representations of Black queer bodies in experimental, documentary and narrative film. This course will engage foundational texts from Black Queer Studies. We will pair texts with film in order to examine the various relationships between art and scholarship. You will also be asked to think about yourself as a filmmaker. We will screen films such as Looking for Langston (Isaac Julien, 1989), The Watermelon Woman (Cheryl Dunye, 1996), U People (Olive Demetrius and Hanifah Walidah, 2009), Tongues Untied (Marlon Riggs, 1989) and Litany for Survival (Ada Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson, 1995). Throughout the course we will evaluate the different ways filmmakers represent Black queerness on screen. The goal is to think about the possibilities and limitations of representation and visibility. Each of you will be asked to facilitate a class discussion. You also will be required to do weekly critical response papers. In lieu of a final paper you will create a detailed proposal for a short film that "represents" some segment of Black queer living.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: facilitate class discussion; weekly critical response papers; in lieu of a final paper you will create a detailed proposal for a short film
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, then Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
WGSS 283 (D2) ENGL 286 (D1) AFR 283 (D2) AMST 283 (D2)
Attributes: FMST Core Courses WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Fall 2019
SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Kai M. Green

AFR 299 (F) Rastafari: Dread, Politics, Agency
Cross-listings: REL 261 AFR 299 PSCI 233

Primary Cross-listing
The emergence of Rastafari in the twentieth century marked a distinct phase in the theory and practice of political agency. From its heretical roots in Jamaica, Garveyism, Ethiopianism, and Pan-Africanism, Rastafari has evolved from a Caribbean theological movement to an international political actor. This course investigates the political theory of Rastafari in order to develop intellectual resources for theorizing the concept of agency in contemporary Africana thought and political theory. We will analyze texts and audio-visual works on the political economy of late colonial Jamaica, core Rastafari thinking, political theology, the role of reggae music, the notion of agency, and the influence of Rastafari on global politics.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, weekly reading e-response papers, two short essays, and a 12- to 15- page final paper
AFR 301  (F)  Experimental African American Poetry

Cross-listings:  AFR 301  AMST 307  ENGL 327

Secondary Cross-listing

Contemporary African American poets in various cities and towns across the nation--from New York City to Los Angeles, from Berkeley to Durham, N.C.--are currently producing a vibrant and thriving body of formally experimental work, yet this poetry is largely unknown to readers both within and outside the academy. This formally innovative poetry defamiliarizes what we normally expect of "black writing" and pushes us to question our assumptions and presumptions about black identity, "identity politics," the avant-garde (for example, is it implicitly raced?), formalism, socially "relevant" writing, the (false) dichotomy of form versus content, the black "community," digital poetics, and other issues of race and aesthetics. We will examine the writings of living poets, who range widely in age, and those of their avant-garde predecessors in the twentieth century. We will also be making links between this poetry and African American music and visual art.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation:  two papers (6-8 pp., 8-10 pp.), short response papers, oral presentation, and class participation

Prerequisites:  none, though at least one previous literature course preferred

Enrollment Limit:  15

Enrollment Preferences:  American Studies majors

Expected Class Size:  15

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 301 (D2) AMST 307 (D2) ENGL 327 (D1)

Attributes:  AMST Arts in Context Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am     Neil Roberts

AFR 302  (S)  Complexion Complexities: Colorism in Literature, Lyrics & Everyday Life

Cross-listings:  COMP 309  AFR 302

Primary Cross-listing

Often viewed as the "dirty laundry" of the Black American past, colorism, or skin color bias, is a pervasive force within modern global society. Although it is not a new issue, its impact is far reaching and continues to have damaging effects on people of color-especially members within the African Diaspora. From skin bleaching creams like "Whitenicious" to rap music's fetishization of light-skinned women, colorism is a very real and present issue affecting Black life. From the literary works of Wallace Thurman and Toni Morrison, to the lyrics of blues crooner Big Bill Broonzy and rapper Lil

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01    W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm     Dorothy J. Wang
Wayne, we will analyze the many ways that the politics of color influence standards of beauty and attractiveness, perceptions of behavior and criminality, and economic attainment and stability.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation in this course will be based upon class participation, response papers, one 6- to 8-page paper, and a formal class presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 309 (D1) AFR 302 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am VaNatta S. Ford

AFR 307 (F) Contemporary Short Stories from North Africa

Cross-listings: AFR 307 RLFR 309

Secondary Cross-listing

Short stories are the vibrant center of the literary landscape in North Africa today. Written in French, Arabic and sometimes Amazigh languages, short stories provide timely interventions in political and social discourse. In this course, we will read short stories that use humor and satire to address the effects of globalization on local communities, that experiment with language to portray war and revolution, and that seek to create a new space for the discussion of gender. We will also analyze films, sociological texts and Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian online newspapers in order to explore contemporary transformations of life in North Africa. Readings by Maissa Bey, Abdelfattah Kilito, Zeina Tabi, Mohamed Zafzaf, Ahmed Bouzfour, Soumaya Zahy and Fouad Laroui among others. Conducted in French.

Class Format: seminar/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, weekly response papers, two short papers, an oral presentation and a final paper

Prerequisites: RLFR 201, 202 or 203 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: French majors and those with compelling justification for admission

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 307 (D1) RLFR 309 (D1)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 309 (S) Scriptures and Race

Cross-listings: LATS 309 REL 309 AFR 309

Secondary Cross-listing

This course focuses on the relationships between constructions of race in the post-1492 American world and “Christian scriptures.” The big questions of the course examine the ways that contestations of power are intertwined with the making of, interpretation, and transformation of sacred texts. Both scriptures and race are conceptual constellations of human social imagination, and yet their conceptualization has often been embroiled in the hopes and traumas of everyday life in the Americas. How and why did these two terms come to have any relationship to each other? How and why do
peoples engage "scriptures"? In what ways have "scriptures" informed how people imagine themselves, their communities, and their relationship to religious and racial "others"? How did "scriptures" and "race" inform each other in modern colonialisms and imperialisms? In this course, we will examine the ways that scriptures have been employed in order to understand and develop notions of race, and we will examine how ideas about and lived experiences of race have informed the concept of scriptures as well as practices of scriptural interpretation.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation based upon participation, short writing exercises, a 5- to 8-page take-home midterm essay, and a 10- to 15-page final essay
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
LATS 309 (D2) REL 309 (D2) AFR 309 (D2)
Attributes: LATS Core Electives

AFR 310 (F) Womanist/Black Feminist Thought
Cross-listings: REL 310 AFR 310 WGSS 310 AMST 309
Primary Cross-listing
This course explores the genealogy and development of black feminist and womanist thought. We will investigate the expansion of womanist thought from a theologically dominated discourse to a broader category of critical reflection associated more commonly with black feminism, analyze the relationship between womanism and black feminism, and review the historical interventions of black feminism. As critical reflections upon western norms of patriarchy, heterosexism, and racism, womanism and black feminism begin with the assumption that the experiences of women of color--particularly black women--are significant standpoints in modern western society. Through the examination of interdisciplinary and methodological diversity within these fields, students will be introduced to key figures including Alice Walker, Zora Neale Hurston, and Katie Cannon, and will engage materials that draw from multiple fields, including, but not limited to, literature, history, anthropology, and religious studies.
Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, three short response papers, and the completion of an original research paper or project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, Religion majors
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 310 (D2) AFR 310 (D2) WGSS 310 (D2) AMST 309 (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses WGSS Theory Courses
Not offered current academic year

