AFRICANA STUDIES (Div II)
Chair: Professor Rhon Manigault-Bryant

- Rashida K. Braggs, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Comparative Literature; on leave 2022-2023
- VaNatta S. Ford, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies; on leave Spring 2023
- Allison Guess, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies
- James A. Manigault-Bryant, Professor of Africana Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology and Religion; affiliated with: Religion Department, Anthropology and Sociology
- Rhon S. Manigault-Bryant, Chair and Professor of Africana Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Religion
- AnneMarie McClain, Visiting Assistant Professor of Education and Africana Studies
- Keston K. Perry, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies
- Neil Roberts, Professor of Africana Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Political Science and Religion; affiliated with: Religion Department, Political Science Department; on leave 2022-2023

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 405(F) CAPSTONE: Africana Studies and the Disciplines
AFR 460(S) CAPSTONE: Documenting Black

One core elective:

AFR 110 / WGSS 111(S) SEM Television, Social Media, and Black Women 'Unscripted'
Taught by: VaNatta Ford
Catalog details

AFR 128 / COMP 129 / MUS 179 TUT James Baldwin's Song
Taught by: Rashida Braggs
Catalog details
AFR 132 / AMST 132 / PSCI 132 SEM Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy

Taught by: Neil Roberts
Catalog details
AFR 133 / COMP 133 / ECON 133 / GBST 133(S) SEM Plantation and the Plot: the Poetics of Caribbean Economic Thought and Struggle

Taught by: Keston Perry
Catalog details
AFR 135 / AMST 135(F) SEM Queen Sugar and Black Study

Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
Catalog details
AFR 200(F, S) LEC Introduction to Africana Studies

Taught by: VaNatta Ford, Keston Perry, Allison Guess
Catalog details
AFR 202 / WGSS 206 / COMP 236 TUT Narrating Color: Black Women Sing and Write About Complexion

Taught by: VaNatta Ford
Catalog details
AFR 205 / WGSS 207 TUT She Speaks in Color: Examining the 'Color Complex' in Toni Morrison's Writings

Taught by: VaNatta Ford
Catalog details
AFR 208 / AMST 208 / REL 262(S) TUT Time and Blackness

Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
Catalog details
AFR 211 / AMST 211 / ENVI 211 / SOC 211(S) LEC Race, Environment, and the Body

Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
Catalog details
AFR 213 / STS 213 / WGSS 213 TUT Race, Gender, and the Alien Body: Octavia Butler's Science Fiction

Taught by: TBA
Catalog details
AFR 216 / AMST 212 / COMP 212 / DANC 217 SEM Moving While Black

Taught by: Rashida Braggs
Catalog details
AFR 221 / REL 263(F) SEM Giving God a Backbeat: Rap Music, Religion & Spirituality

Taught by: VaNatta Ford
Catalog details
AFR 233 / ENVI 204 / GBST 233(F) LEC Colonialism, Capitalism and Climate Crisis

Taught by: Keston Perry
Catalog details
AFR 299 / PSCI 233 / REL 261 SEM Rastafari: Dread, Politics, Agency

Taught by: Neil Roberts
Catalog details
AFR 302(S) SEM Complexion Complexities: Colorism in Literature, Lyrics & Everyday Life

Taught by: VaNatta Ford
Catalog details
AFR 318 / PSYC 334 SEM Defining and Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Taught by: Kelsey Jones
Catalog details
AFR 320 / AMST 320 / WGSS 320(S) SEM Dangerous Bodies: Black Womanhood, Sexuality & Popular Culture

Taught by: Rhon Manigault-Bryant
Catalog details
AFR 321 SEM Trending Black: Race & Social Media in the 21st Century

Taught by: VaNatta Ford
Catalog details
AFR 323 / ARTH 223 / COMP 322 / AMST 323 / ENGL 356 SEM Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora

Taught by: Rashida Braggs
Catalog details
AFR 324 / PSYC 337 SEM Critical Perspectives in Special Education

Taught by: Kelsey Jones
Catalog details
AFR 356 / PSYC 377(F) SEM Mapping Anti-Bias Education

Taught by: AnneMarie McClain
Catalog details
AFR 360 / LEAD 360 / PHIL 360 / PSCI 370 SEM The Political Thought of Frantz Fanon

Taught by: Neil Roberts
Catalog details
AFR 384 / PSYC 363(S) SEM Media, Race, and U.S. Black Families
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 104  (S)  Race and a Global War: Africa during World War II  (DPE)  (WS)

Cross-listings:  AFR 104  HIST 104  GBST 104

Secondary Cross-listing

This course highlights African experiences of World War II. Although most histories have excluded Africa's role in the war, the continent and its people were at the center of major developments during in this global conflict. In fact, many Africans remember the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 as the start of the war. African servicemen fought alongside the Allied and Axis forces on major warfronts in Europe, Africa and Asia. African communities and individuals also established war charity campaigns to collect funds, which they sent to war ravaged societies in Europe. Indeed, African economies, despite their colonial statuses, kept European imperial nations afloat in their most hour of need. At the same time, African colonial subjects faced severe food shortages, the loss of working-age men to labor and military recruiters, and dramatically increased taxes. We will examine the impact of these and other wartime pressures on different African communities. How did African societies meet such challenges and how did they view the war? In this course we will examine the roles that women played during the war, and the various other ways that African communities met wartime demands. Other topics we will explore include the role of African women; colonial propaganda; political protest against the war; race and racial thought in the wartime era; war crimes; African American support for the liberation of Ethiopia; and the war's impact on decolonization across the continent. We will further study how Africans and outsiders have differently conceptualized the continent's role in the war by analyzing a variety of sources, including scholarly writings, archival materials, films, former soldiers' biographies, and propaganda posters.

Requirements/Evaluation:  active participation in discussion, map quiz, 2 reading responses, and 3 essays (of about 5 pages)

Prerequisites:  first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor

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:  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 104  (D2)  HIST 104  (D2)  GBST 104  (D2)

Writing Skills Notes:  Students will write two 3-5-page essays each written in two drafts with instructor comments. They will also write an 8-12-page research paper with required submission of a proposed topic, an annotated bibliography, an outline, and a draft before the final paper itself. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  This course explores the colonial relationship during a major global crisis. Students will examine existing narratives of African contributions to the war and to come up with their own interpretations, and will be called to critically engage the question of why and how colonies made significant contributions to the Allied cause by producing needed materials and resources or by joining the fight. Africans made these contributions spite of various and complex inequities.

Attributes:  AFR Core Electives  GBST African Studies Electives  HIST Group A Electives - Africa

Spring 2023

SEM Section:  01  MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm  Benjamin Twagira

AFR 105  (F)  Materials, Meanings, and Messages in the Arts of Africa  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  ARTH 104  AFR 105

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.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly WCMA object lab reports, weekly reading discussion GLOW posts, bi-monthly quizzes (7 total), two reading response papers (3 pages each)

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: (D1) (DPE)

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

ARTH 104 (D1) AFR 105 (D2)

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.

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 110  (S)  Television, Social Media, and Black Women "Unscripted"

Cross-listings: AFR 110  WGSS 111

Primary Cross-listing

Nene Leaks, Issa Rae, Zendaya, Oprah Winfrey, Lavern Cox and Joy Reid 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 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, podcast, vlogs, 10-page paper, and a formal class presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: First 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:

AFR 110 (D2) WGSS 111 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives FMST Core Courses

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01   W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm   VaNatta S. Ford

AFR 115  (F)  The Literature of Sports  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 115  ENGL 115

Secondary Cross-listing
The ubiquity of the sporting event, the athlete as hero, the athlete as failure, the crowd, the fan, the stadium, and all of the complex conflicts therein have long been the subjects of some of the finest writing in America and throughout the world. Writers have used sport as a context through which to explore and examine ideas such as beauty, the sublime, tragedy, politics, race, class, sexuality, and gender. This course will focus on poetry, fiction, and non-fiction invested in the public spectacles and private revelations of sport ranging from the poetics of praise to issues of urbanism, colonialism, globalization with readings by Pindar, Rankine, CLR James, Baldwin, Hemingway, Oates, DeLillo, and many others. This course will be taught online in a synchronous format.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be expected to complete a number of short (5 pages or less) papers during the semester and one longer paper (8-10 pages) at the end of the semester.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course.

Expected Class Size: 14

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

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

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

AFR 115 (D2) ENGL 115 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will focus on literature about sports that addresses, among other topics, civil rights activism, gentrification, race dynamics and race relations both inside and outside of the USA, American exceptionalism, sociocultural construction of emotional displays, mental health, religious conflict, and anti-blackness.

Not offered current academic year

AFR 128  (F)  James Baldwin's Song

Cross-listings: AFR 128 COMP 129 MUS 179

Primary Cross-listing

"It is only in his music [ . . .] that the Negro in America has been able to tell his story. It is a story which otherwise has yet to be told and which no American is prepared to hear," wrote James Baldwin in Notes of a Native Son in 1955. In this course, we strive to listen more closely to racialized experience through James Baldwin's musical literature. Through analysis and creation of music, we hope to better understand cultural difference and collective humanity. In this course, we closely analyze James Baldwin's use of song names, creation of musician characters, and replication of musical elements in his writing. Baldwin's musical word play crosses historical and genre boundaries. So we will explore texts from his early to late career, such as the gospel music of his youth in the semi-autobiographical novel Go Tell It on the Mountain, the metaphor of the blues in the play written during the civil-rights movement Blues for Mr. Charlie, the jazz musician protagonist in "Sonny's Blues" written after World War II in Paris, and his only musical recording in A Lover's Question set down near the end of his life. In addition to closely analyzing James Baldwin's attention to music throughout his literature, students will learn basic music writing and production skills. The tutorial will draw on a range of musical resources, including playlists, music workshops, guest lectures and performances. All of these resources will guide students to a more attuned hearing not only of music but also of the African American experience it reflects. By the end of the course, students will have written several short 1-2 page close analysis essays and song lyrics. For their final project, students will produce an original song based on key insights from the course. No musical experience is required, though an openness to learn and practice songwriting is expected.

Requirements/Evaluation: Several short 1-2 page close analysis essays of Baldwin's work, oral peer feedback presentations, song lyrics, and an original song composition for the final project

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: This course is specifically for first-year students and they will receive preference in this class; a statement of interest will be solicited from pre-registrants.

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 129 (F) Twentieth-Century Black Poets

Cross-listings: AFR 129 ENGL 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.

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

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students who have not taken or placed out of a 100-level ENGL course

Expected Class Size: 19

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 129 (D1) ENGL 129 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 132 (S) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy

Cross-listings: AMST 132 PSCI 132 AFR 132

Primary Cross-listing

This introductory seminar investigates the relationship between three major schools of thought in contemporary Africana social and political philosophy: the African, Afro-North American, and Afro-Caribbean intellectual traditions. We will discuss a range of thinkers including Dionne Brand, Aimé Césaire, Angela Davis, Édouard Glissant, Kwame Gyekye, Paget Henry, bell hooks, Katherine McKittrick, Charles Mills, Nkiru Nzegwu, Oyèrónke Oyewùmí, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Cornel West, 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: 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: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

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

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

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives JLST Interdepartmental Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year
AFR 133 (S) Plantation and the Plot: the Poetics of Caribbean Economic Thought and Struggle

Cross-listings: ECON 133  GBST 133  AFR 133  COMP 133

Primary Cross-listing

This introductory course to Caribbean Economic Thought contextualizes the poetics of economic ideas, struggle and knowledge alongside popular literary works connected to contemporary challenges of Caribbean Economic Development. Using the 'plantation' and the 'plot' as sites of continuing exploitation and struggle, this course delves into Caribbean postcolonial development thinking. We will explore the present-day relevance of these sites to racial justice and environmental crises and their historical roots in colonial surplus extraction. By examining literary and economic writings of Caribbeanists and Caribbean connected contributors side by side, we seek to uncover these links to how the Caribbean economy, its seascape and society are framed, conceptualized and traversed as transplanted spaces, economic zones, and extractive geographies today. Unorthodox perspectives on economic and social thought that emerged to explain the region's integral role in merchant and industrial capitalism, New World social formations and contemporary globalization will also be discussed. We will closely analyze critical texts of contributors to the New World Group that centers the Caribbean within global economic transformations. Some events this course covers are indigenous genocide, labor regimes, agrarian change, structural adjustment, economic and ecological crises, postcolonial debt, technology, current fragmentation of global neoliberalism. These events will help shape an appreciation for the material and socio-cultural understandings of economic phenomena starting from the plantation to the plot within cultural and literary works in pluralistic, productive, and powerful ways.

Requirements/Evaluation: Oral or poster presentation analyzing a literary and Caribbean economist's work side-by-side (15 minutes or full-length multi-page poster); critical analysis of a Caribbean economic sector or major regional report--choice made after discussion with instructor (10 pages); final project: review of a specific Caribbean community defined by group, geography or economic status drawing upon class, race, gendered axes of analysis (15 pages); participation (creative presentation of a reading drawing upon Caribbean cultural traditions that raise questions for class discussion)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Preference also for 1st and 2nd year students. If over-enrolled preference to AFR and Political Economy students.

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:
ECON 133 (D2) GBST 133 (D2) AFR 133 (D2) COMP 133 (D1)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Keston K. Perry

AFR 135 (F) Queen Sugar and Black Study

Cross-listings: AFR 135  AMST 135

Primary Cross-listing

The critically acclaimed and award winning television series, Queen Sugar, follows the Bordelon family through its struggles to sustain hold of its ancestral land. An adaptation of the eponymously named 2014 novel by Natalie Baszile, the series will soon enter its seventh and final season. This gateway course to Africana Studies will explore the historical, political, and economic contexts of the making of the series before considering its representations and dramatizations of key topics of Black study: the afterlives of enslavement, plantation regimes, global sugar production, land dispossession, the carceral state, gender and sexualities, kinship, activism, and African-diasporic spiritualities.

Class Format: Over the course of the semester, students will be required to watch the entirety of the television series.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly journal entries on episodes (300-500 words); in-class writing reflections; class presentation; final project that expands on a course topic

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: This seminar is designed for first-year students. Should the course be overenrolled, students will be selected after an interview with the instructor.

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 135 (D2) AMST 135 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm James A. Manigault-Bryant

AFR 158 (S) North of Jim Crow, South of Freedom (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: HIST 158 AFR 158

Secondary Cross-listing

This course analyzes the freedom struggle in the North during the twentieth century. Whereas black northerners drew from broader campaigns and traditions of black resistance, we will explore territorial distinctions in the region that otherwise have been flattened within the long history of civil rights discourse. To accomplish this aim, we will engage the following themes: black culture and radicalism; community formation and residential segregation; demographic and migratory transitions; deindustrialization and the war; gender and respectability politics; labor tensions and civil rights unionism; northern racial liberalism; and the influence of world affairs—all with an eye toward scrutinizing the freedom struggle in its northern variety.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students are expected to participate actively and will write three short essays (3-4 pages), all of which will be letter-graded and returned with comments. In addition, students will write a final research paper (8-10 pages) in consultation with the instructor and will be required to submit a topic proposal.

Prerequisites: first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar. If the course is overenrolled, students with junior and/or senior status will be removed automatically. Other students will complete a questionnaire.

Expected Class Size: 19

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

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

HIST 158 (D2) AFR 158 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write three short essays (3-4 pages), all of which will be letter-graded and returned with comments. In addition, students will write a final research paper (10-12 pages) in consultation with the instructor and will be required to submit a topic proposal and outline, an annotated bibliography, and a peer-reviewed draft of 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 analyzes the long black freedom struggle in the North during the twentieth century. It examines black northerners' efforts to achieve citizenship and equality as well as their challenges and involvements with northern racial liberalism. It offers students the opportunity to think critically about how black resistance campaigns emerged and evolved as discriminatory racial practices persisted in spite of legal and legislative remedies.

