

2008 FALL COURSES

AFRI0090 Sec 01 - An Introduction to Africana Studies

(Required course for all Africana Studies concentrators)

This course introduces students to the vibrant yet contested field of Africana Studies by critically exploring and analyzing the links and disjunctures in the cultural, political, and intellectual practices and experiences of people of African descent throughout the African diaspora. The course features an interdisciplinary approach in developing conceptual, theoretical, and analytical frameworks for understanding the depth and range of experiences of people of African descent in the Americas, Caribbean, Europe, and Africa. Beginning with a critical overview of the history, theoretical orientations, and methodological strategies of the discipline, the course is divided into three thematic units that examine intellectuals, politics, and movements; identity construction and formation; and literary, cultural, and aesthetic theories and practices in the African diaspora.

Professor Walker

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AFRI0210 Sec 01 - Blacks in Latin American History and Society

This course focuses on the position of Blacks in the national histories and societies of Latin America from slavery to the present-day. Emphasis is on a multidisciplinary engagement with issues and the exposure of students to the critical discussion of national images and realities about blackness and Africa-descended institutions and practices. The role of racial issues in national and transnational encounters and the consequences migration of people and ideas within the hemisphere are explored.

Professor Dzidzienyo

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AFRI0600 Sec 01 - Race, Gender, and Urban Politics

This course will introduce students to the methods and practice of studying black urban life with a primary focus on US cities. We will critically examine the urban cultural studies debates concerned with race, gender, class and sexuality. The approach of the course will be interdisciplinary, drawing upon works from anthropology, literature, history, music, and film. Topics include tourism, immigration, poverty, popular culture, gentrification, violence, and criminalization.

Professor Perry

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AFRI0620 Sec 01 - African-American Life in the City

This course examines the social and cultural history of black urban communities by examining the foundation of black communities in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. We will examine how migration and the intersections of race, class, culture and gender shape life in urban places, reveal the structural forces that define black urban communities, and explore urban African-American expressive forms.

Professor Rose

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AFRI0950 Sec 01 - History, Literature and the Caribbean Novel

This course examines the ways in which literature is influenced by major historical events with special reference to the literatures of the Caribbean. Students will undertake a critical examination of the fictional representation of Europe's encounter with Africa and Asia in the Americas.

Professor Lamming

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AFRI0980 Sec 01 - Fela Anukalpo Kuti and the Social, Cultural, Political, and Aesthetic Implications of AfroBeat

Fela! The social, cultural, political and aesthetic implications of Afrobeat. This course will examine how all of the above converge in the development and evolution of Afrobeat, with a particular focus on the impact of "colonialism" on African society and culture. Interested students should have an interest in cross-cultural analysis, music appreciation, and the willingness to explore and investigate West African/Nigerian/Yoruba society and culture.

Professor King

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AFRI1020B Sec 01 - Freedom in Africana Political Thought

This course will be a comparative analysis of freedom as a central value in political thought. It will do this by comparing the knowledge and practices of freedom to slaves in the Haitian Revolution, the ideas of freedom in the Civil Rights Movement, and then finally, the conceptions of freedom in South Africa.

Professor Bogues

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AFRI1050 - Seminars in Africana Studies

AFRI1050A Sec 01 - Advanced RPM Playwriting

Interested students should register for AFRI1050A, Sec. 01.

Professor Terry-Morgan

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AFRI1050D Sec 01 - Intermediate RPM Playwriting

Interested students should register for AFRI1050D, Sec. 01.

Professor Terry-Morgan

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AFRI1050E Sec 01 - RPM Playwriting

Playwriting is a creative process of interpreting research on a topic or issue into the form of a play or performance work. This course is designed for students committed to the long-term meticulous process of research, inquiry, experimentation, and re-writing.

Professor Terry-Morgan

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AFRI1050G Sec 01 - Black Women's Political Autobiography

How black women in the United States and elsewhere have written about their lives in autobiographies will be the focus of this course. We will discuss black women's use of autobiographical writing to document their own individual experiences in political movements as well as to provide key insights into how black people throughout the black diaspora have organized in recent history.