AFR 314 (F) Groovin’ the Written Word: The Role of Music in African American Literature
Cross-listings: ENGL 314 COMP 321 AFR 314 AMST 314
Primary Cross-listing
In an interview with Paul Gilroy, Toni Morrison once said, "Music provides a key to the whole medley of Afro-American artistic practices." Morrison is
not the only one who believes that music speaks to numerous aspects of the African American experience. From Sterling Brown and Zora Neale Hurston to John Edgar Wideman and Suzan Lori-Parks, many African American authors have drawn on music to take political stands, shape creative aesthetics, and articulate black identity. In this course, students will explore the work of these authors and more, investigating music's ability to represent and critique African American culture in their literature. Texts will cover a range of literary forms including poetry, plays, short stories and novels alongside theoretical and critical essays. Students will discuss such key issues as assimilation into mainstream culture, authenticity claims on black music, and music used as a tool for protest. Additionally, class assignments will include musical examples in spirituals/gospel, blues, jazz, and rock/rhythm and blues. While this class requires students to practice in-depth literary and performance analysis skills, students are not required to have technical musical knowledge.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based upon class participation, short weekly reading responses and/or listening assignments, one 3-page paper, one 6- to 8-page paper comparing two works, one in-class spoken word performance with 2-page report, final presentation

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 20

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 314 (D1) COMP 321 (D2) AFR 314 (D2) AMST 314 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AFR 315  (S)  Blackness 2.0: Race, Film and New Technologies

Cross-listings: AFR 315 AMST 315 SCST 315

Primary Cross-listing

Are distinctions of race truly eliminated with digital technologies? Through an engagement with scholarship in media studies, cultural studies, gender studies, and Africana studies (to name a few), this course will investigate the nuanced ways blackness is (re)constructed and (re)presented in digital technologies. Although we will largely focus on representations of blackness in modern film, we will examine the impact of ‘new’ technologies upon the broader categories of race, gender, and sexuality. Additional topics may include: avatar-based entertainment; race in the ‘real’ vs ‘virtual’ world; emoji wars; blogosphere politics; internet and hashtag activism; social networking and a post-race future; and fandom in the twitter era.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation based on participation and attendance, creation and maintenance of a personal blog, structural analyses for film, and design of an original multimedia project.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 315 (D2) AMST 315 (D2) SCST 315 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 317  (F)  Black Migrations: African American Performance at Home and Abroad

Cross-listings: COMP 319 ENGL 317 THEA 317 AFR 317 DANC 317 AMST 317

Primary Cross-listing
In this course, students will investigate, critique and define the concepts migration and diaspora with primary attention to the experiences of African Americans in the United States and Europe. Drawing on a broad definition of performance, students will explore everything from writing and painting to sports and dance to inquire how performance reflects, critiques and negotiates migratory experiences in the African diaspora. For example, how did musician Sidney Bechet's migration from New Orleans to Chicago to London influence the early jazz era? How did Katherine Dunham's dance performances in Germany help shape a new black dance aesthetic? Why did writer James Baldwin go all the way to Switzerland to write his first novel on black, religious culture in Harlem? What drew actor/singer Paul Robeson to Russia, and why did the U.S. revoke his passport in response to his speeches abroad? These questions will lead students to investigate multiple migrations in the African diasporic experience and aid our exploration of the reasons for migration throughout history and geography. In addition to critical discussions and written analysis, students will explore these topics through their own individual and group performances in class. No prior performance experience is necessary.

Class Format: seminar/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based upon class participation, in-class student performances, several 2-page performance response papers, one 10- to 12-page research paper, a final performance with a 3-page report

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 319 (D2) ENGL 317 (D2) THEA 317 (D1) AFR 317 (D2) DANC 317 (D2) AMST 317 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Space and Place Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 321 (F) Trending Black: Race & Social Media in the 21st Century

The 21st Century ushered in new and exciting ways for people to communicate digitally. With the creation of social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and more recently Vine, connecting with the world is literally one click, or selfie away. Though much of the attention around social media is focused on people with race and educational privilege, people of color have created their own spaces to curate, articulate, and produce culture. Through the methods of rhetorical criticism, critical discourse analysis, cultural criticism and ethnography, we will investigate the ways Africana cultures, specifically in the United States, utilize social media to shape community and influence popular culture. This course will give students hands-on experience analyzing various texts, and a deeper understanding of rhetorical methodologies.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based upon class participation, response papers, and a final research project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 322 (S) Race, Culture, Incarceration

Cross-listings: AFR 322 INTR 322 AMST 322 PSCI 313

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores racially-fashioned policing and incarceration from the Reconstruction era convict prison lease system to contemporary mass incarceration and "stop and frisk" policies of urban areas in the United States. Also explored will be political imprisonment in the United States.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: brief analytical papers and group presentations.
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 322 (D2) INTR 322 (D2) AMST 322 (D2) PSCI 313 (D2)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives AMST Space and Place Electives JLST Interdepartmental Electives

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

AFR 323  (S)  Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora
Cross-listings: AMST 323  ARTH 223  AFR 323  COMP 322  ENGL 356
Primary Cross-listing
This course explores how the graphic novel has been an effective, provocative and at times controversial medium for representing racialized histories. Drawing on graphic novels such as Jeremy Love’s Bayou and Ho Che Anderson’s King: A Comic Biography, this course illustrates and critiques multiple ways the graphic novel commingles word and image to create more sensorial access into ethnic traumas, challenges and interventions in critical moments of resistance throughout history. Students will practice analyzing graphic novels and comic strips, with the help of critical essays, reviews and film; the chosen texts will center on Africana cultures, prompting students to consider how the graphic novel may act as a useful alternate history for marginalized peoples. During the course, students will keep a journal with images, themes and reflections and will use Comic Life software and ipads to create their own graphic short stories based on historical and/or autobiographical narratives.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based upon class participation, weekly written responses, student-led facilitation, one 3-page graphic analysis, one 6- to 8-page essay, and a final project (producing a graphic short story with Comic Life)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Unit Notes: this course is part of the Gaudino Danger Initiative
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 323 (D2) ARTH 223 (D1) AFR 323 (D2) COMP 322 (D1) ENGL 356 (D1)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Rashida K. Braggs

AFR 325  (F)  Television, Social Media, and Black Women 'Unscripted'
Cross-listings: WGSS 325  AFR 325
Primary Cross-listing
Nene Leaks, Shonda Rhimes, Oprah Winfrey, Kerry Washington and now Lavern Cox and Melissa Harris-Perry have become common household names. Whether from the television shows they star in, the TV shows they have created, or the social media presence they have developed—these women continue to influence and shape popular culture. In this course we will situate Black women as creators and contributors to popular culture as a