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

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Tyran K. Steward

AFR 159 (F) Crossing the Color Line: A History of Passing (DPE) (WS)
In June 2015, Rachel Dolezal emerged as a media spectacle and the subject of national scrutiny after her white parents stated publicly that Dolezal is a white woman passing as black. Their insistence that Dolezal is white came in the wake of her reports to local news media and police that she had been the victim of several hate crimes. To critics, Dolezal is a fraud who has committed cultural appropriation. Yet, for her supporters, Dolezal's racial identification as a black woman is authentic and indisputable, since race is not based on biology but rather is a social construction. For both groups as well as impartial observers, many wondered curiously why a white woman had chosen to pass as black, especially given that historically it has been African Americans who opted to become white. Inspired by the controversy surrounding Dolezal, this tutorial will explore the history of passing in the United States. Whereas our attention will primarily be focused on black-to-white passing, we will expand our understandings of passing by emphasizing the variety of ways that identities have been shaped through the crossing of boundaries—class, ethnic, gender, intellectual, political, religious, and sexual. To accomplish our goals, we will read and cross-examine fictional and nonfictional as well as primary and secondary historical accounts of boundary-crossers. We will also screen several films that engage the theme of passing.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly formal response papers and written critiques.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: First and second-year students will be prioritized, followed by history majors. Should the course be overenrolled, students will be asked to complete an enrollment questionnaire.

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 159 (D2) HIST 159 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will be required to complete formal writing assignments each week, alternating between response papers (4 pages) and written critiques (2-pages) of their peers' work. Students will receive substantial feedback on their writing skills, with verbal and written suggestions for improvement. Students also will receive feedback from their tutorial partners.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Narratives of racial passing provocatively raise questions about the construction, logics, reinforcement, and subversion of racial categories and identities. Tutorial students will have the opportunity to deconstruct the meanings of race and identity in addition to thinking culturally, historically, and ontologically about the implications and value of these constructs. In essence, we will theorize racial identity, reconsidering, if not challenging, its stable notions of identic intelligibility.

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada
Enrollment Preferences: first-years, 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:
AFR 167 (D2) HIST 167 (D2) AMST 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

Not offered current academic year

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: Remote format; This class will be taught synchronously primarily.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, weekly e-reading response papers, two short essays, and a final research project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes 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

AFR 201 (F) African Dance and Percussion

Cross-listings: AFR 201 MUS 220 DANC 201

Secondary Cross-listing

We will examine two forms that embody continuity of tradition or the impact of societal, political or economic change. Lamban was created by the Djeli, popularly called Griots served many roles in the kingdoms of Ghana and Old Mali from the 12th century to current times. This dance and music form continues as folklore in modern day Guinea, Senegal, Mali and The Gambia where it is practiced by the Mandinka people. Bira is an ancient and contemporary spiritual practice of Zimbabwe's Shona people. While these forms are enduring cultural practices, Kpanlogo from the modern West African state of Ghana represents the post-colonial identity of this nation's youth and their aspirations for independence at the end of the 1950s. We will also consider the introduction of these forms outside of their origin. This course can be taken for academic and/or PE credit
Class Format: class hours will be used to learn and use the dance and music of at least two forms including historical context, a group and individual research project or paper. When possible, our process will include guest artists and field trips to see live performance as well as use of the archives at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

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: 12

Enrollment Preferences: students who have taken a 100 level dance course of DANC 202; have experience in a campus-based performance ensemble; or have permission of the instructors

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:
AFR 201 (D2) MUS 220 (D1) DANC 201 (D1)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives MUS World Music/Ethnomusicology

Fall 2022
STU Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Sandra L. Burton, Tendai Muparutsa
STU Section: 02 Cancelled

AFR 202 (S) Narrating Color: Black Women Sing and Write About Complexion

Cross-listings: COMP 236 WGSS 206 AFR 202

Primary Cross-listing

Colorism, skin color discrimination where light skin is privileged over dark skin, is not a new phenomenon, but globally entrenched in our society and one of the many vestiges of white supremacy. For Black Americans of all backgrounds, colorism is a familiar and a living legacy concretized by the institution of slavery in the Americas. Although some believe that we are "post-color," similarly to those that naively believe we are "post-race," one can look to the recent example of misogynoir (misogyny directed at Black women) and skin color politics that Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, has faced at the hands of the British Monarchy, that her light-skinned color, biraciality, and class privileges couldn't protect her from. Alternatively, we can look at the numerous examples of colorism and anti-Black racism that tennis icon Serena Williams is subjected to because of her dark-brown skin complexion and body shape. One cannot fully understand the issue of colorism without understanding that it is an outgrowth or an extension of anti-Black racism firmly rooted in white supremacy, and so insidious that it impacts all aspects of Black life. Examining colorism through literary texts and music, provides a depth of understanding that both compliments and expands these empirical studies. Literature and music provide the narratives and rhythm that paint a vivid picture of the many ways that colorism impacts the lives of Black people. Through the methods of literary and rhetorical criticism we will examine the works of five Black women authors and music artists that take up issues around colorism and passing. We will explore, Toni Morrison's, The Origins of Others (2017), Brit Bennett's, The Vanishing Half (2020), Tressie McMillian Cottom's, Thick (2019), Marita Golden's, Don't Play in the Sun (2004), Yaba Blay's, One Drop: Shifting the Lens on Race (2021), Nina Simone's, "Four Women" (1966) and "Young, Gifted and Black" (1958), Sara Martin's, "Mean Tight Mama" (1927), India.Arie's, "Brown Skin" (2001), Azealia Banks' "Liquorice" (2012), and Beyoncé's "Creole" (2012), "Formation" (2016) and "Brown Skin Girl" (2020). By examining colorism in both literature and music, it will give first year students a foundational and nuanced understanding of skin tone bias and equip them with the tools to critically engage literary and music texts.

Requirements/Evaluation: Three, short papers (4-5 pages) discussing aspects of the readings and songs; three response papers to tutorial partner's papers (2 pages long); two, video essays; two, Twitter threads explaining aspects of one of the books and one of the songs; and a curated playlist of songs that would serve as accompaniment to one of the texts from the class.

Prerequisites: N/A

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: This class is specifically designed for first year students. Sophomores can register only with advanced permission.

Expected Class Size: 8-10

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 (D1) WGSS 206 (D2) AFR 202 (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 203 (F) The Making of Modern Africa (DPE)
Cross-listings: AFR 203 HIST 205
Secondary Cross-listing
This course traces the incorporation of Africa into an expanding global world from the middle of the 19th century to the present and examines the impact of this integration on the history of African cultures and modern nation states. It is designed to provide you with an introductory understanding of the economic, social, and political forces that have shaped Africa in recent times and continue to affect the lives of individual people across the continent. Over the course of the semester you will be introduced to major historical themes in African History from the past 150 years, including the abolition of the slave trade and its effects, African states in the 19th century, the growing integration of different regions into shifting global and economic systems, European colonization, and African resistance to imperial conquest. We will also explore the emergence of the nationalist and anti-colonial movements, and Africa's post-colonial experiences of self-governance. Within these broad historical processes, the class will cover additional key themes such as religious change and the role of Western missionaries; changing gender roles; environmental exploitation and change; the emergence of the developmental state; urbanization; military dictatorships, and war and violence in the late 20th century. We will also cover some of the issues surrounding the study of African History as a discipline. This is a challenging task as no single course can cover more than a silver of the complexity and variety of the continent. This is why we approach the study of Modern African History through a comparative prism.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in discussion, map quiz, response papers, midterm and final exams, and a case study paper (7-10 pages)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 30
Enrollment Preferences: if course is over-enrolled, preference to history majors and students with a demonstrated interest in African studies
Expected Class Size: 30
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 203 (D2) HIST 205 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will introduce students to how modern Africans have contended with powerful forces that have deeply affected the continent. It will examine how different societies on the continent -- in different environments and circumstances -- devised solutions to the challenges of the day. All of the readings, discussions, and assignments will ask students to center and insert African voices into histories fraught with misrepresentations.
Attributes: AFR Core Electives GBST African Studies Electives HIST Group A Electives - Africa
Not offered current academic year

AFR 205 (F) She Speaks in Color: Examining the 'Color Complex' in Toni Morrison's Writings
Cross-listings: 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), and
some of her non-fiction writings. 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: Remote

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:
AFR 205 (D2) WGSS 207 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 206  (S)  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: 16

Enrollment Preferences: students who have taken DANC 107, 108 or DANC 201; have experience in a campus based performance ensemble; or have permission of the instructors

Expected Class Size: 16

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 206 (D2) MUS 221 (D1) DANC 202 (D1)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives MUS World Music/Ethnomusicology

Spring 2023
AFR 207 (F) "Out of Africa": Cinematic Por(Be)trayals of a Continent (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: ARTH 207 AFR 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: This tutorial will be predominantly remote, with student pairs meeting with the instructor on a weekly basis via google hangouts. There may be options for in-person events as the semester progresses, but this is to be determined.

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: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

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

ARTH 207 (D1) AFR 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: ARTH post-1800 Courses GBST African Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 208 (S) Time and Blackness

Cross-listings: AFR 208 AMST 208 REL 262

Primary Cross-listing

The concept of time has been one of the most examined, yet least explicitly theorized, concepts in Africana Studies. While the field is saturated with historical studies and literary analyses that take up issues of cultural memory--which involves thinking about time--time itself has 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 Black experience cannot be understood outside of the meaning of race, which itself is not completely tangible. In this tutorial, "Time and Blackness,"
we will explore how Black writers across a number of genres--spiritual autobiography, fiction, memoir, literary criticism, and cultural theory--understand time, and create paradigms of time to organize their work. The following questions will structure our investigation: What are the constituent elements of time in Black writings? How does race shape the ways Black writers conceive the experience of time? And, finally, to what can we attribute the recent surge in explicit, theoretical examinations of "time and blackness"?

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

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

Spring 2023
TUT Section: T1    TBA    James A. Manigault-Bryant

AFR 209  (S)  Introduction to Racial Capitalism  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AMST 202  AFR 209

Secondary Cross-listing

The historical relationship between race and capitalism is one of the most enduring debates in U.S. historiography, shaping modes of inquiry and analysis across history, law, economics, sociology, anthropology, and other fields. This course seeks to introduce students to the concept of "racial capitalism"--which rejects treatments of race (and racism) as external to the so-called real workings of capitalism--as a way to understand this relationship and as an activist hermeneutic through which to identify and respond to the conditions that American Studies must reckon with. Students will gain familiarity with the global history of racial capitalism and the power of the concept itself through secondary sources and a wide range of primary sources, and through engaged discussion and short essays. Throughout the course, we will pay special attention to the cultural politics, political geographies, and historical development of racial capitalism, thus attending to how the social relations of racial capitalism have been known, lived, and resisted across time and space. The course is organized around three key themes: the land question; race, capitalism, and nation; and the banalities of racial capitalism. Across these themes, the course will address such issues and topics as North American settler colonialism, circum-Caribbean plantation slave and "Coolie" labor, mass incarceration, the subprime mortgage crisis, and the War on Terror. The course will do so through and against a history of racial capitalism that privileges the U.S. nation-state in particular. By the end of this course, students should be able to: detail and analyze the historical development of and resistance to racial capitalism, doing so in relation to the global itineraries of racial slavery, settler colonialism, imperialism, and white supremacy; trace the history of the concept of racial capitalism itself; and identify how the concept continues to shape the field of American Studies.


Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors, students specializing in Native American and Indigenous Studies, Africana majors, History majors

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 202 (D2) AFR 209 (D2)
Writing Skills Notes: Emphasis on writing process and revision: Three thesis papers at 5 pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor and peers); one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Throughout, the course addresses the issues of difference, power, and equity amongst groups and the nature of the theoretical tools or perspectives used to understand these issues. It does so familiarizing students with "racial capitalism" as both a way of understanding the historical relationship between race and capitalism, and as an activist hermeneutic to respond to the conditions that American Studies and other fields must reckon with in the present.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora GBST Economic Development Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 211  (S)  Race, Environment, and the Body
Cross-listings: AMST 211  ENVI 211  AFR 211  SOC 211

Primary Cross-listing
This course is organized around three distinct, but overlapping, concerns. The first concern is how polluting facilities like landfills, industrial sites, and sewage treatment plants are disproportionately located in communities of color. The second concern is the underlying, racist rationales for how corporations, in collaboration with state agencies, plot manufacturers of pollution. The final concern is how the environmental crises outlined in the first two sections of the course are experienced in the body. In reviewing a range of Black cultural productions--like literature, scholarship, music, and film--we will not only consider how environmental disparities physically affect human bodies, but also how embodiments of eco-crises tend to imaginaries of the relationship between the self and the natural world.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 2-3 short papers (5-7 pages), and a self-scheduled final
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: preference given to AFR concentrators, ENVI concentrators and majors, and ANSO majors.
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:
AMST 211 (D2) ENVI 211 (D2) AFR 211 (D2) SOC 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

Spring 2023
LEC Section: 01    M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm     James A. Manigault-Bryant

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 etc. Appropriate for students with basic skill on their instrument and some theoretical knowledge including all key signatures, major/minor keys and modes, intervals, triads and basic seventh chords and their functions within keys. This is a performance practice course and instrumental competence is essential. Vocalists and drummers will be encouraged to study the piano; pianists guitarists and bassists 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: 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
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

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

Unit Notes: 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

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MUS 104 (D1) AFR 212 (D1)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Not offered current academic year

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

Cross-listings: STS 213  WGSS 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.

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:
STS 213 (D2) WGSS 213 (D2) AFR 213 (D2)

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

Not offered current academic year

AFR 214  (F)  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 (D1)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 216 (S) Moving While Black

Cross-listings: COMP 212 DANC 217 AMST 212 AFR 216

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. Students may 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 Alley 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 movement 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: classes will rotate throughout the semester between seminar discussions in the classroom and performance exercises in the studio

Requirements/Evaluation: multiple reading/viewing responses in a movement journal, an essay closely analyzing movement; a presentation, and multiple movement-based performances including a final project with outside research and a proposal

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators

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:

COMP 212 (D1) DANC 217 (D2) AMST 212 (D2) AFR 216 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 217 (F) Women and Girls in (Inter)National Politics (DPE)

Cross-listings: INTR 219 AFR 217 WGSS 219 AMST 217 LEAD 219
Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial focuses on the writings and autobiographies of women who have shaped national politics through social justice movements in the 20th-21st centuries. Women and girls studied include: Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, Safiya Bukhari, Erica Garner, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Marielle Franco, Winnie Mandela.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly 5-page primary analytical papers and 2-page response papers.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and seniors, sophomores.

Expected Class Size: 10

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:

INTR 219 (D2) AFR 217 (D2) WGSS 219 (D2) AMST 217 (D2) LEAD 219 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This tutorial examines how girls and women confront capitalism, imperialism, climate devastation, patriarchy and poverty. The national and international movements that they participated in or led were based on shifting the balance of powers towards the impoverished, colonized, and imprisoned.

Not offered current academic year

AFR 218  (F)  ReReading/Righting Ballet's History: Celebrating BIPOC Figures in Ballet (w/ Ballet Technique)

Cross-listings: DANC 207  AFR 218

Secondary Cross-listing

"What does dance give you?" asked the great African American dancer, teacher, and director Arthur Mitchell: "The freedom to be who you are and do what you want to do." In the ballet world, however, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color have struggled to achieve that "freedom" their white counterparts have enjoyed. In this course students continue their technical/artistic training in ballet while also exploring different topics in past and current ballet history; in Fall 2022, our main focus will be on some of the notable BIPOC figures in the world of ballet, with the history of ballet providing both a timeline and a sociopolitical backdrop against which we can trace and discover the intersectionality that has helped shape the aesthetics of ballet as well as other genres we know today. Though this is primarily a studio course (with twice-weekly ballet technique classes) readings and viewings relevant to our coursework will be assigned; a third weekly meeting will be held for group discussions on those assignments. Alongside broader ballet history texts, the essays and articles by authors such as Brenda Dixon Gottschild and Theresa Ruth Howard will offer keen insights into some of the more specific issues and topics regarding race and diversity in the field of ballet. In addition to informal, written responses to the readings and viewings, Howard's website "Memoirs of Blacks in Ballet" will be an important anchor/springboard for course projects. Howard will be a guest collaborator in this course for Fall '22; in addition to joining us (remotely) for discussions, she will guide us in those projects.

Class Format: Students will be placed in either Beginning Ballet, or Intermediate/Advanced Ballet (see prerequisites for more information): ALL students will meet together for a third class meeting/seminar.

Requirements/Evaluation: Robust engagement in technique classes and meeting sessions; timely and thoughtful written (informal) responses to assigned readings and viewings; development and presentation of course projects.