Professor Perry

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AFRI1050J Sec 01 - RPM Africana Music History and Vocal Performance

A seminar/workshop examining African American music of the African Diaspora performances, practices, and singing traditions. Using the Research to Performance Method (RPM), this will examine and research various musical traditions through African American history from slavery to current day musical genres and styles. This course will also focus on performance styles of notable Black singers. Students will research, create and prepare performance reflective of the various musical genres and styles examined. Interdisciplinary readings are included in the course of study and will be provided as handouts.

Professor Thompson

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AFRI1060 - Seminars in Africana Studies

AFRI1060A Sec 01 – Africa Since 1950

This seminar offers a survey of post-colonial African history, while probing the challenges of writing post-colonial history. During the first section of the course, we will read several surveys of post-colonial African history and several works on post-colonial historiography. Our goal is to learn from master-narratives found in surveys and also to consider the possibility of dismantling them. The second section of the course allows the class to (cooperatively) choose subjects for reading and discussion. The third section of the course is directed toward students' major project of the semester -- producing two primary sources that could be included in a sourcebook that Professor Jacobs is preparing for publication. Enrollment limited to 20; written permission required.

Professor Jacobs

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AFRI1060F Sec 01 - Philosophy and Race

This advanced seminar in Africana philosophy will examine critical texts and thinkers that articulate the problems, methods, and techniques for interrogating the interrelationships between the discourse of philosophy and modern conceptions of race. The seminar will move to consider contemporary engagements in this area by drawing on readings and thinkers from analytical, continental, feminist, marxist, and pragmatist philosophical traditions.

Professor Walker

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AFRI1060K Sec 01 - African Literature After Achebe: Emerging African Writers

In this course we will analyze how contemporary, emerging and marginally-read African writers contest the traditional and widely-held interpretations, understanding and assumptions of African

literature. We will read and think about African literature in the contemporary post-colonial and post apartheid moment in Africa. Authors discussed include Dambudzo Marechera, Zoe Wicomb and Binyavanga Wainaina, among others.

Professor Matambo

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AFRI1060L Sec 01 – Varieties of American Philosophical Experience

The American philosophical experience is usually treated as being of a single variety. Quite often this particular variety is equated with Pragmatism or is seen as indistinguishable from European philosophy. While there are merits to these views, they obscure the pre-pragmatist period and the non-European varieties that are integral parts of the American philosophical experience. In contrast to these Pragmatist and European-oriented views of American philosophy, this course will emphasize the colonial dimensions and features of American philosophy that emerged out of the colonial soil of early America. Out of this soil sprang extended debates between Native Americans, Euro-Americans and African Americans over the legitimacy of the hegemony that Euro-Americans were establishing over increasing portions of North America. As a colonial philosophy, American philosophy can be viewed as having within it two opposing traditions that have been engaged in ongoing angry dialogues: the dominant or Prosperean tradition of Euro-Americans and the subjugated or Caliban tradition of Native Americans and African Americans. In this course, our focus will be on the philosophical exchanges between Euro-Americans and African Americans. Readings will include the Euro-American thinkers Thomas Jefferson, Jonathan Edwards, Samuel Stanhope Smith, Timothy Dwight, William James, John Dewey, Richard Rorty, and the African American thinkers Prince Hall, Ottobah Cugoano, Maria Stewart, David Walker, Frederick Douglas, Anna Julia Cooper, WEB DuBois, and Cornel West.

Professor Henry

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AFRI1110 Sec 01 - Voices Beneath the Veil

Thirty plays, written by Afro-American playwrights and presented on the American stage between 1858 and the 1990s, are examined as cultural and historical documents of Afro-American realities. Supplementary readings from the humanities and social sciences provide critical framework for in-class discussions and student papers. Instructor permission required.