AFR 325  (F)  Television, Social Media, and Black Women 'Unscripted'
Cross-listings: WGSS 325  AFR 325
Primary Cross-listing
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whole, but specifically through television (scripted and "unscripted") and social media. We will begin by covering the history of Black women in television. This historical approach will then lead us to examine selected TV episodes, and investigate social media pages of Black actresses, television producers, and the fans of these shows. The aim of this course is to analyze the ways in which Black women continually shift the popular culture paradigm and how they serve as key players determining what is indeed popular.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation in this course will be based upon class participation, response papers, one 10 page paper, and a formal class presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: first, second, third, and fourth year students. If over enrolled, preference will be given to third and fourth year students

Expected Class Size: 13

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 325 (D2) AFR 325 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 326  (S)  Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics

Cross-listings: LATS 313  AMST 313  AFR 326  WGSS 313

Secondary Cross-listing

This course focuses on the politics of personal style among women of color in an era of viral video clips, the 24-hour news cycle, and e-commerce sites dedicated to the dermatological concerns of "minority" females. With a comparative, transnational emphasis on the ways in which gender, sexuality, ethno-racial identity, and class inform standards of beauty, we will examine a variety of materials including commercial websites, histories, personal narratives, ethnographies, sociological case studies, and feminist theory. Departing from the assumption that personal aesthetics are intimately tied to issues of power and privilege, we will engage the following questions: What are the everyday functions of personal style among women of color? Is it feasible to assert that an easily identifiable "African American," "Latina," "Arab American" or "Asian American" female aesthetic exists? What role do transnational media play in the development and circulation of popular aesthetic forms? How might the belief in personal style as activist strategy challenge traditional understandings of feminist political activity?

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, one student-led discussion period, two written essays of 5-7 pages, final take-home exam

Prerequisites: LATS 105, AMST 201, WGSS 101 or permission of instructor; first year students are not permitted to take this course

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies majors, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors by seniority

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LATS 313 (D2) AMST 313 (D2) AFR 326 (D2) WGSS 313 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ASAM Related Courses LATS Core Electives WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses WGSS Theory Courses

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01   TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm   Maria Elena Cepeda

AFR 327  (S)  Sounds and Pressures: Music in the 1970s Caribbean
For the Caribbean the 1970s was a decade of cultural excitement and political tragedy. 1960s radical consciousness contributed to rapidly changing music styles that formed by the early seventies and blossomed on the world stage as the decade progressed. This was the period when Jamaican Reggae, Haitian Konpa, and Spanish Caribbean Salsa, asserted their presence in the mainstream. But the countries that birthed these popular music forms were locked in political crisis. In Jamaica, political violence escalated, Haiti faced a brutal dictatorship and Cuba was caught in the midst of Cold War wranglings. A common response to these challenges was massive emigration from the Caribbean to the United States. This course will examine the music produced in the 1970s Caribbean and its relationship to the forces of migration, national politics, and inter-regional contact. After a background on Cuban and Haitian music, the course will give greatest focus to Jamaican politics its relationship with Reggae, which reached further than any other Caribbean music form in the 1970s.

Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 3-4 short papers (5-7 pages)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: AFR concentrators
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MUS 327 (D1) AFR 327 (D2)

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm     Matthew J. Smith

AFR 330  (S) Modern Folklore: Postcolonial Dance and Music in Africa
Cross-listings:  DANC 330  AFR 330  MUS 330
Secondary Cross-listing
"Folklore is a mixture of traditions, poems, songs, dances and legends of the people, it can be no other than the reflection of the life of the country and if that country develops, there is no reason why the folklore which is the living expression, should not develop as well. Modern folklore in present Africa is as authentic as the Africa of old." --Keita Fodeba, founding Artistic Director of Les Ballet Africain, Guinea, West Africa. This course will involve intensive dance and musical practice that is rooted in traditional and contemporary/forms from the African continent and the Diaspora. We will examine the international impact of countries who achieved independence from Europe in the late 1950's-1990s such as Les Ballets Africain, National Dance Company of Senegal, Bembeya Jazz, Ghana Dance Ensemble, and the national dance and music companies of Zimbabwe, Jamaica, and Cuba. Our study will include the impact of artists such as James Brown, Miriam Makeba, Michael Jackson, and Youssou N'Dour, as well as Hip Hop culture and the emergence of new forms of music and dance or modern folklore.

Class Format: studio
Requirements/Evaluation: student progress with music and dance material taught, quality of assigned short papers, quality of research and performance midterm and final projects
Prerequisites: Any of the following courses offer students preparation or experience DANC 100, 201, 202; MUS 111, 117, 120, 211, 222, 233; AFR 193, 200, 223, experience in a campus-based dance or music ensemble or permission of the instructors
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: students who have taken DANC 201, 202 or any of the courses listed in the prerequisites
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Materials/Lab Fee: occasional fees to attend concerts; fee range free-$35
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 331  (S)  Blackness and Gender: The Drag of Black Masculinity  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  WGSS 420  AMST 350  AMST 420  WGSS 318  ENGL 420  AFR 331

Secondary Cross-listing
In this seminar, we will study the evolution of Black masculinities through cultural, social, and political movements from 19th century to the present. This course engages Black feminist thought, Black masculinities studies, queer theory, and performance studies. We will examine the relationship and constitutive nature of masculinity and femininity. How is blackness always already gendered? How is gender always already racialized? What are the effects of these gendering and racializing practices on Black bodies, spaces, and places? We will trouble the relationship between manhood and masculinity by examining the ways in which masculinity can move across various kinds of bodies. By examining representations and presentations of Black masculinities, we will pursue questions such as: How has dominant society attempted to define Black masculinity? In what ways have Black people undermined these narratives and redefined themselves? How do racial stereotypes about Black men's sexuality inform representations of Black masculinities? Can we/should we be moving beyond heteropatriarchy and gender binaries? What is the future of Black Gender? By reading critical and creative texts, viewing films and engaging other kinds of media, students will hone their critical theorization skills.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation:  each student will be asked to facilitate a class discussion; students will write three short creative/critical papers; there will also be a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors and others with substantial background in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies or Africana Studies; statements of interest will be solicited

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
WGSS 420 (D2) AMST 350 (D2) AMST 420 (D2) WGSS 318 (D2) ENGL 420 (D2) AFR 331 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course fulfills the DPE requirement in that it centers questions of power and privilege.

Attributes: WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses  WGSS Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 334  (S)  Radical Theories of Political Struggle: Anti-Black Racism and the Obama Administration

Cross-listings:  AFR 334  PSCI 346  INTR 334

Secondary Cross-listing
This seminar reviews contemporary theories of "anti-black racism"; their articulation or assimilation within current political movements and mobilizations; and the influence and impact such theories-expressed in and/or as activism-on social justice and civil rights. Critical race theory, Afro-pessimism, feminist/queer theory and the works of the incarcerated are studied. Theorists studied include: Frank Wilderson; Angela Davis; Derrick Bell; Cheryl Harris. Students write weekly mini-reflection papers on assigned readings and collectively make analytical presentations.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: 1 research paper (50%); 2 presentations with summaries (40%); active engagement in class discussions (10%); Weekly student presentations consist of 15 minutes of analysis with written summaries and Q/A.

Extra Info: 1st quarter of semester: thesis and outline; 2nd and 3rd quarters: 2-page summaries integrating assigned texts into research analysis; 4th quarter: edit final paper.