Prerequisites: Technique for the two levels will be separate. For the beginner level NO prior experience is required. For the int/adv level, students must have at least three yrs of prior ballet training, and instructor's permission.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Students who are invested in learning both the physical aspect of ballet technique, as well as its broader history and the specific areas this course is investigating.

Expected Class Size: 8

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

Materials/Lab Fee: Ballet class attire (i.e., leotards, tights/leggings, slippers)--students are responsible for acquiring personal clothing and shoes. Est. cost $75-150.

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 219 (S) Afro-Modern Dance: Theory & Practice (Dunham Technique)

Cross-listings: AFR 219  DANC 211

Secondary Cross-listing

Modern African diasporic dance creates a conversation between the past and the present; it brings forth memories of the African "homeland" and of the dispersal of African bodies around the world, while simultaneously engaging the current joys, pains, challenges, and cultural growth of Black people. Through movement and rhythm, dancers experience the embodied knowledge of previous generations, while connecting to contemporary cultural, political, and economic realities. Katherine Dunham devoted her life to exploring and exposing the multiple layers and complexities of the African diasporic experience through her ethnographic dance choreographies, her dance technique, her schools, her music, and her writing. Dunham's work as a dance anthropologist, artist, educator, and humanitarian is manifested in Dunham Technique; the technique is a fusion of African diasporic dance, ballet and modern dance, and functions as an embodied medium for cultural communication. The technique is considered "a way of life" as it uses theory and philosophy to engage participants in a holistic experience that is not only physical, but also intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. Through this combination of physicality, history, theory, and philosophy, Dunham Technique is a tool to understand one's inner self and place oneself within a historical and cultural framework. In this course, students will explore the history, theory, and philosophies of Dunham Technique and Katherine Dunham, while actively participating with the technique's movement concepts and vocabulary. Students will engage in the fundamentals of a Dunham Technique movement class through center floor work, barre exercises, progressions, and choreography. The course will combine the studio experience of the physical technique with lectures and discussions. Students will learn about the three theories of Dunham Technique (Form and Function, Intercultural Communication, and Socialization through the Arts) and its three philosophies (Self-Examination, Detachment, and Discrimination) while also learning the history and historical context of the technique and its creator. Students are expected to have experience in modern dance or other dance techniques.

Class Format: The course meets in person, twice per week for the full semester. The course includes two main integrated components: physical dance training and lecture/discussion. Students will experience guest artists certified in Dunham Technique.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on the completion of (3) journals, the quality of the final movement assignment, the completion of weekly reading assignments, and their participation during class activities/discussions.

Prerequisites: Students who have taken Modern I/DANC 106 or other department dance courses with technique components, or have previous study in Dunham technique.

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Students with 1-2 years of formal dance training and interested in expanding their knowledge of African diasporic dance and Dunham Technique.

Expected Class Size: 15-20

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 219 (D2) DANC 211 (D1)
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.

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

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 25

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

AMST 220 (D2) ENGL 220 (D1) AFR 220 (D2)

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

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am David L. Smith

AFR 221 (F) Giving God a Backbeat: Rap Music, Religion & Spirituality

Cross-listings: AFR 221 REL 263

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.

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

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: First year, sophomore, and juniors

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 221 (D2) REL 263 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am VaNatta S. Ford

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, music and global aid organizations, issues of migration and displacement, and the changing roles of traditional musical occupations. Popular genres-among them Afrobeat, kwaito, soukous, rai, mbalax, 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:** this class places a strong emphasis on discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 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

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

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)

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

Not offered current academic year

AFR 224 (F) Cold War Intellectuals: Civil Rights, Writers and the CIA (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** AFR 224 PSCI 221 AMST 201 LEAD 220 INTR 220

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This weekly tutorial has alternating primary and secondary writers (5pages/2pages). In weekly one-hour sessions, students read their work aloud followed by dialogue and critique. Primary papers are due to respondent/professor 48hrs before the tutorial meets; response papers are emailed to the professor 2hrs before the weekly tutorial meets. Readings include: We Charge Genocide; Williams J. Maxwell, F. B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature; Chalmers Johnson, Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire; Hugh Wilford, The Mighty Wurlitzer: How the CIA Played America; "Part III Supervision and Control of the CIA," Rockefeller Commission Report; Malcolm X Speaks; Sam Greenlee, The Spook Who Sat By the Door; and, The Murder of Fred Hampton. The tutorial is open to all students.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Attend all classes; submit completed papers 24hrs before seminar meets.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** Juniors and Seniors.

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**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:

AFR 224 (D2) PSCI 221 (D2) AMST 201 (D2) LEAD 220 (D2) INTR 220 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This tutorial examines the Cold War between the US and the USSR and attempts to use intellectuals to shape and promote the objectives of powerful state entities. The power struggle between the two "superpowers" impacted cultural production and authors.
Some of those authors influenced or enlisted into the Cold War sought equity and equality for their communities and eventually fought against the very political powers that employed them.

AFR 226 (S) Black France/France Noire (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 226 RLFR 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.

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) (DPE)

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

AFR 226 (D2) RLFR 226 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course satisfies the DPE requirement because it focuses on "the shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change" through the lenses of historical colonial legacies, race, gender, citizenship among other questions.

Not offered current academic year

AFR 227 (F) Colonial Rule and Its Aftermaths in Africa (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 203 HIST 204 AFR 227

Secondary Cross-listing

This course focuses on the history of Africa during the colonial and post-colonial periods, especially focusing on the period between 1885 and 2000. The first part of the course will explore the imposition of colonial rule and its attendant impacts on African societies. During this section, we will especially examine how Africans responded to colonialism, including the various resistance movements that arose at different moments to contest colonial rule. We will also explore the various transformations wrought by colonialism. The second part of the course will explore the African struggle to decolonize their societies and to fashion viable political systems. In addition to historical texts, the course will make use of cultural materials such as novels and films.

Class Format: Mixed format of lecture and discussion seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in discussion, map quiz, response papers, midterm and final exams, and case study paper (7-10 pages)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: if course is over-enrolled, preference to history majors and students with a demonstrated interest in African studies

Expected Class Size: 30
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:
GBST 203 (D2) HIST 204 (D2) AFR 227 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will introduce students to how Africans contended with the forces of colonialism and its aftermaths. It will examine how different African societies as well as social groups on the continent were affected by and responded to colonial rule. All of the readings, discussions, and assignments will ask students to contend with the issues of how to write African lives into the history of colonialism.

Attributes: HIST Group A Electives - Africa

Fall 2022
LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Benjamin Twagira

AFR 229  Black Outside the U.S.

This course explores multiple ways Black identity evolves, adapts and is experienced differently depending on location. Students analyze Black experience in the U.S., France and Senegal through a range of texts from books and social media to music and film. One key aspect of the course is a study abroad trip to Senegal, which increases cultural awareness through experiential learning. This combination of textual learning with experiential knowledge exemplifies how language, religion, gender, geography, and performance shape one’s racial identity. In the first section of the course, students investigate Black experience in the U.S., focusing on such topics as the one-drop rule, racial profiling and where mixed people fit within Black/White tensions. The second section highlights the politics of language in France. Students explore how words like “Black,” “noir” and “race” have strong political connotations in France and spur both resistance to and alliance with Black American civil rights history. In the third part of the course, students visit Dakar, Senegal, and analyze Blackness through their own observations and encounters. Their trip insights jumpstart the final focus of the course on Senegal. Students investigate the influence of French colonialism on Black identity in Senegal, which makes the two geographical experiences of Blackness very different but still forever linked.

Class Format: seminar, the course includes a required spring break trip to Dakar, Senegal, which is no additional cost to students

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, short weekly reading responses, two 4-5 page papers, a presentation based on the spring break trip, and a final presentation including a short 2-page report

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: students who have taken other AFR courses, Francophone speakers and students

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: 

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 231 (S) Africa and the Anthropocene  (DPE)

Cross-listings: STS 231 ENVI 231 AFR 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, novels, and web-based content. Topics include: humanism/post-humanism; migration and displacement; representations of conflict; and sustainable development.

Requirements/Evaluation: Assignments include: 2 short written commentaries (2-3 pages each), mid-term current event analysis (5-7 pages), final analytical essay (10-12 pages) and class presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: Environmental Studies majors and concentrators

Expected Class Size: 19

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

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Africa and the 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.

Attributes: ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives GBST African Studies Electives GBST Economic Development Studies Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Brittany Meché

AFR 232 (S) Islam in Africa (DPE)


Secondary Cross-listing

Islam in Africa is often relegated to the peripheries in the study of Islam, a religion most associated with Arabs and the Middle East. On the flip side, Islam is also portrayed as foreign to African belief systems and institutions. The relationship between Islam and Africa, however, begins with the very advent of Islam when early Arab Muslim communities took refuge in the Abyssinian empire in East Africa. This course explores the history of Islam and Muslim societies on the African continent by focusing on the localized practices of Islam while also connecting it to Islam as a global phenomenon. The course will begin with a historical focus on the spread of Islam in Africa from East Africa and North Africa in the seventh century all the way to the spread of Islam through Sufi brotherhoods in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The course will also take an anthropological approach, exploring the diverse practices of Islam in African Muslim communities and the social and cultural impact of Islam on African societies. Among the topics the course will cover include African Muslim intellectual traditions, local healing practices, religious festivals, early modern African Muslim abolitionist movements, and the historical interactions between African and Asian Muslim communities in the Indian ocean world.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two essays during the semester and final project.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: REL, HIST, ARAB, AFR, GBST majors

Expected Class Size: 20

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:
HIST 202 (D2) GBST 232 (D2) AFR 232 (D2) REL 232 (D2) ARAB 232 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course will urge students to consider how scholars construct centers and peripheries through a study of Islam in Africa that is often rendered to the peripheries in the study of Islam. The course will also explore the diversity of African Muslim communities, getting students to think about the diversity of human experiences and interpretations of shared sacred texts.

Attributes: HIST Group A Electives - Africa

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Saadia Yacoob

AFR 233 (F) Colonialism, Capitalism and Climate Crisis (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENVI 204 GBST 233 AFR 233
Evolution is part of human existence. These changes are not necessarily natural, uniform or linear across space and time. As colonial conquests sought to capture, dominate and exploit vast swaths of land, nature and people, supported by economic theories, violent, wide-ranging and long-term changes profoundly altered the environment and human-nature relationships. This course examines these transformations, specifically attending to the relationship between colonized/colonial (hu)man, nature and non-human species, drawing in perceptions of nature and the economy. Our starting point for this intellectual journey is the colonial imprint on human-ecological relations i.e. economic man, or Sylvia Wynter's conception of "ethno-class man" and "homo-economicus". We will consider social difference especially race as a central conjuncture of the changing relationship of capitalism and social organization relative to natural resource extraction, techno-scientific knowledge, industrial development and resulting accumulation of greenhouse gases that induce climate and ecological crises. We will also examine economic perspectives of climate change as a market failure, loss of economic value or a financial risk to stock portfolios that may be at odds with humane ways of organizing our collective planet. This course exposes the hierarchies of social difference and resulting inequalities (class, race, gender, species) under climate crisis to advance reparative and decolonial understandings. Drawing upon experiences from social, labor and environmental movements for climate justice, students will be able evaluate situated political economic responses to the climate crisis.

Requirements/Evaluation: Blog post entries; Either a research report on an emerging 'green' technology (8-10 pages); Or a recorded video podcast/interview with an environmental justice movement/activist in the global South (20-30 minutes); Community case study on an environmental project tracing its colonial histories and axes of power - gender, race, class, species (6-8 pages); Participation (leading a discussion/presentation on a reading based on from contemporary/historical events)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 10

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:

ENVI 204 (D2) GBST 233 (D2) AFR 233 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course addresses from a global perspective and from different contexts how social groups, societies and organizations are being transformed under climate crisis.

Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Fall 2022

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Keston K. Perry

AFR 234 (F) Race, Land and Settler (Racial) Capitalism: Ongoing Topics in (Dis)/(Re)possession

Cross-listings: AMST 234 ENV 247 AFR 234 HIST 274

Primary Cross-listing

This sequential studio course serves as an introduction to ongoing topics in colonialism, racial thinking, African Diaspora studies, Global, Caribbean, and local studies. We will examine how race, gender and class operate under racial capitalism and settler colonialism. The readings in this class will center the works of critical geographers, caribbeanist, scholars of the African Diaspora, Indigenous theorists, among other critical, anti-capitalist or decolonial scholars. Reading in this course will take up the question(s) of land and land-making; race, racialization, and racial thinking; alongside questions of space and place as they all relate to the various processes, projects and methods of (dis)(re)possession. This course is the first part of a complementary course, which will be offered in the Spring, titled, "Race, Land, Space and (Dis)(Re)possession: Critical Topics in Environmental Injustice and Subaltern Geographies," which tracks both the "historical breaks" and ongoing processes of (dis)(re)possession to more contemporary materializations. Weekly in-class discussion will be combined with guest lectures in order to provide the opportunity for exploring how race, space and (dis)(re)possession can be understood geographically, and to also explain how a range of these territorializing processes operate in the transnational and local contexts. Those who take this studio course can expect to be actively engaged in directing their learning experience through research/final creative projects of their own selection. Sound, music and other audio engagements will also complement discussions in this course. Therefore, the capacity of deep listening, in-and-out of class, is mandatory. Sample topics covered in the course include the following: indigeneity and Blackness; dispossession and accumulation; environmental imperialism, war and colonial resistance. You are strongly encouraged to participate in both courses in this complementary sequence, but are not required to do so.
Requirements/Evaluation: The following requirements serve as the basis for course evaluation: Attendance and Participation 30%; Serve as Discussion Leader Once 20%; Weekly 300-500-word Critical Response Papers 20%; One Final Creative Project, which can take any number of forms, including the conventional research paper (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). More creative projects might include, a pamphlet or zine, a written play or theatrical performance, or an op-ed. We will discuss further possibilities in class. 30%

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, preference will be given to Africana studies concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 7

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

AMST 234 (D2) ENVI 247 (D2) AFR 234 (D2) HIST 274 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group D Electives - Latin America + Caribbean HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada HIST Group G Electives - Global History LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect

Fall 2022

STU Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Allison Guess

AFR 235 (S) Race, Land, Dis/Re-possession: Critical Topics in Environmental Injustice and Subaltern Geographies

Cross-listings: AFR 235 AMST 235 HIST 275 GBST 235 ENVI 253

Primary Cross-listing

This course is an introduction to ongoing and contemporary topics in colonialism, racial thinking, African Diaspora and, Global and Caribbean studies, studies of 'the environment,' and dispossession. We will examine how race, gender and class operate under racial capitalism and settler colonialism as ongoing, sometimes continuous and discontinuous processes. The readings will center the works of critical geographers, caribbeanist, scholars of the African Diaspora, and other critical, anti-capitalist or decolonial scholars. Readings, as in AFR 234, will take up the question(s) of land and land-making; race, racialization, and racial thinking; of space and place as they all relate to the various processes, projects and methods of (dis)(re)possession, both "past" and "contemporary." We will interrogate temporal binaries, settler time, notions of [the] "progress(ives)" and other bifurcated understandings of the world. This course is the second part of a complementary course, titled, "Race, Land and Settler (Racial) Capitalism," which focuses on the historical geography of processes of (dis)(re)possession from a Black and Indigenous Atlantic perspective. In this iteration, weekly in-class discussion will be combined with guest lectures to provide the opportunity for exploring how race, space and (dis)(re)possession can be understood geographically, and to explain how a range of these territorializing processes operate. Sound, music and other audio will complement discussions. Therefore, the capacity of deep listening, in-and-out of class, is a grounding. Sample topics covered in the course include: indigeneity and Blackness; (dis)possession and accumulation; plantation geographies and economies; housing and houselessness; the problem of parks and conservation; prisons and carceral geographies; Black geographies; environmental racism and colonial resistance. You are strongly encouraged to participate in both courses in this sequence, but are not required to do so.