Professor Terry-Morgan

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AFRI1120 Sec 01 - African American Folk Traditions and Cultural Expression

A research, development, and performance workshop designed to explore, examine, and articulate various folk traditions and cultural expressions of African Americans. Readings include slave narratives, folktales, and the works of Hughes, Hurston, Bass, and Baraka. Topics covered are music as the African American language of choice; Africanisms in Afro-American culture; and race, color, class, and culture. Instructor permission required.

Professor Thompson

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AFRI1210 Sec 01 - Afro-Brazilians and the Brazilian Polity

Explores the history and present-day conditions of Afro-Brazilians, looking specifically at the uses of Africana in contemporary Brazil, political and cultural movements among Afro-

Brazilians, domestic politics and its external dimensions, and Brazilian race relations within a global comparative framework. Texts from a variety of disciplines. A reading knowledge of Portuguese is not required but students so advantaged should inform the instructor.

Professor Dzidzienyo

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AFRI1470 Sec 01 - Southern African History

This course examines major themes of the history of southern Africa from the earliest times until 1994, with a heavy emphasis on historiographical debates. Our discussions of the South African past will always be informed by a consideration of the approach of the scholars who have interpreted and presented it as history. Our major questions concern the origins of historical change and the creation of racial groups. We will probe the significance of race in South African history but also the limitations of its explanatory power. Readings are arranged at three levels. First, we will be reading primary sources, to gain experience in working with the evidence that informs historical work. Second, we will be working through a concise textbook that summarizes the major themes of South African history. Third, we will be reading specialized scholarly books and articles, chosen to illustrate recent discussions about the interpretation of South Africa's past. The course will meet twice a week for lecture and discussion groups will meet once a week.

Professor Jacobs

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AFRI1540 Sec 01 - Black Popular Cultures

This course is an historical and topical examination of the development of black popular cultures. We will explore the debates about popular culture and specifically examine the ways that race (as well as gender, sexuality and class) shape these debates. In addition we will explore specific black popular cultural practices (music, dance, film, radio, theater, etc.) as well as the larger contexts for their production and reception. Instructor permission required.

Professor Rose

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AFRI1580 Sec 01 - Contemporary African Women's Literature

The aim of the course is to introduce students to some of the major prose female writers in contemporary African Literature. Enrollment limited to 25.

Professor Aidoo

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AFRI1800 Sec 01 - Race, Empire and Modernity

Taking Cicero's notion of empire as "ways of life", this course will survey the history of empires as forms of rule. It will explore how race has been deployed in the various types of empire. The course will pay particular attention to empires in modernity since 1492. The course will think about the various technologies of rule and their discourses of power.

Professor Bogues

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AFRI1970 Sec 01 - Independent Reading and Research

Students should contact professor directly regarding independent reading and research
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Courses of Interest to Concentrators in Africana Studies - 14834 - AFRI XLIST - 0

The following courses may be taken for concentration credit. Please see the sponsoring department for the time and location of each course.

Archaeology and the Ancient World

ARCH 2040F Public Culture and Heritage in Postapartheid South Africa

Biology

BIOL 1920A Imperialism and Public Health in Africa: Past and Present

English

ENGL 0800B African American Literature and the Legacy of Slavery

ENGL 0800E African and Caribbean Tales of Transition

ENGL 1710F Tribe, Nation and Race in African Fiction

ENGL 1710P The Literature and Culture of Black Power Reconsidered

Literary Arts

LITR 1010E Advanced Screenwriting

LITR 1110L Aspects of Contemporary Prose Practice

LITR 1150F Home and Abroad

Music

MUSC 1690A Miles Davis: An Evolution in Jazz

Public Policy & American Institutions

PPAI 1970 Independent Reading and Research - Local Political Cultures, New Electronic Practices and 2008 National Elections

Sociology

SOC 0150 Economic Development and Social Change

Theatre, Speech, and Dance

TSDA 0060 Introduction to Playwriting Workshop