Prerequisites: familiarity with one of the following: critical race theory; Africana/Black studies; feminist anti-racist political movements

Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: if over enrolled students will be asked to submit a paragraph on their research interest relevant to the seminar.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 334 (D2) PSCI 346 (D2) INTR 334 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

AFR 336 (S) Blackness, Theater, Theatricality

Cross-listings: ENGL 316 AFR 336

Secondary Cross-listing

Representations of African American life have pervaded the various genres and tiers of American culture, embodying a carnival of competing attitudes and perspectives. Many oddities and ironies result from this curious history. For example, African Americans as theatrical figures enter American consciousness via the minstrel stage, where white entertainers wearing burnt cork lampooned Negroes to amuse white audiences. Eventually, black performers created their own versions of minstrelsy, black playwrights created dramas more sympathetic to black life, and representations of black life proliferated in every noteworthy medium. This course will consider how attitudes about blackness have informed or deformed theatrical representations of African American life. It will examine major texts by African American writers, considering both their social importance and their aesthetic experiments and innovations. It will range from politically oriented works of social realism such as Theodore Ward's *Big White Fog* and Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* to expressionistic protest works like Amiri Baraka’s *Dutchman* and *Slave Ship* and Ntozake Shange’s *For Colored Girls* to August Wilson's earnest histories and the post-modern satires of Adrienne Kennedy and Suzan-Lori Parks. Alongside these, we will also consider a variety of comic traditions, ranging from minstrelsy to Spike Lee's film *Bamboozled* and characters created by comedians such as Jackie "Moms" Mabley and Richard Pryor. And how should we assess *Porgy*, a play by the white writer Dubose Heyward, which evolved into America's greatest opera, *Porgy and Bess*? This course will be an ongoing inquiry into the riotous theatricality of American blackness.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: journal, a 15-page final paper

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 316 (D1) AFR 336 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

AFR 339 (S) Black Counterpublic Sphere in Early America (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENGL 339 AFR 339

Secondary Cross-listing

This course examines the emergence of black writing and chronicles the major movements of African American print culture from the early American republic to the antebellum era. We will investigate what Joanna Brooks identifies as a distinct tradition of black publication, or a black print "counterpublic" sphere, and determine how this counterpublic emerges around questions of agency, humanity, and the law. We also will consider its role in setting and sustaining communal and intellectual agendas for black people through our engagement with such questions as: how did print culture become central to liberation efforts in early America? And how did black people participate through print in the making of the early republic and the transatlantic exchange of ideas? We will discuss such authors as Briton Hammon, Phillis Wheatley, and Olaudah Equiano. Collaborating with Williams College Special Collections, we will analyze a broad range of literary forms and documents (e.g. pamphlets, orations, epistles, and sermons) and study the institutions that made early black print publication possible.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: three critical response papers of two pages each and a culminating research project with Special Collections
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 339 (D1) AFR 339 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course centers black writing and print culture during the nascence of the American empire, illuminating the ways in which black people wrote themselves into the public sphere. Through reading and discussion, analytical essays, and archival investigation, students are introduced to discourses that shaped the early American republic and teaches students how to examine and articulate ideas about race, rights, nation, citizenship, self-mastery, agency, authorship, aesthetics, and freedom.
Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL Literary Histories A

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Kimberly S. Love

AFR 341 (S) Caste, Race, Hierarchy
Cross-listings: ANTH 341 AFR 341 ASST 341 GBST 341

Secondary Cross-listing
Caste in India looms large in global social thought as a kind of benchmark against which hierarchical social systems across the world are measured. This prominence has much to do with British colonial ideologies of rule, but it also has a deeper and different history: the Buddha compared caste to Greek slavery, early modern Jesuits related it to the system of European estates, and since the nineteenth century, anti-caste radicals from Dalit, or "untouchable," backgrounds have drawn a sustained comparison between the forms of oppression they face and those with which African Americans contend in the United States. Reciprocally, thinkers from W.E.B. DuBois to Toni Morrison have deployed the category of caste in their writings on race.
What can the study of caste in postcolonial South Asia contribute to global debates over the persistence of "traditional" forms of social hierarchy? What are the stakes of bringing caste and race into the same conversation, and what are the implications of refusing to do so? In this seminar we will acquire a thorough grounding in the anthropological literature on caste and then investigate the politics of the caste-race comparison over the last hundred years. Assignments include weekly postings of 1-page critical response papers and either a research paper or an interview-based, ethnographic final project examining "caste" in one's own community.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: weekly postings of 1-page critical response papers and research paper or ethnographic final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: seniors, juniors, majors in ANSO, AFR, or ASST
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ANTH 341 (D2) AFR 341 (D2) ASST 341 (D2) GBST 341 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

AFR 342 (S) Racial Capitalism (DPE)
Cross-listings: AMST 440 AFR 342
This class will interrogate the ways in which capitalist economies have "always and everywhere" relied upon forms of racist domination and exclusion. Although the United States will be in the foreground, the subject requires an international perspective by its very nature. We will consider the ways in which the violent expropriation of land from the indigenous peoples of the Americas, paired with chattel slavery and other coercive forms of labor, made possible the rise of a capitalist world economy centered in Europe during the early modern period. We will then explore ways racial divisions have undermined the potential for unified movements of poor and working people to challenge the prerogatives of wealthy citizens, and served to excuse imperial violence waged in the name of securing resources and "opening markets". Ideas about gender and sexuality always undergird racial imaginaries, so we will study, for instance, the ways rhetoric about "welfare queens" has impacted public assistance programs, and claims about the embodiment of Asian women play into the international division of labor. We will also be attentive to the means - from interracial unionism to national liberation struggles - by which subjects of racial capitalism have resisted its dehumanizing effects. This is a reading intensive course that will challenge students to synthesize historical knowledge with concepts drawn from scholars working in the traditions of Marxist, decolonial, and materialist feminist thought, including: Angela Davis, Cedric Robinson, Anibal Quijano, Chandra Mohanty, David Roediger, Stuart Hall, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, and Silvia Federici

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** attendance and participation; a written mid-term exam; one in-class presentation; research paper proposal; 12-16 page research paper

**Prerequisites:** previous course work in race and ethnicity, critical studies in neoliberalism or political economy, or permission of the instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

AMST 440 (D2) AFR 342 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Provides analysis of the creation of racial categories as means of legitimizing land theft and forced labor, which created the financial and political basis of the modern market economy. Assignments require students to develop new educational materials (courses, museum exhibits) to challenge the knowledge/power complex that insists racial ascription and violence are incidental to capitalism.

**Attributes:** AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora, AMST 400-level Senior Seminars, AMST Space and Place Electives

Not offered current academic year

**AFR 343 (S) Representations of Racial-Sexual Violence from Enslavement to Emancipation**

**Cross-listings:** AFR 343 INTR 343 WGSS 343 AMST 343

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This tutorial examines representations of and resistance to racial-sexual violence in American society, from colonial America to contemporary US culture. Interdisciplinary texts cover history, politics, literature, film, feminist studies, American studies, lgbtq and ethnic/black studies. Books include *Southern Horrors; Intimate Matters; Scenes of Subjection; Trauma and Recovery; The Delectable Negro; At the Dark End of the Street;* films include *Birth of a Nation; Bush Mama; To Kill a Mockingbird*. The primary focus is on racial and sexual vulnerability to violence and mobilization for freedom from the 18th-21st centuries.