Requirements/Evaluation: The following requirements serve as the basis for course evaluation: Attendance and Participation 30%; Serve as Discussion Leader Once 20%; Weekly 300-500-word Critical Response Papers 20%; One Final Creative Project, which can take any number of forms, including the conventional research paper (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). More creative projects might include, a pamphlet or zine, a written play or theatrical performance, or an op-ed. We will discuss further possibilities in class. 30%

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, preference will be given to Africana studies concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 7

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 235 (D2) AMST 235 (D2) HIST 275 (D2) GBST 235 (D2) ENVI 253 (D2)
AFR 237 (S) Islam in the United States: Race, Religion, Politics (DPE)

Cross-listings: REL 237  AFR 237  AMST 237

Secondary Cross-listing

Malcolm X is one of the most iconic yet controversial figures in the black freedom struggle in the United States. He is also arguably the most prominent and influential Muslim in the history of the United States. His story and legacy powerfully illustrate the complex intersections of Muslim identity, political resistance, and national belonging. From the early period of "Black Muslim" movements represented by Malcolm X, to the current "War on Terror" era, American Muslims have faced a complex intersection of exclusions and marginalization, in relation to national belonging, race, and religion. Taking Malcolm X as our point of departure, this course examines how American Muslims have navigated these multiple layers of marginalization. We will therefore consider how the broader socio-political contexts that Muslims are a part of shape their visions of Islam, and how they contest these competing visions among themselves. In so doing, we will examine the complex relation between religion, race, and politics in the United States. Throughout the course, we will be engaging with historical and anthropological material, autobiographies, comics, documentaries, films, historical primary-source documents, and social media materials. 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 ideology, race, nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender, and language.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular reading responses, midterm essay, final exam/essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Majors and concentrators in REL, AFR, and AMST

Expected Class Size: 15

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:

REL 237 (D2) AFR 237 (D2) AMST 237 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: 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 ideology, race, nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender, and language.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

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.

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: (D1)

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

Not offered current academic year

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

Cross-listings: AMST 243 AFR 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.

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, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

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

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

Not offered current academic year

AFR 244 (S) Dislocating the Harlem Renaissance (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 265 AFR 244

Secondary Cross-listing

Beginning with Alain Locke’s The New Negro: An Interpretation, this course introduces students to the black literary and cultural production of the 1920s and 30s that we have come to regard as the Harlem Renaissance. While canonical figures will be covered, significant attention will also be paid to artists that have garnered less attention as well as those that sit outside the geographic boundaries of Harlem. Figures to be considered throughout the term include Sterling Brown, Miguel Covarrubias, Jessie Redmon Fauset, Angelina Weld Grimké, Langston Hughes, Zora Neal Hurston, Nella Larsen, Claude McKay, Richard Bruce Nugent, Anne Spencer, Jean Toomer, Eric Walrond, and Walter White.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading responses, active class participation, two close readings (500 words each), annotated bibliography, class presentation, final paper (8-10 pages)

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: majors and prospective majors
AFR 246 (S) African American History, 1619-1865
Cross-listings: AFR 246 HIST 281

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.

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:
AFR 246 (D2) HIST 281 (D2)

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

Not offered current academic year

AFR 250 (S) Translating Black Resistance: Historical and Contemporary Challenges

"My ebony skin...is my naked soul; my skin is language, and the reading is all yours." The lyrics' excerpt authored by Afro-Brazilian artists Matumbi and Portugal eloquently convey/denounce how Black skin and the Black body may function as a canvas upon which multiple meanings are imposed or assigned/prescribed: as embattled territories constantly subjected to multiple (mis)interpretations. Conversely, Black skin/bodies become sites of resistance, expressing/becoming potent languages through which oppressive systems are challenged, and powerful anti-racist struggles/movements crafted/expressed or performed/reinvented. How have verbal and non-verbal communications functioned as core aspect of Afro-Diasporic confrontational praxis to intersecting racialized/gendered oppressions and annihilation? How may we challenge Eurocentric bodies of knowledge as a key component in political projects of Black erasures? The course will explore such issues by placing the politics of language, translation/interpretation, ideology, and identity at the center of historical and contemporary movements of resistance against deadly manifestations of anti-black racism and gendered/homophobic violence(s). We will engage with such collective Black resistance responses by analyzing music, film, poetry and other Black art forms in Latin America, and particularly Brazil, and we shall examine authors including Conceição Evaristo, Angela Y. Davis, Patricia Hill Collins, Joelzito Araújo, Paul Bandia, Brent Edwards, Lazzo Matumbi, and Randal Johnson.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation; three two-page response papers; midterm exam; and a 10 to 12- page final paper.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15
AFR 251 (S)  Afro-Diasporic Crossroads: Translating and (Re)Imagining Black Experiences
For many centuries Black subjects have forged multiple forms/processes/modes of resistance, yielded in particular by the brutal forced migration of African men and women in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Afro-Diasporic subjects utilized, evoked, and preserved their cultural and historical/intellectual legacies, healing practices/sacred traditions - and (re)crafted the African Diaspora. This course will examine the crucial roles played by the politics of language and translation in Afro-Diasporic dispersions, intersections, and (re)connections. We will explore the concept of translation as reparation and the ethics of translation, while interrogating how language may be utilized as an effective tool for political control and conversely, a powerful means for Black Liberation. Grounded on Black Feminist Theory, we will engage with the often-overlooked significance of embodied Black knowledge in translation theories within and beyond the boundaries of written texts across African Diasporic settings. Particular attention will be placed on a critical analysis of the ways through which Black popular cultures travels across African Diasporic settings. Authors we shall explore in the seminar include Angela Y. Davis, Patricia Hill Collins, Rachel Harding, Paul Bandia, Brent Edwards, Omise'eke Tinsley, Marsha J. Hamilton and Eleanor S. Block.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation; three two-page response papers; midterm exam; and a 10 to 12-page final paper.
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 254 (S)  Bebop: The (R)evolution of Modern Jazz
Cross-listings: AFR 254  MUS 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, guided listening and performance, 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading, listening, musical memorization and performance. Short written responses to discussion prompts and participation in class discussion; quizzes on assigned readings and listening, and final exam
Prerequisites: MUS 104b or permission of instructor, instrumental or vocal proficiency.
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: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 254 (D2) MUS 254 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Kris Allen

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

Cross-listings: ARAB 259 AFR 259 ARTH 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.

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: 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: (D1)

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

ARAB 259 (D1) AFR 259 (D1) ARTH 259 (D1)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 264 (F) The Bible and Slavery (DPE)

Cross-listings: REL 264 AFR 264

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will examine issues related to the intersection of "slavery" and "Bible." We will consider topics as varied as the story of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage, the laws surrounding slavery in the Torah, the continuation of slavery into early Christianity, and the arguments surrounding slavery in the United States in the antebellum period. Our conversation will tackle a series of questions including the following ones: What role did these themes play in later Jewish communities? What role did the enslaved play in the development of the Christ-following communities? What were the key passages (and, arguments) supporting the racialized version of U.S. slavery? What are the legacies of the history of slavery that continue to haunt us?

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short (2-3 page) writing assignments, one (mid-term) examination, and a final 8-10 page paper

Prerequisites: none, although a previous course on religion is recommended

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors or at least one course in Religion

Expected Class Size: 15

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:

REL 264 (D2) AFR 264 (D2)
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will address discursive and institutional bases of oppression that remain potent in the United States and beyond. An understanding of slavery as a thematic element in Biblical texts (and their ongoing reception) is indispensable to the critical analysis of racial injustice and human freedom.

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01 W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Emerson B. Powery

AFR 270 (F) Sport and the Global Color Line (DPE)

Cross-listings: LEAD 270 HIST 270 AFR 270

Secondary Cross-listing

Throughout the twentieth century, African Americans have broken racial barriers, confronted racial stereotypes, and garnered unprecedented success within popular culture, most notably sport. In this course, students will explore the relationship of the black athlete to the color line. We will complicate the historical view of sport as a site of professional advancement and race reform by demonstrating how societal racial practices were reconstructed within athletics. In essence, this course will emphasize the role sport performed in structuring racial exclusion as athletic arenas--like movie theaters, railroads, schools, and other public sites--shaped what Historian Grace Elizabeth Hale has termed the "culture of segregation." Though our primary focus will be on the experiences African Americans encountered, we will also probe the color line beyond its typical black-white binary. Thus, we will examine the achievements and altercations that other ethnic and racial groups realized in their transnational push for equality and inclusion.

Class Format: Lecture and discussion.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be graded on class participation and will have two take-home midterm essay examination (4-6 pages). In addition, students will write two or three response papers (2-3 pages) and a final research paper.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: Open to all students with completion of course admission survey if overenrolled.

Expected Class Size: 25

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

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

LEAD 270 (D2) HIST 270 (D2) AFR 270 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will prompt students to evaluate the commercialization and commodification, perceptions and portrayals of minority athletes in popular media forms. Students will trace the emerging ideas, shifts, and trends in the depiction of race and in the process of racialization.

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

Not offered current academic year

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

Cross-listings: ENGL 275 AFR 275 AMST 276

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 aesthetics 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 Toure, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Alison Janae Hamilton, Outkast, DJ Khalid, Beyoncé Knowles, and Solange Knowles.

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: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 275 (D1) AFR 275 (D1) AMST 276 (D2)

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
Not offered current academic year

AFR 276 (S) Black Europeans
Cross-listings: COMP 276 AFR 276 GERM 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).

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: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 276 (D1) AFR 276 (D1) GERM 276 (D1)

Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives
Not offered current academic year

AFR 280 (S) Emancipation to BlackLivesMatter
Cross-listings: AFR 280 HIST 280 LEAD 280
Secondary Cross-listing

This introductory course surveys the cultural, political, and social history of African Americans from Reconstruction to the present. It offers a balance between a "top-down" and "bottom-up" approach and focuses primarily on African Americans' quest for citizenship, equality, justice, and opportunity. In addition to examining major historical developments and popular figures within the modern black past, we will explore the lesser-known histories of everyday people who helped shape the black freedom struggle. In so doing, we will interrogate conventional narratives of progressive movements since emancipation. Some of the main topics include: the transition from slavery to freedom; the rise of Jim Crow and the politics of racial uplift; the Great Migration and the emergence of the New Negro; the Great Depression and the New Deal; World War II and the struggle for economic and racial inclusion; the postwar period and the intersecting movements of Civil Rights and Black Power; and the impacts of deindustrialization and mass incarceration on the black community. We will end with a discussion of the Obama years and Black Lives Matter.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be graded on class participation and will have two take-home essay examinations (a midterm and a final, each 6-8 pages). In addition, students will write two response papers (2-3 pages) and will complete a mapping project based on The Negro Motorist Green Handbook.

Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: Students with demonstrated interest in material. If the course is overenrolled, students will be asked to complete a questionnaire.

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:
AFR 280 (D2) HIST 280 (D2) LEAD 280 (D2)

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

Spring 2023
LEC Section: 01 MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Tyran K. Steward

AFR 283 (F) Black Queer Looks: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary African-American Film

Cross-listings: WGSS 283 AMST 283 ENGL 286 AFR 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.

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) AMST 283 (D2) ENGL 286 (D1) AFR 283 (D2)
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.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, weekly reading e-response papers, two short essays, and a 12- to 15-page final paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators and majors in Political Science and Religion

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:
REL 261 (D2) AFR 299 (D2) PSCI 233 (D2)

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

AFR 300 (S) "Rebel Ecologies": Black and Indigenous Struggles for Land and Life

Cross-listings: WGSS 362 AFR 300 ENVI 300 AMST 362

Primary Cross-listing

This course will ask, what other socioecological models exist? We will weave together a study of differing, yet often converging or synergistic traditions of Black/Womanist eco-feminism that often confronts the social constructions of race, gender, class and sexuality, dominant religion as a means of social control, imperialism, capitalism, and colonialism; Ec socialism which often frames ecology in terms of a mode of production beyond or outside of capitalism; and Indigenous perspectives on resistance to capitalist extraction, imperialism, and colonialism. Given ongoing struggles against the extraction of land and labor, the urgent calls raised in the present-day "climate strike," the COVID-19 Pandemic, Black-led pandemic rebellions, along with long(er) histories of land-based peoples around the planet opposing racial capitalism, settler colonialism, and imperialism, this class will explore not only what those in opposition to both extractivism and expropriation resist, but also what we want. We will critique binaries, settler notions of time and explore theories of change. Additionally, this class will look to an array of literature, film, sound, and other forms of cultural production in order to not just "locate," but describe and reveal rebel ecological visions emerging "from below." Ultimately this class will consider how the above ecological praxis can work simultaneously and within a sense of plurality, examining what we can learn from the work of activists, intellectuals, and defenders on the frontline. This course is an extension of Dr. Guess' concept of a "rebel ecology."

Requirements/Evaluation: The following requirements serve as the basis for course evaluation: Attendance and Participation 30%; Serve as Discussion Leader at least twice 20%; Weekly 500-word Literature Review 20%; One Final Project, which can take any number of forms, including the conventional research paper (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). More projects might include, an annotated bibliography of 7 texts, film analysis, syllabus, book review, a written play, an op-ed, etc. We will discuss further possibilities in class.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, preference will be given to Africana studies concentrators.
Expected Class Size: 7
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 362 (D2) AFR 300 (D2) ENVI 300 (D2) AMST 362 (D2)

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Allison Guess

AFR 301 Experimental African American Poetry
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.

Requirements/Evaluation: two papers (6-8 pages and 8-10 pages), 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:
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora
Not offered current academic year

AFR 302 (S) Complexion Complexities: Colorism in Literature, Lyrics & Everyday Life
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 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: Remote
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers, one 6- to 8-page paper, and a formal class presentation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: juniors and seniors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am VaNatta S. Ford
AFR 303  (F)  The 19th Century and Its Shadow  

Cross-listings:  AFR 303  ENGL 417

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores canonical American literature from the nineteenth century alongside a selection of contemporary literary and cinematic texts that call on and intervene with this body of work. Following Toni Morrison's charge that the contemplation of a black presence "is central to any understanding of our national literature and should not be permitted to hover at the margins of the literary imagination," this course focuses on how ideas of race are explored throughout the canon and how they have been carried forward. Works considered throughout the term come from, among others, Julie Dash, Frederick Douglass, Saidiya Hartman, Harriet Jacobs, Mat Johnson, Herman Melville, Toni Morrison, Nate Parker, Edgar Allen Poe, Quentin Tarantino, Mark Twain, and Colson Whitehead.

Requirements/Evaluation:  weekly reading responses, active class participation, three close readings (500 words each), annotated bibliography, class presentation, final paper (13-15 pages)

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:  15

Enrollment Preferences:  English majors, then sophomores considering the major

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 303 (D2)  ENGL 417 (D1)

Attributes:  ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL Literary Histories B  ENGL Literary Histories C

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am  Ricardo A Wilson

AFR 304  (S)  A History of Health and Healing in Africa  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  HIST 305  AFR 304  GBST 305

Secondary Cross-listing

This class will explore the history of health and healing in Africa, with emphasis on the colonial and post-colonial eras. During the semester we will explore diverse medical and social interventions in African health over the past 150 years. How have African societies understood healthy communities and public health? We will examine this question through the study of spirit possession and other African healing practices but also how they have intersected with different biomedical practices and public health programs. We will also study the patterns and social impacts of new diseases in the twentieth century, as well as transformations in the understanding and treatment of diseases long present on the continent. In particular we will explore shifting understandings of the causes, treatment, and social implications of sleeping sickness, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. The development of colonial rule, shifting environmental conditions, changing diets, and urbanization all impacted the disease landscape, as well as the way African societies have understood public health. Indeed, the themes of health, medicine and disease provide a useful lens for understanding important social transformations across the continent.

Requirements/Evaluation:  active participation in discussion, map quiz, reading reflections, a primary source analysis paper (3-5 pages), presentation, and one research paper (8-12 pages).

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  25

Enrollment Preferences:  if course is over-enrolled, preference to history majors and students with a demonstrated interest in African studies

Expected Class Size:  25

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

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores transformations in how Africans in the recent past have experienced, practiced and conceptualized health and healing. These transformations have been triggered by the expansion of global biomedicine, new and lethal epidemics, old diseases in changing environments, and new political and economic decisions by policymakers. The history of health and healing in Africa provides a critical lens through which to examine societal imbalances and and inequalities.

