INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (No Div)

This program is designed to facilitate and promote innovations in curricular offerings in relation both to interdisciplinary conceptual focus and experimental pedagogical form. It provides support for faculty efforts to develop a curriculum that creatively responds to intellectual needs and modes of teaching/learning that currently fall outside the conventional pattern. Faculty members interested in offering courses that fall outside the aegis of departmental or existing interdisciplinary programs submit such courses directly to the Committee on Educational Affairs by the Registrar’s deadline for course submission in early spring. Courses that fit within the curricula of departments and interdisciplinary programs, even if interdisciplinary or experimental in nature, are found listed within those departments and programs.

INTR 219 (F) Women and Girls in (Inter)National Politics (DPE)

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

Primary 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

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

INTR 220 (F) Cold War Intellectuals: Civil Rights, Writers and the CIA (DPE)

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

Primary 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 2hours 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 24hours before seminar meets.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

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:

PSCI 221 (D2) AFR 224 (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.

Fall 2022
TUT Section: T1 TBA Joy A. James

INTR 240 (F) Philosophy of Education

Cross-listings: PHIL 240 INTR 240

Secondary Cross-listing

Why are you here? What do you expect to learn? How do you expect to learn? The College Mission Statement says that "Williams seeks to provide the finest possible liberal arts education by nurturing in students the academic and civic virtues, and their related traits of character." How have you already been taught the academic and civic virtues? Where have you been taught them? In school? On the sports field? At home? How did you develop your character? This first-year seminar will examine the philosophy of education through educational autobiographies: works that tell the story of a moral and intellectual education. Each book was chosen by and will be introduced by a professor from a different department, and then Professor of Philosophy Steve Gerrard will continue the discussion.

Requirements/Evaluation: several short papers
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: only first-year students
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

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

PHIL 240 (D2) INTR 240 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

INTR 320 (S) Angela Davis: Political Theory, Activism, and Alliances (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: LEAD 319 PSCI 376 INTR 320 AMST 308

Primary Cross-listing

This seminar examines the political thought, activism, and iconography of abolitionist Angela Davis. The seminar involves a critical engagement with the philosopher, former political prisoner, and their relationship with other theorists, authors and activists. Readings include: Angela Davis: An Autobiography; Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson; The Morning Breaks: The Trial of Angela Davis; Women, Race, and Class; If They Come in the Morning.

Requirements/Evaluation: Requirements: students attend each seminar class and come prepared to discuss the readings. Papers are due by email 24 hours before the seminar begins.
Prerequisites: Preferences: Juniors and Seniors who have taken courses in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors with previous courses taken in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.
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:
LEAD 319 (D2) PSCI 376 (D2) INTR 320 (D2) AMST 308 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Three thesis papers at five pages each will receive critical feedback from the professor; one of the three papers will be revised with critical feedback from professor and peers, accompanied by a one-page statement explaining student's revisions; one keyword glossary where students define their key terms used in the paper; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines political activism in the 1960s-1970s during the Cold War in which the civil rights, black power and student anti-war movements challenged traditional US domestic and foreign policies. Examining the differential powers of university Regents, governors, presidents, and police forces and prison administrations in relation to social justice movements led by people under the age of thirty, we examine the structures of institutional power and the agency of cadre theorists.

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives PHIL Contemporary Value Theory Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

INTR 322  (S)  Race, Culture, Incarceration

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

Primary 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

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

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 322 (D2) INTR 322 (D2) AFR 322 (D2) PSCI 313 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives AMST Space and Place Electives JLST Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

INTR 341  (S)  Black Marxism: Political Theory and Anti-Colonialism  (DPE) (WS)

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

Primary 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

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

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

Primary 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


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

Primary 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:
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

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Joy A. James

Winter Study

INTR 99 (W) Indep Study: Interdisciplinary
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

Winter 2023
IND Section: 01