**Class Format:** tutorial; students provide primary and response papers and discuss their analyses and theories of social and interpersonal violence.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** weekly primary and response papers

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** preference given to juniors and seniors

**Expected Class Size:** 8

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 343 (D2) INTR 343 (D2) WGSS 343 (D2) AMST 343 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives JLST Interdepartmental Electives WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Spring 2020
TUT Section: T1    Cancelled

AFR 345  (S)  Race and Feeling in Twentieth Century Literature

Cross-listings: AFR 345 ENGL 342

Secondary Cross-listing

Although we now take for granted that race is socially constructed, the terrain of racial feeling is less certain. In this course, we recognize that states of feeling are also socially constructed; they are marked and shaped by race and other categories. Questions concerning the circulation of feeling between individuals and their generative possibilities have preoccupied sociologists, psychologists, and literary theorists since the mid-1990s, and we will take up where they left off. In this course, we will study the ways in which literary representations of shame in African American literature offer insight into the interior lives of individuals who have been stigmatized by histories of disempowerment, trauma, and the real or imagined racialized gaze. We will analyze the influence of shame in works by such authors as James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, Alice Walker, James Baldwin, Sherley Anne Williams, Phyllis J. Perry, Toni Morrison, and E. Lynn Harris, and we will engage the ways in which shame, and its correlative feelings --- guilt, pride, humiliation, and love --- emerge in texts through various formal and aesthetic choices. We will also engage such theorists as Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Sara Ahmed, Sianne Ngai, Heather Love, Darieck Scott, Erving Goffman, and Melissa Harris-Perry to assist us in our inquiry into the intersections of race, feeling, and literature.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, two short essays of scholarly commentary on critical theory, midterm exam, 8- to 10-page paper

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 345 (D2) ENGL 342 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 346  (S)  Modern Brazil  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 346 HIST 346

Secondary Cross-listing

Brazil has been the "country of the future" longer than it has been an independent nation. Soon after Europeans descended on its shores, Brazil was hailed as a land of resources so rich and diverse that they would inevitably produce great wealth and global power for its inhabitants. Although this has often contributed to an exaggerated patriotism, it has also fostered ambiguity-for if the label suggests Brazil's potential, it also underlines the country's failure to live up to that promise. This course will examine Brazil's modern history by taking up major themes from Independence to the present. Beginning with a "bloodless" independence that sparked massive civil wars, we will analyze the hierarchies that have characterized Brazilian society. The course will give particular attention to themes of race, gender, sexuality, and citizenship; national culture and modernity; and democracy and authoritarianism in social and political relations.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation will count for 20% of final grade; each of two 5-page papers will count for 25%; and a final 8- to 10-page paper will count for 30%

Prerequisites: none; open to first-year students with instructors permission
Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: History majors, Latino/a Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15-20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 346 (D2) HIST 346 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course—in all of its readings, discussion, papers—centers on the formation of different and dynamic identities in 19th- and 20th-century Brazil. Throughout the semester we examine how Brazilians created, recreated, and/or rejected categories of difference and how these resulting actions connected to broad political and cultural changes. Links to current questions—like the struggles of communities of quilombolas (descendants of runaway or freed slaves)—receive particular attention.

Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives HIST Group D Electives - Latin America + Caribbean LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01 MW 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm Roger A. Kittleson

AFR 347 (S) Negative Affects in African American Literature

Cross-listings: AFR 347 ENGL 346

Secondary Cross-listing

"My pessimism was stronger than my longing," wrote Saidiya Hartman in her genre-breaking Lose Your Mother in her search for the afterlife of kinship in the remains of a Ghanaian slave fort. In this course we will discuss a mixture of contradictory "bad" feelings burdening the individual and the collective; for example, how hope and desire compete in Hartman’s statement with habituated disappointment and exhaustion. How do black subjects creatively overcome the racial foreclosure to write and recite violence, rage, refusal, anxiety, depression, idleness, grief, silence, etc.? And, further, how do we make sense of the sorts of affects that become negative when practiced by black subjects, such as love, empathy, and desire? Together, we will explore interventions by critical theorists of blackness, gender, and sexuality including Saidiya Hartman, Darieck Scott, Abdul JanMohamed, Christina Sharpe, Frantz Fanon, Ann Cvetkovich, Heather Love, and Lauren Berlant to assist us in confronting the sometimes perilous terrain of negative expression for black subjects. Primary texts will include work by Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Kara Walker, Jamaica Kincaid, and Richard Wright. This course will be driven by student discussion and collaboration.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: one 10 pg paper, one 4 pg paper, engaged feedback process, presentations, thoughtful class participation

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 347 (D1) ENGL 346 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 348 (S) The Black Radical Tradition

Cross-listings: AFR 348 PSCI 348 LEAD 348

Primary Cross-listing

The black radical tradition is a modern tradition of thought and action begun after transatlantic slavery's advent. Contemporary social science and the
humanities overwhelmingly portray it as a critique of black politics in the latter's liberal, libertarian, and conservative forms. This tutorial unsettles that framing, first by situating the black radical tradition as a species of black politics, and second through expanding the boundaries of black politics beyond the United States. Central to the black radical tradition's architecture are inquiries into the concepts of freedom, race, equality, rights, and humanism; meaning of “radical”; the national-transnational relationship; notions of leadership; status of global capitalism; the nexus of theory and praxis; and revolutionary politics. We begin with examinations of these central notions and debates, and then move to investigations of the political thought of four key late modern Afro-Caribbean and African-American thinkers within the tradition: Walter Rodney, Sylvia Wynter, Cedric Robinson, and Angela Davis.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: attendance; five 5-page essays, five 2-page critiques, and one 1-page essay for the final class
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators, Leadership Studies concentrators, and Political Science majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 348 (D2) PSCI 348 (D2) LEAD 348 (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses

AFR 351 (S) Spirits of Rebellion: The L.A. Rebellion Filmmakers
Cross-listings: AFR 351 AMST 359 ENGL 357
Secondary Cross-listing
When Beyoncé unveiled the Lemonade visual album in 2016, her production captured the artistic spirit and gave new life to an earlier work: Julie Dash's Daughters of the Dust (1991), a luminous film about three generations of the Gullah people and the first motion picture by a Black woman to obtain wide theatrical release in the United States. Many, however, are unaware of the decades-long cinematic movement to which Dash belongs. In this course, we will devote our critical inquiry to the creative output of the L.A. Rebellion, a group of Black cinematic artists trained at the UCLA Film and Television School between the 1960s and 1990s. Our visual journey will take us through a diverse set of filmmakers like Charles Burnett, Ben Caldwell, Barbara McCullough, Julie Dash, Zeinabu irene Davis, Haile Gerima, Alile Sharon Larkin, Billy Woodberry, among many, many others, and how they sought to not only redefine the Black image on-screen but also reimagine the infinite possibilities of Blackness. We will pay close attention to the heterogeneity of genres, styles, and techniques that they put into practice from narrative to neorealism to documentary to avant-garde/experimental to African and African American musical and storytelling traditions. We will explore the various social and political issues that were represented by their films including: racial and class oppression, woman of color feminisms, Black Power, Afrocentrism, anti-colonialism and decolonization, police brutality and mass incarceration, radical social movements and coalition building, and the importance of community-based art and film practices. Finally, we will touch upon some of the recent works that have been inspired by the L.A. Rebellion, including the aforementioned Lemonade and Barry Jenkins’ Moonlight (2016). Our viewership will be supplemented with readings in Black social and cultural criticism.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation; weekly online journal responses (1-2 pages); midterm essay (5-7 pages); final project
Prerequisites: previous courses in American Studies, critical studies in race and ethnicity or cultural studies, or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 351 (D2) AMST 359 (D2) ENGL 357 (D2)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives
AFR 352  (S)  Mystic Spirituality in Black Women’s Social Justice Activism: Brazil-USA