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  GBST African Studies Electives  HIST Group A Electives - Africa
Not offered current academic year

AFR 305  (S)  Race and the Zombie Apocalypse

Cross-listings:  ENGL 308  AFR 305

Secondary Cross-listing
This course takes a critical approach to our contemporary understanding of the figure of the zombie and its inextricable link to discourses on race and blackness in the Americas. An introductory grounding in theories of social death allows an opportunity to explore the racial anxiety that gave birth to the genre and trace its development throughout the hemisphere. The course considers the novels, films, and critical texts that frame the genre in order to pose the following questions: What can the figure of the zombie teach us about our evolving relationship to race? What roles do gender and sexuality play in the construction of the genre? And, finally, how does the recent proliferation of zombie-related television shows, movies, books, and video games reflect our present-day concerns?

Class Format: remote

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading responses, active class participation, three close readings (500 words each), annotated bibliography, class presentation, final paper (13-15 pages)

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:  16

Enrollment Preferences: English majors, then sophomores considering the major

Expected Class Size: 16

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 308 (D1)  AFR 305 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C
Not offered current academic year

AFR 308    Four Poets: Gwendolyn Brooks, Frank O'Hara, Sylvia Plath, and Amiri Baraka

The study of literature often relies on seemingly “objective” labels to sort and group writers. These four major American poets from the last century were often segregated into different categories: Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000) and Amiri Baraka (1934-2014) clumped together as black poets; Sylvia Plath (1932-1963) labelled a “Confessional Poet” and/or taught as a female poet but not a “white poet”; Frank O’Hara (1926-1966), designated a “New York School” poet but not a “white poet” or “male poet.” In looking closely at the poetry of these four writers, whose work is usually not taught side by side, we will ask questions about the assumptions implicit in the concepts and categories of American (and English-language) poetics and how literary history usually gets written. For example, who is the presumed “universal” poetic speaker? Who is the assumed reader? Do our attitudes about raced and gendered bodies influence how we read raced and gendered poets? Is a queer poet read with the same particularity as a black poet?

Requirements/Evaluation: Two short papers (4-5 pp.) = 25%; One final paper (8-10 pp.) = 50%; Two short response papers = 15%; Participation = 10%

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AMST majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading:

Distributions: (D2)
AFR 311    Women Warriors, Colonial Soldiers, and Slave Armies: Soldiering and Warfare in African History  (DPE)

Soldiering is one of the oldest professions in African history. Throughout the continent's long history, ordinary soldiers have risen to become kings, queens, presidents, and held other positions of significance. Soldiers in African history have hailed from diverse backgrounds, ranging from the enslaved to those from the nobility. Notable soldiers in African history have been both men and women. Certainly, in Africa as in other world regions there is a tendency to associate the military profession with men. Yet, there have been famous female military warriors in African history, some of the most famous ones being Queen Nzinga in the seventeenth century; the all-female military units in the kingdom of Dahomey, known for their rigor and being effective fighters; and, more recently, Alice Lakwena who commanded a rebellion that nearly brought down the Ugandan government in the late twentieth century. Some of the other themes which we will explore include how warfare was organized from the precolonial era to more recent times; the impact of changing technologies on warfare and the everyday life of armed soldiers; colonial conquest and the soldiers who fought for Europeans and those who resisted; recruitment criteria during the colonial period, and colonial military identities; service in the military as labor and rebellions and mutinies over pay and work conditions; the army and nationalism. Throughout the course we will challenge the enduring Western image and stereotype of Africa as a violent place by focusing on a) the changing conditions that have pushed individuals and communities to go to war, and b) by examining how Africans have initiated and resolved conflict. Students will analyze a variety of resources including soldiers' biographies, films, oral traditions, and archival sources that will help them to come up with their own arguments about the role of the soldiers and the military in Africa.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in discussion, map quiz, response papers, a short analytic paper (3-5 pages), presentation, and one research paper (8-12 pages).

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: if course is over-enrolled, preference to history majors and students with a demonstrated interest in African studies

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading:

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the critical questions of how and why Africans have waged military campaigns, and how they have inspired others to join them. From the pre-colonial era to the present, all forms of military action in Africa were in many respects expressions of societal imbalances based on ethnicity, race, gender, generation, and class.

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 313  (S)  Tropical Ecologies: Francophone Caribbean Literature and the Environment  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 313  RLFR 313  ENVI 311

Secondary Cross-listing

The lushness of the mangroves, the flora and fauna of tropical landscapes, the intricacy of the rhizome, the flow of great rivers, the crashing waves of the Atlantic, the heights of mountainous lands, and expanse of the plateau--the natural world is an important site of Caribbean art in general and, more specifically, the francophone Caribbean novel of the 20th and 21st centuries. Applying eco-criticism to the field of francophone Caribbean literature, the goal of this class is to examine the ways that fiction explores the relationship between human activity and the environment. How does the novel inhabit Caribbean ecologies and topographies? How does it represent nature? In what ways do Caribbean texts meditate on nature and culture together or against one another? As the earthquake in Haiti demonstrated in 2010 with calamitous force, and the cycles of Caribbean hurricanes have shown over the years, natural disaster is also a political crisis. In view of this, we will also consider the legacies of slavery and colonialism in terms of class, gender and race politics. This investigation of the dynamics of natural and cultural phenomena will also have a theoretical frame rooted in critical texts of Caribbean of literary and political movements such as Indigenisme, Négritude, and Créolité. Conducted in French.

Class Format: This will be a remote course available to all students, whether they are on campus or completing coursework 100% remotely. We will convene synchronously via Zoom multiple times per week, with an emphasis on discussion and small group work. Students are also required to attend a monthly colloquium featuring renowned Caribbean scholars and participate in online activities both during and in-between our synchronous sessions.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be required to submit four 2-page position papers that incorporate critical readings with analysis of the books being read in their entirety; each student will also be responsible for making a twenty-five minute oral presentation on a critical/theoretical area related to class readings and discussion; the semester will conclude with a 6-8 page research paper to include footnotes and a bibliography.
Attendance is mandatory and active, and informed class participation is required of all students. In addition, students are asked to come up with discussion questions three times throughout the semester.

**Prerequisites:** Successful performance in RLFR 105 or 106; or a previous RLFR 200-level or 300-level course; or by placement test; or permission of the instructor.

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** All are welcome, but if over-enrolled, preference will be given to French majors and certificate students; and those with compelling justification for admission.

**Expected Class Size:** 12

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

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

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

AFR 313 (D1) RLFR 313 (D1) ENVI 311 (D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** As the course description show, this course critically examines difference, power, and equity in the Francophone Caribbean. The content focuses on race and ethnicity, slavery and colonialism, ecology and environmental disaster, and their effects on Caribbean histories, peoples, and cultures. The course teaches students how to critically investigate racial, cultural, and environmental in/justice(s), through texts, films, discussion, debate, and writing.

Not offered current academic year

**AFR 318  (F)  Defining and Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline**

**Cross-listings:** PSYC 334  AFR 318

**Primary Cross-listing**

The school-to-prison pipeline describes a system of processes that pushes children out of school into jails and prisons. This course will explore the pipeline and the relationships between school, prison, and society. We will begin with the history and creation of the modern-day school-to-prison pipeline, focusing on the educational and public policies that encourage the criminalization of "others", with particular emphasis on folks of color and under-resourced communities. We will also look to firsthand accounts from those pushed into the pipeline to humanize the topic and engage in thoughtful and compassionate discussion. Together, we will define "school" and "prison", identifying how these definitions are aligned with the most current iteration of the pipeline, and how they can help us as we work to dismantle it.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Assignments for the course include ongoing journal assignments, two 3-5 page papers, and a final project.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Africana Studies concentrators and Psychology 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:

PSYC 334 (D2) AFR 318 (D2)

**Attributes:** AFR Core Electives  JLST Interdepartmental Electives  PSYC Area 3 - Developmental Psychology  TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

Not offered current academic year

**AFR 320  (S)  Dangerous Bodies: Black Womanhood, Sexuality & Popular Culture**

**Cross-listings:** WGSS 320  AMST 320  AFR 320

**Primary Cross-listing**

Whether presented as maternal saints, divas, video vixens, or bitches, black female celebrities navigate a tumultuous terrain in popular culture. This course considers the ways that black female celebrities such as Oprah, Rihanna, Nicki Minaj, Beyoncé, Janet Jackson, and Michelle Obama negotiate womanhood and sexuality, and the popular landscapes through which we witness that negotiation. It also engages contemporary black feminist scholarship, which most frequently presents the presentation of black female bodies in popular media forms as exploitive. We will review historical stereotypes of black women in popular media forms, discuss the history of the "politics of respectability" within black culture, engage black feminist
responses to these types, and examine theoretical approaches to assess social constructions of womanhood and sexuality. We will also consider provocative questions relevant to discussions of contemporary black sexual politics: Should we view these women as feminists? Are they merely representatives of cultural commodification and control of black women’s bodies? Do these women best exemplify the reiteration of problematic characterizations? Are they positive models for demonstrating female empowerment, agency, or “fierceness?” This course explores the histories of representation of black female figures in popular culture, and in so doing, troubles contemporary considerations of black womanhood and sexuality.

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on attendance/participation, short response papers, and a midterm and final portfolio

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Women’s Gender & Sexuality Studies majors and 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:

WGSS 320 (D2) AMST 320 (D2) AFR 320 (D2)

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

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Rhon S. Manigault-Bryant

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 TikTok, 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: Remote

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers, and a final research project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores, juniors, seniors

Expected Class Size: 15

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: AMST 322 INTR 322 AFR 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: brief analytical papers and group presentations.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 19
AFR 323 (S) Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora

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 the late Congressman John Lewis' *March* and Ebony Flowers' *Hot Comb*, 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 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 build comic creation and analysis skills through short exercises, eventually building up to the final project of a graphic short story that illustrates historical and/or autobiographical narratives. No art experience is required, only an openness to expanding one's visual awareness and composition skills. This course is often taught in collaboration with the Williams College Museum of Art's Object Lab program, which allows the class to have its own space and art objects that are directly related to the course topic. Although it is a remote course this year, this class may still feature Object Lab participation, film screenings, and collaborations with guest speakers.

Class Format: This is a remote class that will primarily feature synchronous sessions with some asynchronous sessions.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 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)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: If the enrollment limit is exceeded, preference will be given to Africana Studies concentrators or students who have taken AFR 200, the department's introductory course.

Expected Class Size: 20

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:

AFR 324 (S) Critical Perspectives in Special Education

Cross-listings: AFR 324 PSYC 337

Primary Cross-listing

What makes special education "special"? This course will explore the role, purpose, and function of special education in the United States. Given special education's assumption of dis/ability (Baglieri, 2012), we will also create collective and individual frameworks for discussing and deconstructing dis/ability. This course will examine history, policy, and pedagogy related to special education; we will also discuss how law and school practices have systemically and systematically excluded students of color from general education classrooms, leading to the overrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx children in special education. We will listen to narratives shared by people with dis/abilities and our educational histories to understand how personal connections to special education influence our current beliefs and future practice.
AFR 324  (D2)  PSYC 337  (D2)

Attributes:  AFR Core Electives  PSYC Area 3 - Developmental Psychology  TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

Not offered current academic year

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

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

Secondary Cross-listing
This course focuses on the politics of personal style among women and femmes 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, neoliberal capitalism and class inform standards of beauty and ideas about the body, we will examine a variety of materials including commercial websites, podcasts, 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 and femmes of color? Is it feasible to assert that an easily identifiable “African American,” “Latina/x,” “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 complicate traditional understandings of feminist political activity?

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

Prerequisites:  LATS 105, AMST 201, AFR 200, 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, Africana Studies majors, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors by seniority. If the class is overenrolled students may be asked to submit a brief writing sample.

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:

WGSS 313  (D2)  AFR 326  (D2)  AMST 313  (D2)  LATS 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 2023
SEM Section:  01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Maria Elena Cepeda

AFR 327  (F)  Topics in Philosophy of Race:  Hegel and Africana Philosophy  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  AFR 327  PHIL 319

Secondary Cross-listing
How are individual and social subjects formed, and how do they connect to questions of race? What is the nature of consciousness and how can it be unhappy, false or double? What do we mean when we talk about racial capitalism? This course introduces philosophy students to these and related questions through a parallel reading that brings together 19th century German philosopher Hegel and a tradition of Africana philosophy running
through Douglas, Du Bois, Fanon, Gilroy, Hartman and Wynter. While Hegel studies tend to occur in isolation from philosophers in the Africana tradition, many of the above explicitly refer to and take up questions in Hegel. This course argues that by reference to the historically specific modes of subjectivity and sociality that resulted from the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Haitian Revolution, for instance, we can better understand and address long-standing questions in European Social Philosophy. Topics to be considered include the nature of freedom (both individual and social), the master/slave dialectic and subject constitution, self-consciousness and double consciousness, the stages of history, and racial capitalism.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Progressive writing assignments including 4 exegetical commentaries, one 5 page paper and one 10-12 page final paper.

**Prerequisites:** One prior 100 level philosophy course or permission of instructor.

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Preference given to philosophy majors and Africana studies concentrators.

**Expected Class Size:** 10-15

**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 327 (D2) PHIL 319 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Course material involves self-conscious and critical engagement with the history of racial subject formation as well as Africana philosophy, and thinking about how power's distribution connects to questions of race.

**Attributes:** PHIL History Courses

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**AFR 329 (S) Marxist Feminisms: Race, Performance, and Labor** (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** THEA 402 AMST 402 WGSS 402 AFR 329

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course offers an overview of queer, women of color feminist, decolonial, and critical ethnic studies critiques of orthodox Marxism. Beginning with core texts from the tradition, we will explore a range of social positions and forms of labor that complicate Marx's emphasis on the white male industrial factory worker. Each unit, we will study seminal texts that center reproduction, racial slavery, care and domestic work, indentured servitude, sex work, and migrant labor, in addition to an array of queer and feminist performances that respond and offer strategies to survive under racial capitalism. This course will equip students with critical understandings of the ways racial capitalism has centrally relied on the mass capture and recruitment of different racialized and gendered bodies in and beyond the U.S. and how, through performance, the capitalist system of value and life under these conditions can be reimagined.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** In-class discussion, short weekly reading posts, class presentation, final paper

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** WGSS majors and students with experience in American Studies or performance studies coursework

**Expected Class Size:** 12

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

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

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

THEA 402 (D1) AMST 402 (D2) WGSS 402 (D2) AFR 329 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course satisfies the DPE requirement as it explores difference, power, and equity by asking how racial, gendered, sexual, and class differences are produced, whose voices are centered and whose are excluded, and what forms of labor is valued over other forms.

**Attributes:** WGSS Theory Courses

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**Spring 2023**
AFR 331 (F) Black Masculinities  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 350 ENGL 375 AFR 331 WGSS 318

Secondary Cross-listing

In this seminar, we will study the evolution of Black masculinities through cultural, social, and political movements from 20th 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. By examining representations and presentations of Black masculinities, we will pursue questions such as: 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? 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 masculinity inform representations of Black masculinities? What is the future of Black Gender? We will trouble the relationship between manhood and masculinity by examining the ways in which masculinity can move across various kinds of bodies. In addition to reading critical and creative texts, we will view films and engage other kinds of media. Students will be responsible for 2 short papers and a final project.

Requirements/Evaluation: students will be responsible for 2 short papers and a final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 14
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 350 (D2) ENGL 375 (D1) AFR 331 (D2) WGSS 318 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course engages content and materials that explore various forms of difference, power, and equity, along with facilitating the development of skills that will help students address the implications of said forms. This course considers current examples and historical examples of Black masculinity. This course fosters difficult conversations about how difference works and has worked, how identities and power relationships have been grounded in lived experience.