Cross-listings: REL 352  WGSS 352  AFR 352

Primary Cross-listing

This course examines the meanings and manifestations of mystic spirituality in the lives and work of selected Black women artists/activists in the USA and Brazil. The writings of Lucille Clifton (poet), Rosemarie Freeney Harding (activist and counselor) and Makota Valdina Pinto (activist and Candomblé ritual elder) are key texts for our exploration of the uses of mystic sensibilities and Afro-Atlantic ritual traditions—such as dreams and visions, prayer, divination, sacred dance, healing rites and other forms of unmediated intimate encounter with the sacred—as resources for creativity, community organizing, self-care and as aspects of political and social critique in African American and Afro-Brazilian contexts. The methodology of the course blends historical, literary and womanist approaches in an investigation of the conjunctions of spiritual practice and activism in the experience of women in the Afro-Atlantic diaspora.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 2-3 short papers (5-7 pages) and a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AFR, REL, and WGSS concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 352 (D2) WGSS 352 (D2) AFR 352 (D2)

AFR 354  (F)  Black Literary and Cultural Theories

Cross-listings: ENGL 410  AFR 354  AFR 410  COMP 410  AMST 410

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will examine the writings of black twentieth- and twenty-first-century Anglophone and Francophone literary and cultural theorists in the African diaspora. We will begin with Sojourner Truth and W.E.B. Du Bois and end with current debates between the "Afro-Pessimists" and "Afro-Optimists." We will be reading writers from the United States, Britain, Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe, moving through the writings of the Harlem Renaissance, Négritude, Pan-Africanism, the Black Arts movement and Black Panthers, the Black Atlantic, and black feminism and queer studies. We will come to see that there is no easy separation between questions of politics (e.g., anti-colonialist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist) and those of aesthetics and poetics.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm, participation (attendance, discussions, GLOW posts), short paper (4-5 pp.), two response papers (2-3 pp. papers), final project (10-12 pp.: analytical paper)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AMST majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 410 (D2) AFR 354 (D2) AFR 410 (D2) COMP 410 (D1) AMST 410 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Not offered current academic year
AFR 355 (S) The Black Atlantic as Scriptural Formation
Cross-listings: REL 305  AFR 355
Secondary Cross-listing
"...I don't read such small stuff as letters, I read men and nations..." The unpacking of this provocative and unsettling statement ascribed to Sojourner Truth can be taken as a springboard for this seminar that explores the politics of the scriptural (or writing) as analytical window onto the complex formation of the circum-Black Atlantic (and its complex relationships to colonial and post-colonial Atlantic worlds). The isolation of selected Black Atlantic "readings" as cultural sites, rituals, performances, institutions, as different and conflicting types of politics and social orientation---from first contacts through slavery to the contemporary irruptions of protest and fundamentalist movements---will structure the seminar.
Class Format: seminar-style discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: consistent participation (informed by engagement of selected readings); and submission of mid-term prospectus (1-2pp) and end-of-term research paper (15-20pp)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: religion; African American (and other American ethnic groups); cultural studies; history; literature; social sciences
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 305 (D2) AFR 355 (D2)
Not offered current academic year

AFR 356 (F) The Plantation and Its Afterlife
This course is a meditation on the significance of the plantation in modern life. Rather than treating the plantation as solely a socio-economic formation that utilizes captive labor for the efficient production of goods, we will consider the plantation as a space that has defined, and continues to define, social, economic, and spatial relations. In so doing, we will explore numerous literatures and cultural productions about the plantation in Africa and its diaspora, including historical and sociological studies, fiction, visual art, and music. We will not only interrogate how the plantation form is reproduced over time, but also how it appears in collective memory, and how it enables political mobilization.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation; two to three short papers (6- to 8-pages); and a 15- to 20-page paper or multimedia final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: students in their third and fourth years of study
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 357 (S) Racial and Religious Mixture (DPE)
Cross-listings: AMST 327  AFR 357  LATS 327  REL 314
Secondary Cross-listing
The very term "mixture" implies that two or more distinct substances have been brought together. Distinctions of race and religion are social fictions; yet, the lived ramifications of these social fictions involve tense struggles over the boundaries of racial and religious communities. These boundaries are not just ideas but also practices. In the history of the Americas, mixed racial and religious identities and experiences have more often been the
result of violent clashes than romantic encounters. Still, the romanticization of the New World as a geography that makes such mixtures possible reaches back to the earliest days of Spanish conquest in the Americas. This course critically reconsiders varying ways that racial and religious mixtures have been imagined, defined, challenged, negotiated, and survived under imaginative and legal rubrics of mestizaje, creolization, transculturation, passing, syncretism, religious hybridity, and mixed race studies.

Class Format: mostly discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, short writing exercises, a 3-page first essay, a 5- to 8-page second essay, and a 10- to 14-page final paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: seniors, concentrators, majors, those with prior relevant coursework

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 327 (D2) AFR 357 (D2) LATS 327 (D2) REL 314 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Focusing on how different peoples have critically theorized and made meaning about and out of racial and religious differences and interconnections, this Difference, Power, and Equity course investigates the ways that knowledge about mixture and difference—and their roles in hierarchical distributions of social and political power—have been critically constructed and transformed.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Jacqueline Hidalgo

AFR 360 (F) The Political Thought of Frantz Fanon (WS)

Cross-listings: LEAD 360 PHIL 360 PSCI 370 AFR 360

Primary Cross-listing

Martinican psychiatrist, philosopher, and revolutionary Frantz Fanon was among the leading critical theorists and Africana thinkers of the twentieth century. Fanon ushered in the decolonial turn in critical theory, a move calling on those both within and outside of Europe to challenge the coloniality of the age and to forge a new vision of politics in the postcolonial period. This course is an advanced seminar devoted to a comprehensive examination of Fanon's political thought. We will begin with an analysis of primary texts by Fanon and end by considering how Fanon has been interpreted by his contemporaries as well as activists and critical theorists writing today.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based upon attendance and participation, weekly online reading response papers, a class presentation, two 7-page essays, and one 20-page final research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators, Leadership Studies concentrators, and Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 360 (D2) PHIL 360 (D2) PSCI 370 (D2) AFR 360 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students write weekly online reading response papers, two 7-page essays, and one 20-page final research paper. Students receive written feedback from me throughout, meet with me 1-on-1 to discuss 7-page essays to then revise/re-submit and also receive written feedback before final submission. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses
AFR 364  (F)  History of the Old South
Cross-listings:  AMST 364  HIST 364  AFR 364

Secondary Cross-listing

During the course of the semester, we shall investigate two broad, interrelated topics: slavery in the antebellum South, and the impact of slavery on Southern civilization. Our approach will be primarily topical. In the first half of the course, we shall look at subjects like the foreign and domestic slave trade, patterns of work and treatment, the nature of the master-slave relationship, resistance and rebellion, and slave cultural, social, and family life. The second half of the course will concentrate on the influence of the institution of slavery on the mind, social structure, and economy of the Old South, and slavery's impact on Southern politics and the decision for secession in 1860-61.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation:  evaluation based on class participation, two papers of moderate length, and a comprehensive final examination
Prerequisites:  none; open to first-year students with instructor's permission
Enrollment Limit:  25
Expected Class Size:  25
Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 364 (D2) HIST 364 (D2) AFR 364 (D2)

Attributes:  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Space and Place Electives  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada  HiST Group P Electives - Premodern

Not offered current academic year

AFR 365  (S)  History of the New South
Cross-listings:  HIST 365  AFR 365  AMST 365

Secondary Cross-listing

A study of the history of the American South from 1877 to the present. Social, political and economic trends will be examined in some detail: the rule of the "Redeemers" following the end of Reconstruction; tenancy, sharecropping, and the rise of agrarian radicalism; Southern Progressivism; the coming of racial segregation and the destruction of the Jim Crow system during the years of the Civil Rights movement; Southern politics during the depression and post-World War II years.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation:  evaluation based on class participation, 2 papers of moderate length, and a comprehensive final examination
Prerequisites:  none; open to first-year students with instructor's permission
Enrollment Limit:  25
Expected Class Size:  25
Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 365 (D2) AFR 365 (D2) AMST 365 (D2)

Attributes:  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Space and Place Electives  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year
AFR 368 (F) The Diasporic Impulse in African American Art

Cross-listings: COMP 367 AFR 368

Primary Cross-listing

Since the mid-20th century, growing numbers of African American artists have explored historical, symbolic, and ritual meanings shared by Blacks in the USA and people of African descent in other parts of the diaspora. Using specific visual, musical, literary, and kinetic themes, Black creatives—across genres—develop work that addresses explicit and implicit points of diasporic connection around issues of identity, indigenous/ancestral wisdom, cultural and political critique, and alternative religious orientations. Looking especially at the work of playwright August Wilson, painters John Biggers and Daniel Minter, dancer Katherine Dunham, and sculptor Elizabeth Catlett Mora, this course examines the symbolic and ritual vocabularies of African American art in diasporic perspective.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two to three short papers (5-7 pages), and a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 367 (D2) AFR 368 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

AFR 369 (S) African Art and the Western Museum (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 369 ARTH 308

Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial provides a focused study of the issues associated with the exhibition of African objects within Western institutions from the formative period of the practice in the early 19th century to the modern era. Covering topics ranging from early collection and display methodologies to exhibition-based practice in the contemporary digital era, this tutorial will provide an opportunity for robust discussion about the interactions that have occurred between the arts of Africa and the Western museum over the lengthy history of their engagement. Students will investigate the nature of the cross-cultural dialogues taking place and the politics of display at work in regional museum spaces that display African art towards fleshing out how exhibitions function through the strategic organization and display of objects. In other words, students will explore how the dialogues created between objects and individuals often speak to the voices and agendas that collide, collaborate, and even compete with each other within the environment of the museum.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: field trips to area museums, targeted writing assignments 5-7 pages in length, and peer response papers (two of each type per month)

Prerequisites: ARTH 104 or special permission from the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Art History and African Studies Majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 369 (D2) ARTH 308 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Targeted bi-monthly writing assignments (5-7 pages in length) and bi-monthly peer response papers (2 pages in length). Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Explores issues of 'authentic' representation as it applies to African artifacts displayed within the contexts of Western art museums. Through discussions of cultural capital, rights of seeing, and the politics of representation, students analyze how the meaning...
of African ‘art’ has been dictated by a Western museum culture and how one can disrupt this hegemony through strategic exhibition and display practices.

Spring 2020
TUT Section: T1   TBA   Michelle M. Apotsos

The ending of the Second World War in 1945 coincided with the dawn of a new nationalism in the modern Caribbean. The British territories were beginning their shift away from colonialism and charting a path toward independence that would arrive in the early 1960s. Their independent neighbors contended with US imperialism which greatly shaped questions of race, nationalism, and sovereignty. By the 1960s much of the region faced crises that grew out of the tensions of the postwar period. This course examines closely these transformations in the Caribbean. It is divided into three parts. The course begins with an examination of the ideas about race, state development and empire that dominated Caribbean intellectual discourse of the 1940s. Key texts for this period include the works of Caribbean intellectuals such as Roger Mais, Una Marson, CLR James, and Jacques Roumain who considered the possibilities of racial equality and democracy in the postcolonial Caribbean. The course then looks more closely at 1950s attempts to forge greater Caribbean unity during the early Cold War years. West Indian Federation and the circuits of travel within the Caribbean are given special focus. Finally, the course will discuss challenges of the postcolonial Caribbean by looking at the circumstances and wider responses to regional radicalism in the 1960s. The key events that will be examined in this section include the Duvalier dictatorship, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and black power in Jamaica in 1968.

Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 3-4 short papers (5-7 pages)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: AFR concentrators
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01   TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm   Matthew J. Smith

AFR 378  (S) Uncontrollable: Deconstructing Stereotypes of Black Womanhood in the Americas
Cross-listings: WGSS 378   AFR 378
Primary Cross-listing
In Black Feminist Thought Patricia Hill Collins powerfully illustrates how "portraying African-American women as stereotypical mammies, matriarchs, welfare recipients, and hot mommas has been essential to the political economy of domination fostering Black women’s oppression." This course explores how similar social constructions of race and womanhood have evolved in Latin American countries affected by slavery and colonialism. We begin by revisiting Collins' seminal text, as well as the work of other feminist scholars, as a starting point from which to deconstruct controlling images of Black women in Latin American nations. We will then explore clips from films, television series, advertisements, and comic strips to analyze different iterations of stereotypes and their impact on Afro-Latin American women’s life chances. The second component of this course will engage with Black women’s resistance throughout Latin America. We will engage songs, poetry, and empirical data on Black women’s resistance to examine they how have and continue to challenge stereotypes, educate the public, and construct their own narratives of black womanhood.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 2-3 short papers (5-7 pages), and a final paper (12-15 pages)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: AFR concentrators
Expected Class Size: 15
AFR 379  (F)  Black Women in the United States
Cross-listings:  WGSS 379  AFR 379  HIST 379