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

Not offered current academic year

AFR 332  (Anti-)Imperialism, Race, and the Archive  (DPE) (WS)

What is U.S. imperialism? How are the social relations of racial capitalism important to U.S. imperialism? How have anti-imperial, anti-racist, and anti-capitalist struggles taken shape within, against, and beyond the U.S. nation-state, and how have these struggles shaped the U.S. nation-state itself? Finally, what kind of anti-imperial activist hermeneutics does American Studies offer and how can they be strengthened to reckon with the specific conditions of the U.S. imperial present? Anchored in these questions, this course seeks to introduce students to the history of U.S. imperialism. It does so beyond the traditional understanding of empire as a one-way agglomerating imposition of power in distant areas, and instead accounts for the co-constitution of reigning state-capitalist orders and global processes of spatial and social differentiation. Following such an approach to the history of U.S. imperialism, this course is organized around four time periods: 1770s to 1890s; 1890s to 1930s; 1930s to 1980s; and 1980s to the present. Across each period, we will attend to processes of U.S. imperial expansion, capital accumulation, and racial domination, and resistance to these processes. We will do so using secondary sources and a wide range of primary sources, including published fiction, legal documents, newspaper articles, speeches, films, and photos. By the end of this course, students should be able to detail a genealogy of the U.S. imperial present that accounts for: the significance of imperial and inter-imperial relations in the formation of U.S. national culture, institutions, and public areas such as law and public policy; how U.S. territorial colonization has underpinned the development of U.S. imperial infrastructure, the imperial state form, and imperial culture; and how U.S. territorial and extraterritorial sovereignty exist in perpetual reaction to the primary claims of Indigenous peoples and other threats to reigning state-capitalist orders.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on the following assessments: Class Participation: 25%; Weekly Response (350-500 words): 25%; Essay 1--First submission (5 pgs.): 10%; Essay 1--Revision (5 pgs.): 10%; Essay 2 (5 pgs.): 15%; Essay 3 (5 pgs.): 15%
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors, students specializing in Native American and Indigenous Studies, Africana majors, History majors,

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading:

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Emphasis on writing process and revision: Three thesis papers at 5 pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor and peers); one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Throughout, the course addresses the issues of difference, power, and equity amongst groups and the nature of the theoretical tools or perspectives used to understand these issues. It does so familiarizing students with "racial capitalism" as both a way of understanding the historical relationship between race and capitalism, and as an activist hermeneutic to respond to the conditions that American Studies and other fields must reckon with in the present.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AFR 333 (S) New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing

Cross-listings: AMST 403 LATS 403 AFR 333

Secondary Cross-listing

The most exciting and forward-thinking writing in the English language today is being done by formally experimental writers of color. Their texts push the boundaries of aesthetic form while simultaneously engaging questions of culture, politics, and history. This course argues not only for the centrality of minority experimental work to English literature but a fundamental rethinking of English literary studies so as to confront the field's imbedded assumptions about race, a legacy of British colonialism, and to make the idea of the aesthetic more open to ideas generated in critical race studies, diaspora studies, American studies, and those fields that grapple more directly with history and politics. In the critical realms of English, work by minority writers is often relegated to its own segregated spaces, categorized by ethnic identity, or tokenized as "add-ons" to more "central" or "fundamental" categories of literature (such as Modernism, poetics, the avant-garde). Recent work by Asian American, African American, Native American and Latino/a writers challenges our assumptions and preconceptions about ethnic literature, American literature, English literature, formal experimentation, genre categorization, and so on. This writing forces us to examine our received notions about literature, literary methodologies, and race. Close reading need not be opposed to critical analyses of ideologies. Formal experimentation need not be opposed to racial identity nor should it be divorced from history and politics, even, or especially, a radical politics.

Requirements/Evaluation: one shorter paper (7-8 pp.), one final paper or creative project (10-12 pp.), two short response papers, a presentation, and participation

Prerequisites: none but those with some previous experience with literature and/or literary analysis might be helpful

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies 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:

AMST 403 (D2) LATS 403 (D2) AFR 333 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST 400-level Senior Seminars LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 335 (S) Sacred Custodians: Environmental Conservation in Africa (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 335 ENVI 304 GBST 304 HIST 304

Secondary Cross-listing
In this seminar we will explore environmental conservation in Africa. In particular we will look at African ideas, ethics, and approaches to environmental conservation. Are there African ideas, ethics, and activities that are uniquely conservationist in nature? We will explore well-known African leaders to understand what spurred them to become conservationists, how they interpreted and communicated environmental crises. For example, Wangari Maathai is a world-renowned female scientist who established the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. This movement focuses on addressing the problem of deforestation. Ken Saro-Wiwa was an activist in Nigeria who fought for and alongside local communities against multinational oil corporations. We will examine these and other African conservation practices alongside popular images of environmental crisis that place blame for environmental degradation on Africans. Students will be invited to critically study histories of environmental management on the continent and the emergence, development, and impact of the idea of conservation. We will unpack the rich histories of conservation efforts in Africa, such as resource extraction, game parks, desertification, wildlife and hunting, traditional practices, and climate change.

Requirements/Evaluation: Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in discussion, map quiz, reading reflections, critical reflections on films, a case study (5-7 pages), and one exam.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: If course is over-enrolled, preference to History Majors and students with a demonstrated interest in African studies. If there’s sufficient enrollment, this course will be taught in 2 sections, 1 in-person section and 1 remote section.

Expected Class Size: 20

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:

AFR 335 (D2) ENVI 304 (D2) GBST 304 (D2) HIST 304 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will intensively explore the question of how various global and local actors have defined environmental degradation and promoted approaches to conservation in Africa. It guides students through an examination of the different power dynamics that have shaped environmental conservation thought and practices on the continent. This course, therefore, provides a critical lens through which to examine the inequalities rooted in race, gender, and other forms of difference

Attributes: ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01   TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm   Benjamin Twagira

AFR 337 (S) Queer in the City (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 337 AMST 337 WGSS 346

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course we will examine the various ways scholars and filmmakers have used ethnography as a critical tool for understanding the intersections of race, place, space, gender and sexuality. We will foreground studies that examine unfamiliar sites of Black struggle, resistance, and survival. We will examine Black gender variant and sexual minorities and how they produce, reproduce and struggle for spaces and places of desire, community, pleasure, love, and loss. We will explore these stories through primarily ethnographic modalities. We will discuss the political and ethical ramifications of these ethnographic narratives paying particular attention to the usefulness and limitations of both 'Thin' and 'Thick' descriptions. We will use ethnography to center debates regarding the politics of representation of racialized queer space, place, and people through both filmic and written accounts. All students will be asked to discover and develop their ethnographic voices through various critical, creative, experimental and performative assignments.

Requirements/Evaluation: facilitated class discussion; weekly critical response papers; creative projects

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: WGSS majors; students may be asked to write a short statement of interest in the event of over-enrollment

Expected Class Size: 20

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:
AFR 337 (D2) AMST 337 (D2) WGSS 346 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Course directly discusses structural oppression, forms of inequality, and social redress through the intersecting matrices of race, gender, sexuality and other ontological forms.

Attributes: FMST Core Courses WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 339  (S)  The Banlieue in Literature, Music, and Film  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings:  RLFR 300  AFR 339  COMP 336

Secondary Cross-listing

The banlieue looms large in the French collective imagination. From its origins in medieval law, the term banlieue at the end of the 20th century has taken on multiple, at times overlapping, but almost exclusively negative meanings. It designates a peripheral geographical space often in contrast to its city center, social exclusion, "urban culture"—as in Hip Hop-produced within that space, and last but not least the symbolic bias through which its inhabitants are viewed (Vieillard-Baron). In this course, we will examine various constructions of the banlieue in French music, a manifesto, film, blogs, and literature to focus on the analytical, contestatory and affirmative dimensions of these narratives. Two decades after the film La haine, and ten years after the riots, how are filmmakers, artists, authors, and scholars of the banlieue reimagining and reframing the banlieue? What do current depictions of banlieues in the French media tell us about the State, French politics, and the state of French politics? What do "banlieue films" and "banlieue lit" tell us about the banlieue? In this course, conducted in French, 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: 3 thesis five-page research papers, 2 start-of-the-class brief presentations, active participation to in-class discussions and mini-conference on the banlieue (class final project).

Prerequisites: RLFR 105 and above

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: French majors and certificate students, Africana and Comparative literature students

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
RLFR 300 (D1) AFR 339 (D2) COMP 336 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: To hone their research and writing skills (and prepare for their conference on the banlieue), students will write three research papers (with thesis statement and subheadings) from which they will receive professor feedback.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course, Banlieue in Lit, Music, Film fosters difficult but carefully framed conversations about race, class, gender, citizenship, housing segregation, discursive practices, immigration and belonging in contemporary France and how identities and power relationships are expressed in banlieue film, literature and French hip hop music.

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 340  (S)  Black Marxism: Political Theory and Anti-Colonialism  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings:  AFR 340  INTR 341  PSCI 373  PHIL 341

Secondary Cross-listing

The seminar involves a critical engagement with key Africana political leaders, theorists and liberationists. We will examine the Pan-African writings of: Cedric Robinson (Black Marxism); Walter Rodney (How Capitalism Underdeveloped Africa); Eric Williams (Capitalism and Slavery, From Columbus to Castro); Frantz Fanon (The Wretched of the Earth); Malcolm X (Malcolm X Speaks); Amilcar Cabral (Resistance and Decolonization, Unity and Struggle); C. L. R. James (The Black Jacobins).

Requirements/Evaluation: Attend all classes. Papers are due 24hours before the start of class. Participate in class discussions.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors.

Expected Class Size: 19

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

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

AFR 340 (D2) INTR 341 (D2) PSCI 373 (D2) PHIL 341 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Three thesis papers at five 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.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses on anti-colonial struggles against European powers. Research will include the concept of "internal colonies" in the US.

Not offered current academic year

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

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

INTR 343 (D2) AFR 343 (D2) AMST 343 (D2) WGSS 343 (D2)

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

Not offered current academic year

AFR 344 (F) Asian/African American Cultural and Political Theory

Cross-listings: PSCI 333 AFR 344 AMST 325

Secondary Cross-listing

Contrasted as "model minorities" or "incorrigible minorities" Asian Americans and African Americans have been pitted against one another in social standing and political objectives. However, throughout the twentieth century, African/Asian solidarity and alliances existed in political movements and literary and cultural productions. From Ho Chi Minh's anti-lynching writing, the founding conference of the WIDF (Women's International Democratic Federation) in China in 1945, through the Bandung Conference, coalitions against U.S. wars in Southeast Asia, and alignments with Chinese anti-imperialist endeavors, black and Asian peoples have joined in international political formations. Contributions to theory include the writings and activism of Langston Hughes, W.E.B. Du Bois, Richard Wright, Robert Williams, Yuri Kochiyama, Grace Lee and Jimmy Boggs, Ishmael Reed, and Amiri Baraka; films of Bruce Lee; music of Fred Ho; revolutionary praxis of Mao Tse Tung's Little Red Book and his writings on art and society; the Marxism of the Black Panther Party; the Afro-futurism of Sun Ra and Samuel Delany; and contemporary "Afro-pessimism." Such cultural works depict futurities and possibilities for Black and Asian diasporas. This seminar examines theory, politics, literature, film, and music produced from and linked to twentieth-century movements against capitalism, racism, colonialism, and imperial wars to think through how Black and Yellow Power have shaped...
solidarity to challenge white supremacy and racial capitalism. **Requirements:** One midterm paper (5-6 pp.) = 30%; final paper/project (10-12 pp.) with a creative option = 50%; short response paper and GLOW posts = 10%; participation (attendance and class discussion) = 10% Course cap: 19 Priority given to AMST majors, Africana concentrators

**Requirements/Evaluation:** One midterm paper (5-6 pp.) = 30%; Final paper/project (10-12 pp.) with a creative option = 50%; Short response paper and GLOW posts = 10%; Participation (attendance and class discussion) = 10%

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** AMST majors, Africana concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** 19

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

PSCI 333 (D2) AFR 344 (D2) AMST 325 (D2)

**Attributes:** AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

**AFR 346 (F) 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:** 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:** 20-25

**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 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- through 21st-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

Not offered current academic year

**AFR 347 (F) (De)colonial Ecologies (DPE) (WS)**
Cross-listings: AFR 347 AMST 332 ENVI 332

Secondary Cross-listing

What is the relationship between race, colonialism, and capitalism? How do such structures organize nature, including human nature? How do ideas of "nature" and "the human" come to structure race, colonialism, and capitalism? From the "discovery" and plunder of the "New World," to 18th-century claims that climate determined racial character, to the 21st-century proliferation of DNA tests underwriting claims to Indigenous ancestry, it is clear that race, colonialism, capitalism constitute asymmetric world ecologies, and give rise to interconnected liberation struggles. Anchored in the contexts of U.S. colonialism and racial capitalism, and drawing on environmentalist, Black Marxist, and feminist works, this course aims to expose students to a world history of colonial and decolonial ecologies. By the end of this course, students should be able to describe the historical foundations of dominant ideas, attitudes, and practices toward human and non-human natures. Students should also be able to analyze how such orientations toward human and non-human natures mediate the ways in which colonial, racial, gender, and sexual categories and structures inform and are (re)produced by U.S. institutions and in public areas such as the law, public policy, and property. Finally, students should be able to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples' visions, representations, and practices of liberation constitute decolonial ecologies that contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.


Prerequisites: AMST 101, AFR 200, and/or ENVI 101

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AMST, AFR, ENVI

Expected Class Size: 15

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 347 (D2) AMST 332 (D2) ENVI 332 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: One thesis paper at 15 pages. The writing process is staggered, with each part graded, and with critical feedback from professor and peers. Specifically, one research proposal (including thesis outline and annotated bibliography of primary texts) with feedback from professor; one thesis paper draft with feedback from peers; one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one final draft with critical feedback from professor; and student presentation and discussion.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course addresses issues of difference, power, and equity, and offers theoretical tools and perspectives to understand these issues. Specifically, students learn how to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples' visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.

Attributes: ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 349 (S) Race, Development, and Food Sovereignty (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 349 ENVI 349 AMST 342

Secondary Cross-listing

What does it mean to "settle" land? What racial encounters and acts of survival took place around the plantation? How have farmworkers and landowners faced off against government policies and "agribusiness" corporations? What was the "Green Revolution" and why did it happen? Agriculture as a relation to land based on domestication, enclosure, and commerce has long been a means of and justification for racial and colonial dispossession and exploitation across the Americas, including what is now the United States. At the same time, an array of embodied practices in relation to the land and one another complicate and contest these histories of racial and colonial dispossession. Broadly, this course aims to familiarize students with the historical and present-day entwining of colonial and racial dispossession, exploitation, and resistance at the heart of U.S. economies of agriculture. By the end of this course, students should be able to analyze how the historical foundations of U.S. agriculture have entailed and intertwined the taking of lands and removal of Indigenous peoples, the enslavement of African peoples, mass migration, and various forms of exploitative labor. Students should also be able to assess how these historical foundations continued to serve as the material conditions reproduced throughout the course of the 19th and 20th centuries under discriminatory government policies and powerful "agribusiness" corporations, as well as the possibilities and limits of redress and reform through state and corporate action. Finally, students should be able to interpret how embodied practices in relation to the land and one another precede, exceed, and push against the logics and histories of racial and colonial dispossession. The
course is organized around three units that interrogate economies of agriculture within and beyond the U.S. nation-state. Each unit interrogates a key period of time from the founding of the United States, through 20th-century Pax Americana, and on into the present. Finally, each unit does so while attending to the emergence and enactment of "food sovereignty" movements--efforts to foster a new international trade regime, agrarian reform, a shift to agroecological production practices, attention to gender relations and equity, and the protection of intellectual and indigenous property rights.


Prerequisites: AMST 101, AFR 200, and/or ENVI 101

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AMST, AFR, ENVI

Expected Class Size: 15

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

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

AFR 349 (D2) ENVI 349 (D2) AMST 342 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: One thesis paper at 15 pages. The writing process is staggered, with each part graded, and with critical feedback from professor and peers. Specifically, one research proposal (including thesis outline and annotated bibliography of primary texts) with feedback from professor; one thesis paper draft with feedback from peers; one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one final draft with critical feedback from professor; and student presentation and discussion.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course addresses issues of difference, power, and equity, and offers theoretical tools and perspectives to understand these issues. Specifically, students learn how to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples' visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.

Not offered current academic year

AFR 351 (S) Spirits of Rebellion: The L.A. Rebellion Filmmakers (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENGL 357 AFR 351 AMST 359

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 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, Black 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly online journal responses (1-2 pages); midterm essay (5-7 pages); final project

Prerequisites: AMST 101 and/or 301, critical studies in race and ethnicity or cultural studies, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 357 (D1) AFR 351 (D2) AMST 359 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course contributes to the Difference, Power, and Equity designation by examining the social, political, cultural, and historical forces that contribute to Black cinematic representation.