Secondary Cross-listing
As slaves and free women, activists, domestics, artists and writers, African Americans have played exciting and often unexpected roles in U.S. political, social, and cultural history. In this course we will examine black women's lives from the earliest importation of slaves from Africa and the Caribbean through to the expansion of slavery, the Civil War, freedom, Jim Crow, the Civil Rights movements, and up to the present day. Consistent themes we will explore are the significance of gender in African American history and the changing roles and public perceptions of black women both inside and outside the black community. We will read and discuss a combination of primary and secondary sources; we will also consider music, art, and literature, as well as more standard "historical" texts.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation:  evaluation will be based on student participation, three papers, and a brief oral presentation
Prerequisites:  none
Enrollment Limit:  25
Enrollment Preferences:  History majors and Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size:  15-20
Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)

AFR 380  (F)  Freedom Dreams, Afro-Futures & Visionary Fictions
Cross-listings:  AFR 380  AMST 380  ENGL 381  SCST 380  WGSS 380

Secondary Cross-listing
In this course we will examine the various ways Black scholars, artists, & writers use science fiction and visionary fiction to imagine freedom and new world orders. We will focus on the role of history, particularly slavery, in the Black radical imagination. "Freedom" is the keyword throughout the course. We will grapple with the various and sometimes conflicting meanings and uses of freedom as it relates to blackness, gender, sexuality, class and ability. We will explore multiple forms of scholarship and cultural productions, including film, music, novels, short-stories, art, poetry, and other academic texts. All students will be asked to discover and develop their writerly voices through various critical, creative, experimental and performative assignments.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation:  active participation, completion of various short assignments, one 5-page paper and one 7- to 10-page final paper
Prerequisites:  none
Enrollment Limit:  20
Enrollment Preferences:  Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, then Africana Studies concentrators
AFR 382  (S)  Contemporary Afro-Latin American Social Movements
This seminar course will provide students with an introduction to diverse histories, political beliefs, and mobilization strategies of 20th and 21st century Afro-Latin American social movements, as well as their relationship with their respective governments. Primary documents, audiovisual texts and social science research will complement lectures and class discussions to prepare students to discuss the contributions and critiques of the movements within broader discussions of the politics of blackness in the African Diaspora. While the course focuses on contemporary experiences activism, each topic is introduced with a historical overview of African-descended peoples in Latin America. By the course's conclusion, students should be able to discuss a wide range of ideas, experiences, and strategies of black politics in the Latin America as well as the similarities in themes and characteristics that have shaped much of the experiences. Furthermore, students should be able to assess the ways in which black movements in Latin America have: challenged hegemonic narratives, approached politics of culture and multiculturalism, contested invisibility, utilized transnational diasporic politics, and (re)defined conceptualizations of citizenship and belonging.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on in-class participation, weekly reading responses, a book review, and a final paper and presentation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 13
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Not offered current academic year

AFR 383  (S)  Race and Ethnicity in Latin America
Cross-listings: AFR 383  HIST 443
Secondary Cross-listing
Race and ethnicity have been central to the formation of national identities in Latin America, as well as to the creation of transnational networks that include Latin Americans. This seminar will critically examine familiar characterizations of Brazil and other countries as "racial democracies" and look at the historical roots and political impact of both "positive" and "negative" stereotypes of race relations in the region. To do this we will explore the rise and decline of slavery, the changing constructions of indigenous and Afro-Latin American identities at national and transnational levels, and to the emergence of new Black Movements and other racial and ethnic activism in Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, and elsewhere.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, one short paper, and a substantial (20-25 page) research paper
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: History majors and Latino/a Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 10-15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 383 (D2) HIST 443 (D2)
AFR 385  (F)  Civil War and Reconstruction

Cross-listings:  AMST 456  HIST 456  AFR 385

Secondary Cross-listing

An examination of one of the most turbulent periods in American history, with special emphasis on the changing status of Afro-Americans during the era. During the war years, we shall study both the war itself and homefront conditions: military, naval, political, economic, and especially social aspects will be examined in some detail. Our study of Reconstruction will concentrate on the evolution of federal policy toward the Southern states and the workings out of that policy in the South, particularly as it relates to the freedmen.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation:  evaluation based on class participation and a substantial research paper based at least in part on primary source materials

Enrollment Limit:  15

Expected Class Size:  15

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 456 (D2) HIST 456 (D2) AFR 385 (D2)

Attributes:  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  HIST Group D Electives - Latin America + Caribbean

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01    W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm     Charles B. Dew

AFR 405  (S)  CAPSTONE: Africana Studies and the Disciplines

Of the many things that distinguish Africana Studies from other fields of knowledge, most remarkable are its creative uses and critiques of disciplinary perspectives. In some instances, a scholar in the field might move between disciplines; in others, a scholar might integrate two or more disciplines into one point of view. Disciplinary creativity accommodates the array of information—written texts, music, visual art, film— that contributes to our understanding of the African Diaspora. This seminar will illuminate the disciplinary nuances and challenges of studying people of African descent. After outlining genealogies of Africana Studies and the field's complicated relationships to social science disciplines, students will closely read classic texts by some of the pioneers in the field and explore their uses of disciplinary perspectives. In the latter half of the course, students will have the opportunity to design and conduct their own research projects with the aforementioned disciplinary concerns in mind.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation:  evaluation will be based upon class participation, a couple of short papers and the completion of a final research paper or project

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  15

Enrollment Preferences:  Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size:  10

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

Attributes:  AFR Core Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AFR 440  (F)  CAPSTONE: Performing Blackness

In modern parlance and scholarship, blackness is understood not as a biological but rather a socially constructed phenomenon. This course extends
common perceptions by working from the foundational concept that blackness is not only social construction but also performance and lived experience. Using the lens of performance on racial identity foregrounds the active and shifting nature of race in contrast to the potentially passive, static connotation of construction. But what is this term performance that is now so widely used as to be an anathema? In this course, we explore performance broadly as entertainment, representation, social function, and lived experience. By the end of the course, students will analyze multiple performance types from theatrical and dance performance to performance of race in everyday life. They will also study and practice at least four core black performance studies methodologies: oral interpretation of literature, ethnography, written performance analysis, and embodied performance (i.e. movement, music and/or theatre). In this way, students will begin to understand performance as both subject matter and method. The course will be structured around discussions, written responses, and performance exercises that help students analyze and practice each methodology. At the end of the semester, students will create final creative research projects that articulate key theories of black performance studies and draw on at least one of the featured performance methodologies. While preference is given to Africana Studies concentrators, students are not required to have prior performance experience.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, performance exercises, response papers, and a final creative research project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on student participation, a take-home mid-term paper, and the completion of an original research paper or project; all projects will have some written component, but may include a dance performance, spoken word, fieldwork, etc.
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators; History majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 476 (D2) HIST 476 (D2)
AFR 494 (S) Honors Dossier
Candidates for honors in Africana Studies must do W31 for the winter study period and 494 the following spring.
Class Format: honors independent study
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2020
HON Section: 01 TBA Neil Roberts

AFR 497 (F) Independent Study: Africana Studies
Africana Studies independent study
Class Format: independent study
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Fall 2019
IND Section: 01 TBA Neil Roberts

AFR 498 (S) Independent Study: Africana Studies
Africana Studies Independent Study
Class Format: independent study
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Spring 2020
IND Section: 01 TBA Neil Roberts