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

Not offered current academic year

**AFR 353 (F)(S) Capitalism and Racism in the American Context and Beyond: A Global Approach** (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** AMST 345 GBST 344 AFR 353

**Secondary Cross-listing**

American Studies emerged with the idea that transdisciplinarity is crucial for comprehending the concept of America. Building on this framework, this course foregrounds transepistemology as an equally important method for understanding the dynamics of America, both locally and globally, at the level of the world-system. In addition to tracing the consubstantial genealogy of racism and capitalism, we will examine their local manifestations, mainly in Asia, Europe, Africa and America, as well as their current geopolitical, social and economic outcomes, especially the reproduction of systemic inequalities and domination. Through an interdisciplinary approach and engagement with a variety of resources from economics, anthropology, sociology, critical race theory, comparative ethnic studies and decolonial thinking, this course will address the following: i) review the different forms of economic organization of human societies throughout history (with special focus on the work of Karl Polanyi); ii) trace the epistemological origins of capitalism and investigate what makes capitalism and its crises unique; iii) trace the genealogy of the concepts of race, racism and discrimination; iv) interrogate the intersection of racism and capitalism in different traditions of thought and epistemologies in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. For example, we will read key texts from "French theory", (Deleuze, Foucault, etc.), US Black tradition, (W. E. B. Du Bois and Cedric Robison, etc.), Chinese social sciences (Li Shenming, Cheng Enfu, etc.) and African economy and anthropology (Mahdi Elmandjra, Cheikh Anta Diop, etc.) and Latin American decolonial philosophy (Quijano, Dussel, Mignolo, etc.) By doing this, we will situate the rupture that capitalism and racism introduced at the level of global history, which is the first step to conceptualizing racism and capitalism. After showing that the development of capitalism and racism are historically linked, we will proceed to examine the manifestations of their interaction at local and global levels. Locally, we will focus on the effects of racism on the labor market: discrimination in hiring, wage discrimination, segregation, duality and stratification of the labor market, etc. We will also analyze how sexism and racism play out in the labor market in racialized communities. We will also reflect on the links between racism and politics and their effects on economic policies. From a more global perspective, we will analyze the roots of the global economic crisis and the resulting geopolitical issues at the international level and the racist dynamics they generate. Overall, as we will move through readings, we will situate the United States in a cross-regional perspective that would enable us to develop critical insights concerning links and convergences between capitalism and racism.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Requirements: An active participation is required of students in terms of engaging in the in-class debates and weekly response paper as a feedback on the lectures as well as a final paper. Evaluation: Participation 25%; Weekly Response (350-500 words) 30%; Final Research Paper (12-15 pages) 45%

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** American Studies majors and seniors

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**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 345 (D2) GBST 344 (D2) AFR 353 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course addresses questions of difference, power, and equity through its examination of domination, racialization, the economics of discrimination, geopolitical and epistemological inequalities at the world-system level. Students will learn how racism and capitalism produce social categories, such as race, ethnicity, and class; how they interact with issues of gender; and how they perpetuate difference, power dynamics, and inequalities across these categories.

**Attributes:** AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives AMST pre-1900 Requirement

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Souhail Chichah
AFR 357 (S) Racial and Religious Mixture  (DPE)

Cross-listings: REL 314  LATS 327  AFR 357  AMST 327

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:

REL 314 (D2) LATS 327 (D2) AFR 357 (D2) AMST 327 (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  GBST Latin American Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AFR 358 (F) Mapping Anti-Bias Education

Cross-listings: PSYC 377  AFR 358

Primary Cross-listing

In this course, we will use theories and data to define anti-bias education in childhood contexts and examine its application across U.S. schools and childcare centers, families, and the media environment. We will ask ourselves: What do we know about the need for anti-bias education among non-marginalized and marginalized children, including those who are minoritized for their ethnic-racial, gender, and/or sexual identities? How are various biases and identities shaped in childhood? Which media-based and interpersonal interventions can be effective with anti-bias education and why? What are some of the contemporary hesitations and challenges around implementing anti-bias education for educators, families, and children? What are some of the practices that marginalized families are already implementing? As we explore approaches and possibilities for anti-bias education across children's ecosystems, we will propose innovative recommendations for research and practice that have the potential to yield positive outcomes for today's children.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly 1-page reflection papers (graded on a pass/fail basis), one 3-5 page mid-term paper, one final 7-10 page paper or approved project

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies Concentrators and Psychology Majors

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSYC 377 (D2) AFR 358 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives PSYC Area 7 - Educational Psychology TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01   MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm   AnneMarie K. McClain

AFR 359  (S)  Settler Colonialism, Care, Kinship and Social Reproduction   (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 359 AMST 356

Secondary Cross-listing

AMST 356 Settler Colonialism, Care, Kinship and Social Reproduction Contemporary understandings of family, kinship and care were shaped through the invasion of the Indigenous Americas and Transatlantic slavery. Indigenous nations came to be understood by anthropologists and settler states as governed by a logic of kinship, and this understanding was weaponized by the US and Canada to target Indigenous governance for elimination. At the same time, dominant kinship narratives were defined by the property claims made upon Black lives under settler law and by the state-enforced maternal inheritance of racialized bondage. This course will analyze kinship and care as both mechanisms of state control of Indigenous and Black lives and lands, and as sites of insurgency against colonial states. We will analyze how Canada and the U.S. have deployed Child Protective Services, reproductive regulation, Boarding Schools, plantation economies, land dispossession, and the prison industrial complex to target Indigenous, Black, Brown, working class and trans/queer support systems. Applying methodologies and theoretical interventions in Indigenous studies, Black studies and critical political economy to primary texts to US and Canadian law, autobiography, and anthropology, our focus will move from 17th and 18th century British colonial law to autobiographical accounts of slavery and emancipation, to Canada’s 19th century Indian Act, to mid-20th century social scientific debates on Black and Indigenous families. We will end by thinking about insurgent practices of organizing care and kinship outside and against the confines of whiteness, capital and the state. The pedagogical aims of the course are to illustrate how kinship narratives anchor settler colonial nationhood and property regimes, and to facilitate the development of skills in writing and independent research, primary source analysis, and critical analysis of law, anthropology, and policy.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class Participation and three critical response papers at three to five pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one response paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process. One final paper (15-20 pages) and one roundtable presentation based on the final paper.

Prerequisites: Prerequisites: one or more of the following courses: AMST 146,Introduction to Indigenous Studies or AFR 200, Introduction to Africana Studies; HIST 254 / AMST 254(F),Sovereignty, Resistance, and Resilience: Native American Histories to 1865 or AMST 204:

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: AMST majors have first priority, AFRICANA majors have second priority.

Expected Class Size: 19

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

Unit Notes: This course satisfies EITHER the Space and Place elective OR the Comparative Studies in Race, Ethnicity and Diaspora elective

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 359 (D2) AMST 356 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Explanation: Three critical response papers at three to five pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one response paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process. One final paper (15-20 pages) and one roundtable presentation based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses upon the operations of difference, power and equity in settler colonial governance in the Americas, particularly in terms of how the legal and extralegal regulation of family, kinship and care are sites where racial, colonial, ethnic, gender and sexual difference are produced and reproduced. It aims to provide students with critical tools to become responsible agents of change, by informing them of the ways that concerns for social equity in the field of kinship and family h

Attributes: AMST pre-1900 Requirement

Not offered current academic year
AFR 360  (F)  The Political Thought of Frantz Fanon  (WS)

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

Requirements/Evaluation:  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:

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

Not offered current academic year

AFR 361  (F)  James Baldwin and His Interlocutors

Cross-listings:  AFR 361  ENGL 334

Secondary Cross-listing

This seminar explores the life and writing of James Baldwin. Through an examination of both his fiction and nonfiction, we chart his interrogation and development of ideas surrounding, among other topics, race, courage, love, nation, revolution, and belonging. We also trace his impact on our national consciousness by engaging with authors whose own bodies of work intersect with his. This list includes, among others, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, Lorraine Hansberry, Barry Jenkins, Audre Lorde, Norman Mailer, Richard Wright, and Malcolm X.

Requirements/Evaluation:  weekly reading responses, active class participation, three close readings (500 words each), annotated bibliography, class presentation, final paper (13-15 pages)

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:  English majors, then sophomores considering the major

Expected Class Size:  25

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 361 (D1) ENGL 334 (D1)

Attributes:  ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year
AFR 363 (F) Framing American Slavery (DPE)
Cross-listings: AFR 363 AMST 368 HIST 368

Secondary Cross-listing
Readings in American Slavery This course will delve into how and what historians have written about US slavery for the last century or so. Rather than marching through time, like we might in a survey course, we'll explore the nooks and crannies of slavery's history. We'll consider gender and sexuality, labor and capitalism, regional difference, maritime culture, and every day life. We'll compare histories produced well before the Civil Rights Movement to books written afterward. We'll consider the obstacles and challenges Black scholars faced in the academy and consider the significance of their work. Finally, we'll examine slavery's role in today's world, beginning with the institution's relationship with American universities and continuing on to the recent protests against monuments and statues.

Requirements/Evaluation: Four written essays/reviews, final paper. Students must also complete reading and contribute to class discussions.
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Priority given to History, American Studies, and Africana Studies concentrators/majors.
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:
AFR 363 (D2) AMST 368 (D2) HIST 368 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will explicitly examine how power worked and changed during the centuries of legal slavery in the United States. Since lawmakers joined power and violence to definitions of whiteness and blackness, we will study how these definitions emerged and changed over time. Students will address issues of violence, legal and extra legal means of continuing slavery through changing political and economic conditions. Additionally, the course will consider the racial barriers in the academy.
Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada
Not offered current academic year

AFR 365 (F) Race and Psychoanalysis: Slavery and the Psyche (DPE)
Cross-listings: ENGL 320 AFR 365 GBST 365 AMST 365

Secondary Cross-listing
This course explores slavery and the psyche through a constellation of Black diasporic literary, visual, and theoretical texts from the US, Caribbean, and Africa. Unwieldy and generative, the opacity of race within the field (and practice) of psychoanalysis shares a fraught intimacy with the co-constitutive terrains of violence and race that form the unconscious. Querying what escapes the hermeneutics of psychoanalysis and aesthetics in the fantasies race engenders, we will examine modernity's articulation of racialization through conceptualizations--both fantasmatic and real--of self, world, knowledge, and possibility. Course texts may include: Edwidge Danticat's The Farming of Bones, Adrienne Kennedy's Funnyhouse of a Negro, Bessie Head's A Question of Power, Arthur Jafa's APEX and Love is the Message and the Message is Death, Conceição Evaristo's Ponciá Vicêncio, Lars von Trier's Manderlay, Charles Burnett's Killer of Sheep, Derek Walcott's "Laventille"; and, selections from Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, David Marriott, Kathleen Pogue White, Franz Fanon, Hortense Spillers, Nathan Gorelick, Jaqueline Rose, Jared Sexton, Melanie Klein, Jacques-Alain Miller, Melanie Suchet, and Jean Laplanche. Note: This course will reflect the Continental tradition in philosophy. Student should be familiar with the basic interventions of psychoanalysis.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly discussion posts and questions, 2 Papers, 10-12 pages, Research presentation
Prerequisites: One Writing Skills or writing intensive course; one intro course in one of following: American Studies, Africana Studies, Comparative Literature, English, Global Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Juniors or Seniors with majors or concentrations in any of the areas: American Studies, Africana Studies, Comparative Literature, English, Global Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
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:

ENGL 320 (D1) AFR 365 (D2) GBST 365 (D2) AMST 365 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course examines racialization as it relates to the racial violence of slavery on the psyche. Racialization as a process will be connected to concepts of self, world, and knowledge. Black diasporic literary, visual, and theoretical texts from the US, Caribbean, and Africa will be at the forefront of the course.

**Attributes:** AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

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**Fall 2022**

**SEM Section:** 01   W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm   Selamawit D. Terrefe

**AFR 366 (S) #OutofHaiti: Haiti, Black Sovereignty and the Global Political Economy**

**Cross-listings:** GBST 366 AFR 366

**Primary Cross-listing**

In the Western hemisphere, Haiti (Ayiti kreyòl) is a symbol of many extremes related to revolution, impoverishment, governance and institutional sabotage, Black liberation, artistic and cultural achievement, and underdevelopment. This course places Haiti at the center of broad global political economic transformations. Starting from the Haitian Revolution and its reverberations throughout colonial empires to the present, this course will critically interrogate these superlatives and depictions of Haiti. Recent media portrayals of a ‘Haitian migrant crisis’ at the United States border defy empirical facts, and whitewash imperial misadventures and harm, further exposing a narrative of Haitian anti-blackness that has been pervasive throughout US history. We will unpick these imageries and material realities to consider broader perspectives within historical and contemporary significance of struggles for Black sovereignty and liberation. Taking economic and political history as data sources, documentary films and recent academic, artistic and popular works as starting points for discussion, the course will stir debate and a broader appreciation of the political contributions of civic movements and figures within Haiti and the Haitian diaspora. From the perspective of ‘connected Blackness’, the course explores how Black peoples’ links through global struggles for liberation and freedom and against imperialism emerge today.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Journal entries (250 words each); individual essay on documentary film or media (10 pages); research report on a major contemporary social/economic/environmental issue in Haiti (10 pages); “Haiti Black Liberation Space” group public education project on the contemporary importance of Haiti to global Black liberation/ racial justice and a summative reflection on a meaningful aspect of this project (5 pages); class participation (discussion and readings)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** If over-enrolled, preference to AFR and Global Studies concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** 15

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Not offered current academic year**

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**AFR 367 (F) Black History is Labor History (DPE) (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** AFR 367 HI 367

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This seminar explores labor history in relation to black people, spanning the colonial period to the early twenty-first century. It racializes the history of work by tracing the long story of black labor in the U.S. from the plantation to the plant. Whereas the bulk of the course will analyze black labor and labor movements in the twentieth century, specifically focusing on the push for economic inclusion and mobility amid employment, societal and union-related racial discrimination, we will examine what involuntary black labor meant in the context of slavery and the construction of a capitalist economy. Likewise, we will devote attention to black workers with regard to such topics as antiunionism, deindustrialization, economic inequality, Fordism, informal economies, Jim and Jane Crow, labor radicalism and violence, New Deal and welfare, the rise of civil rights unionism, and slavery.
and capitalism, among other themes.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students are expected to participate actively and will write two comparative essays (5-7 and 6-8 pages) and two primary source analyses (1-2 pages), all of which will be letter-graded and returned with comments. In addition, students will write a final research paper (10-12 pages) in consultation with the instructor and will be required to submit a topic proposal and outline, an annotated bibliography, and a peer-reviewed draft of the final paper.

Prerequisites: Recommended for students with sophomore standing or above and first-year students who both have taken a 200-level history course and have received instructor permission to enroll into the course.

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: HIST and AFR majors followed by students with sophomore, junior, or senior standing. If the course is overenrolled, students will be given a questionnaire and only first-year students who have completed a 200-level history course will be enrolled.

Expected Class Size: 20

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 367 (D2) HIST 367 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will be required to write two comparative essays (5-7 and 6-8 pages) and two primary source analyses (1-2 pages), all of which will be letter-graded and returned with comments. In addition, students will write a final research paper (10-12 pages). Throughout the semester, these writing assignments will total roughly 22-30 pages. Students can expect to have line-edited feedback on their papers with substantial and timely, writing-related suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course racializes the study of labor history, focusing on black people and their experiences in the United States from the plantation to the plant. It challenges students to confront and to redefine what it means to labor, grasping how slavery, segregation, and systemic inequalities amid black people's pursuit of citizenship, equality, and freedom have shaped their economic, political, and social conditions and identities.

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

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Tyran K. Steward

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 current 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. Further, students will explore how the dialogues created between objects, individuals, and space often speak to the voices and agendas that collide, collaborate, and even compete with each other within the environment of the museum.

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: none

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 (3-5 pages in length) and bi-monthly peer response paper (1 page in length). Students can expect to receive timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement from the instructor.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course explores issues of agency, authenticity, and appropriation 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 will analyze how the meaning of "African art" has been largely dictated by a Western museum culture and how this hegemony is currently being disrupted through strategic exhibition and display practices and narratives.

Spring 2023
TUT Section: T1   TBA   Michelle M. Apotsos

**AFR 370 (F) The Caribbean and the World: 1945-1968**

**Cross-listings:** AFR 370  HIST 370

**Primary Cross-listing**
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.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, 3-4 short papers (5-7 pages)

**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 370 (D2) HIST 370 (D2)

Not offered current academic year


**Cross-listings:** AFR 372 AMST 400  GBST 400  INTR 400  PSCI 379

**Secondary Cross-listing**
This seminar focuses on the entwined histories of liberation movements against racism, enslavement, and imperialism in the US, Cuba and Africa. Readings include: Hugh Thomas, *Cuba: A History; Che Guevara: The Motorcycle Diaries;* Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa;* Laird Bergad, *The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States;* Thomas Sankara, *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle;* Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* Students will read and analyze texts, screen documentaries, collectively compile a comprehensive bibliography, and present group analyses. The seminar is open to all students; however, priority is given to seniors majoring in American Studies.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Reading and analysis of texts, collective compilation of a comprehensive bibliography, presentation of group analyses;
two brief papers due at midterm and the end of the semester

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Seniors majoring in American Studies

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**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:**

AFR 372 (D2) AMST 400 (D2) GBST 400 (D2) INTR 400 (D2) PSCI 379 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course addresses international, anti-colonial solidarity between Blacks in the US, Cuba, Africa. It tracks the evolution of "racial capitalism," noting intersections between enslavers in the US and Cuba, and accumulation of wealth through the Atlantic slave trade. Students will analyze the powers of the enslaved, tracing history, political economies, culture, violence, and dispossession, to emphasize resistance to human bondage and successful and compromised revolutions in Cuba and the US.

**Attributes:** AMST 400-level Senior Seminars

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**AFR 378 (S) Uncontrollable: Deconstructing Stereotypes of Black Womanhood in the Americas**

**Cross-listings:** AFR 378 WGSS 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.

**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

**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 378 (D2) WGSS 378 (D2)

**Not offered current academic year**

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**AFR 379 (S) Black Women in the United States**

**Cross-listings:** HIST 379 WGSS 379 AFR 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: student participation, three papers, and a brief oral presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: History, WGSS, and American Studies Majors, and Africana Concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 12

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:
HIST 379 (D2) WGSS 379 (D2) AFR 379 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course meets the Difference, Power, and Equity requirement. The course focuses on empathetic understanding, power, and privilege, especially in relation to class, gender, and race within a U.S. context. We will study the ways in which the conflicts arose within the Black community and how Black women, usually without official positions as leaders, emerged as organizers and leaders in political and social movements.

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 380 (F) Freedom Dreams, Afro-Futures & Visionary Fictions

Cross-listings: AFR 380  WGSS 380  AMST 380  ENGL 381  STS 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.

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

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:
AFR 380 (D2) WGSS 380 (D2) AMST 380 (D2) ENGL 381 (D1) STS 380 (D2)

Attributes: WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

AFR 381 (F) Media and Society in Africa (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: HIST 480  GBST 480  AFR 381

Secondary Cross-listing

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am  Marshall  Green
The Media have long played important roles in African societies. As early as the second half of the 19th century, African intellectuals were using print technology to address the people. As radio technology was in its infancy during the first half of the twentieth century, Africans were gathering around re-diffusion stations and later around single receivers to listen to news and entertainment programming. In this tutorial, we will examine these histories of media and media technologies on the continent. Ultimately, we will explore the roles that media played in serving particular community needs and how communities also adapted new media technologies to fit local conditions. Media content has historically been determined based on standards beyond viewers’, readers’ and listeners’ control. We will examine the influences that editors and political leaders on the continent have exerted on content as well as what forces they responded to. We will also further explore the media’s role in major events on the continent, from governmental changes to the ending of apartheid in South Africa and the role that media have played in areas of conflict.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Students will be evaluated based on a series of 5-7-page tutorial response papers and 2-page critiques, as well as preparedness for and performance in weekly tutorial discussions.

Prerequisites:  This course open to all students

Enrollment Limit:  10

Enrollment Preferences:  Preference will be given to history majors and students with prior experience with African history. If the course is over-enrolled, students may be asked to complete a questionnaire to determine enrollment

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:

HIST 480  (D2)  GBST 480  (D2)  AFR 381  (D2)

Writing Skills Notes:  Students will alternate weekly between writing 5-7-page tutorial papers and 2-page critiques of their peers’ writing. Formal writing assignments throughout the semester will total at least 40 pages. Students will receive regular feedback and critiques- both oral and written - from the professor, as well as oral critiques from tutorial partners.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  Modern media developed in Africa as means of control and cultivating dutiful colonial subjects. However, media then emerged as sites of contestation and even tools with which colonial subjects challenged colonial rule. They have continued to be revealing sites for issues of gender, race, class, and ethnicity. As such, this course immensely explores diversity, power and equity and how these all-important societal concerns are expressed through the media in Africa.

Fall 2022

TUT Section:  T1  TBA  Benjamin Twagira

AFR 384  (S)  Media, Race, and U.S. Black Families

Cross-listings:  AFR 384  PSYC 363

Primary Cross-listing

In this course, we will work to synthesize what we know about some of the key socializing forces for U.S. Black youth today. We will focus on how families, entertainment media, and the news can socialize Black children. Drawing on a range of theories and data we will examine how family members communicate about issues of identity and how media can come into play. What do we know about how U.S. Black families communicate about identity? What gaps remain in our knowledge, and how can we find the answers? What can we learn about today's media content when we apply research-informed lenses? What predictions can we make about its potential uses and effects among Black families? We will identify central research areas that warrant further attention and consider which methodologies would best work to fill those gaps. We will prioritize approaches that highlight the agency and strength of U.S. Black families and of youth themselves.

Requirements/Evaluation:  1 in-class presentation, two 2-5 page papers, and one 7-10 page final research proposal (that builds on the two shorter papers)

Prerequisites:  None

Enrollment Limit:  18

Enrollment Preferences:  Africana Studies Concentrators and Psychology Majors

Expected Class Size:  18

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
### Course Information

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

AFR 384 (D2) PSYC 363 (D2)

**Attributes:** AFR Core Electives PSYC Area 6 - Other/Interdisciplinary Psychology TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01    MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     AnneMarie K. McClain

**AFR 390 (S) Race, Identity, Nature (DPE) (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** ENVI 430 AFR 390 AMST 430

**Secondary Cross-listing**

From 18th-century claims that climate determined character to the 21st-century proliferation of DNA tests underwriting claims to Indigenous ancestry, race, colonialism, identity, and "nature" operate as interconnected terrains of power. Anchored in the contexts of U.S. colonialisms, racialization, and accumulation, this course aims to expose students to the cultural politics of "nature" as a way of "doing" American Studies. Specifically, this course investigates formations of and struggles against U.S. colonialisms, racialization, and accumulation via the many symbolic and material iterations, negotiations, and contestations of the contingent relations between and among human and non-human natures. Organized around a significant research paper and weekly written responses, this course ultimately aims to foster students' critical writing, reading, analytical thinking, and comparative inquiry skills across such contexts and sites of contestation, and across texts of different genres and media. We will work with a wide range of primary sources, including published fiction and poetry, legal documents, newspaper articles, speeches, recorded songs, and films, photos, paintings and other visual culture. By the end of this course, students should be able to describe the historical foundations of dominant ideas, attitudes, and practices toward non-human natures, as well as analyze how ideas of "nature" mediate the ways in which colonial, racial, gender, and sexual categories and structures inform and are (re)produced by U.S. institutions and in public areas such as the law, public policy, and property. Finally, students should be able to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples' visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.

**Class Format:** This course is designated as remote. However, international students who want to take this course but need it to be designated as a hybrid course in order to do so may instead register for an independent study with Prof. Ayazi. As a hybrid course, this independent study will have the same requirements as the listed course, with the exception of a limited number of face-to-face meetings in Williamstown or Boston. Please contact Prof. Ayazi at ha5@williams.edu to discuss such an arrangement.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Evaluation will be based upon the following: Class Participation: 25%; Weekly Responses (350-500 words): 25%; Final Research Essay: 50%, broken down by Research Proposal (2-3 pgs, 10%), Peer Review and Feedback (2 pgs, 10%), Presentation (10%); Essay (15 pgs): 20%. Class will meet twice per week. Tu. meetings will be synchronous and Th. meetings will be asynchronous. Asynchronous components of the course include pre-recorded lectures, discussion boards, and other exercises that promote as much connection as possible within the constraints of remote education. Toward this end, synchronous meetings will center engaged discussion.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** American Studies majors will be given preference; secondary preference given to students specializing in Native American and Indigenous Studies, as well as Africana and Environmental Studies majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 12

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

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

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

ENVI 430 (D2) AFR 390 (D2) AMST 430 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Emphasis on revision and writing process includes: One thesis paper at 15 pages (receiving critical feedback from professor and peers); one thesis paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one research proposal (including thesis outline and annotated bibliography of primary texts) with critical feedback from professor; student presentations and roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** By the end of this course, students should be able to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples' visions,
representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation. In order to address such issues of difference, power, and equity, this course provides students with the necessary th

**Attributes:** AMST 400-level Senior Seminars  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

**Not offered current academic year**

**AFR 395 (F) Black Reparations Within/Beyond Borders (DPE)**

**Cross-listings:** AFR 395  WGSS 395  ENVI 395  GBST 395

**Primary Cross-listing**

Generations of Black people around the world have demanded restitution for the harms and legacies of enslavement, indigenous genocide and colonialism in order to advance social justice, new ways of living and freedom. In this way, freedom fighters, Black Power leaders, abolitionist movements, Pan-Africanists, maroons, Rastafarians, Black politicians, climate justice leaders, and revolutionary anti-capitalists have all put forward ideas on and approaches to reparations and reparatory justice. This course will analyze 'geographies of Black struggle', the differences and commonalities among these approaches, the political strategies and movements, including responses to global climate change and socio-environmental disasters that advance reparations as a just remedy within and beyond borders. We give particular attention to Pan-Africanist and Black feminist perspectives, as well as liberal and popular struggles for reparations within the African diaspora across space and time. Do Pan-Africanism and Black feminism offer new visions for reparations movements in the 21st century? Employing speeches, writings, audio-visual content and documentary film from and about these earlier and emerging movements and their leaders, we will draw long lines between historical circumstances and drivers, and examine Black (un)freedoms within the context of calls for reparations today.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Attendance and Participation including serving as a class discussion leader (20%); Written double-spaced essay about and the legacies and role that Pan-Africanism or Black Feminist perspectives play in contemporary global reparations movement (8 pages plus bibliography) (25%); Research and creatively present using written text, flyer, video, audio-visuals or poster a profile of Pan-African feminist leader focusing on her ideas, movement activities, and role in the reparations movement including innovative ideas (max. 5 pages or 10 minutes) (25%); Final project: simulation activity of a Pan-African Congress on Reparations (30%)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** If over-enrollment, preference to AFR, GBST and HIST students

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**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 395 (D2)  WGSS 395 (D2)  ENVI 395 (D2)  GBST 395 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course encourages students to think, articulate and engage with social difference, social movements and the gendered power relations that underpin struggles for reparations among people racialized as Black. It helps students appreciate and assess how power dynamics around reparations have shifted over space and time, and how these struggles intersect with actions toward and from the state, within and across Black communities and popular movements, and other powerful groups in society.

**Attributes:** AFR Core Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  GBST African Studies Electives  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Keston K. Perry

**AFR 405 (F) 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.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 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

**Fall 2022**

**SEM Section: 01**  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm  James A. Manigault-Bryant

**AFR 440  (S)  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.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 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

**Not offered current academic year**

**AFR 450  (S)  CAPSTONE: Sylvia Wynter, Black Lives, and Struggle for the Human**

Cross-listings:  PSCI 372  AFR 450

**Primary Cross-listing**

How do we judge the value of life? What is the significance of death and arbitrary threats to our existence? Why probe modern notions of black and blackness? What defines optimism, pessimism, enslavement, freedom, creativity, and being human? Do black lives matter? This capstone seminar will explore these and related questions through an examination of the life and work of Jamaican novelist, playwright, cultural critic, and philosopher Sylvia Wynter. Methodologically interdisciplinary, the course shall examine written and audiovisual texts that explore Wynter's inquiries into the central seminar queries. We will study figures and movements for black lives whose geopolitics frame the milieu of Wynter's work. Our examination of intellectuals and activists, with their explicit and implicit engagements with Wynter, shall facilitate assessing the possibilities, challenges, and visions of black living. We will also explore the current implications of Wynter's thought for Africana political theory, Afro-futurism, social justice, human rights,
and critiques of liberal humanism. In the latter half of the course, students will have the opportunity to design, conduct, and present their own final research projects.

Class Format: Remote format. This class will be taught synchronously primarily.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation; a 7-page midterm essay; class presentation; and a final research project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators and Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

PSCI 372 (D2) AFR 450 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

AFR 460 (S) Capstone: Documenting Black

Documenting Black begins with a shared understanding that depicting the stories and lives of Black folks is its own important and necessary creative form. In this Africana Studies capstone seminar we will focus on the art of documentary production as a means through which Black lives are illustrated. We will also explore the historical and conceptual framing of Black experience in the field of documentary studies, consider documentary techniques and methodologies, and discover how artists and creatives have used the medium of documentary to interpret Black diasporic life. This course is a practicum that will culminate with students writing, designing, editing, and producing a documentary short of 3-5 minutes.

Requirements/Evaluation: In addition to weekly course sessions, for the final project students will submit a documentary short of 3-5 minutes, which students will write, design, edit, and produce.

Prerequisites: Must be an Africana Studies concentrator

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: As this is a capstone designed for Africana Studies concentrators, priority will be given to third and fourth year students who have declared the concentration.

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Rhon S. Manigault-Bryant

AFR 494 (S) Honors Dossier

Candidates for honors in Africana Studies must do W31 for the winter study period and 494 the following spring.

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

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2023

HON Section: 01 TBA Rhon S. Manigault-Bryant

AFR 497 (F) Independent Study: Africana Studies

Africana Studies independent study
In February of 1927 anthropologist Franz Boas asked folklorist Zora Neale Hurston to identify an ideal location in which to study and collect data about "Negro culture in the South." Hurston's reply, without hesitation, was the central and gulf coast of Florida because she believed there, "it was possible for [her] to get a cross section of the Negro South in one state." Hurston traveled directly to Eatonville, the town she eventually claimed as her birth home, and for over a decade, utilized the information she collected as the backdrop to her fiction as well as her nonfiction explorations of Black religion. Taking Hurston's lead, this course will utilize Florida's gulf coast as the backdrop to exploring the diverse manifestations of modern black religious expression. Because of its diverse geographical, political structures, populations, and economy, Florida has historically been characterized as a "new South" with distinctive cultural expressions. With this history in mind, this course will address four critical questions: (1) What is Black religion?; (2) What are the distinctive aspects of southern expressions of Black Protestant religion; (3) How do Black communities see themselves in relation to broader social concerns? and (4) How, if at all, is religious expression in Florida unique? To answer these questions, we will travel to Florida's west coast and visit three different church communities to understand Black Protestant religion as currently expressed in the 'New South' including a small mainstream denominational church in Talleveast Florida; a Pentecostal-Holiness church in St. Petersburg, Florida; and a mega-church in Eaton, Florida. In addition to learning about Black religion along the western coast of Florida through participant observation, students will visit and tour local historical sites significant to Black religious experiences, and will meet with local academics, archivists, and leaders. A 200-page course packet will contextualize the trip.

Class Format: travel

Requirements/Evaluation: based on an electronic field journal, participation in weekly colloquies, and an oral presentation

Prerequisites: none; not open to first-year students

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: majors and concentrators in Africana Studies, Religion, and Environmental Studies; students with a background in ethnographic methods; application essays and interviews

Grading: pass/fail only

Materials/Lab Fee: cost to student: $3362

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 24 REL 24 ENVI 24

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses TRVL Winter Study Travel Course
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

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

Not offered current academic year