

AFRICANA STUDIES - 2009 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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AFRI0880 Sec 01 – Hip Hop Music and Cultures

This course will explore both the history of the emergence of Hip Hop and the heated debates that surround it: aesthetics, censorship, sexism, violence, musical theft, originality, authenticity, the politics of cross-racial exchanges, urban black nihilism, and corporate influences on culture. These debates will be framed by our consideration of urban black life, African-American cultural formations, gender, representation, technology, commodification, pleasure and politics.

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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AFRI1050 - Seminars in Africana Studies

AFRI1050A Sec 01 - Advanced RPM Playwriting

Third level of RPM Playwriting; for students that have successfully completed RPM Playwriting and Intermediate RPM Playwriting (workshop).

Professor Terry-Morgan

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AFRI1050D Sec 01 - Intermediate RPM Playwriting

Second level of RPM Playwriting; for students that want to continue developing their RPM plays or want to begin a new project (workshop).

Professor Terry-Morgan

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AFRI1050E Sec 01 - RPM Playwriting

Research-to-Performance Method (RPM) Playwriting guides students through the process of developing new plays that are informed by scholarly research (workshop).

Professor Terry-Morgan

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AFRI1060 - Seminars in Africana Studies

AFRI1060I – Africana Philosophy of Religion

Who, or rather, what is God to the oppressed? This advanced seminar in Africana philosophy will examine the various theories, methods, and arguments that engage perennial questions that arise when contemplating God. The seminar will focus on questions of philosophical method and theological exposition while also being critically attuned to modes of social and cultural analysis and critique, particularly those perspectives inspired by forms of critical theory, feminist theory, and Marxist theory. Limited enrollment.

Professor Walker

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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 Prosperian 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 Cugoana, Maria Stewart, David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Anna Julia Cooper, WEB DuBois, and Cornel West.

Professor Henry

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AFRI1060M – African Environmental History

Seminar is devoted to the study of the environmental history of sub-Saharan Africa. Students will learn more about the history of Africa, about the ways that relations with the environment shaped its human history, about the construction of environmental knowledge and its repercussions, and about historical research. Instructor's permission required.

Professor Jacobs

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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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AFRI1170 Sec 01 – African American Women's History

Recovers black women's history and renegotiates American history. Throughout the seminar, discussions will analyze the various tensions that complicate black women's lives, from accommodation to resistance, or gender issues versus racial issues, or the class tensions that pervade the African American community. Through the series of readings loosely hinged around themes and concepts, students will gain knowledge and understanding of the rich social, intellectual, political and economic networks and activities that African American women undertook on a daily basis in order to survive, progress and uplift. The course encourages the development of a broader and more comprehensive grasp of the complexities American, racial and gender histories. Must have taken at least one Women's History course and one U.S. history course.

Professor Hamlin

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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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AFRI1280 Sec 01 – Writing About Race in the Post Civil Rights Era

This seminar is an explanation of the transformation of racial policies, relations and rhetorics since the end of the civil rights era in the United States. We will examine the complex ways race has remained central to US society and yet has dramatically shifted- examining terms such as: color-blind society; integration; political race, racialized (and gendered) community formation.

Professor Rose

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AFRI1440 Sec 01 Theorizing the Black Diaspora

This seminar will focus on the theorization of the black diaspora as a way to explore the various articulations of gendered racism and resistance Against that racism throughout African-descendant communities. Course Readings will highlight the scholarship of black women who have Contributed to the internationalization of radical black vis-à-vis theories Of diaspora, transnationalism, transformative politics, identity formation, And community. Enrollment limited to 20. Special Note: In November 2009, a Transnational Feminism & Black Diaspora Panel Discussion featuring scholars work assigned in this course will be held.

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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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AFRI1970 Sec 01 - Independent Reading and Research

Students should contact professor directly regarding independent reading and research.

Staff

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Courses of Interest to Concentrators in Africana Studies – Crosslisted Courses

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

English

ENGL1710I – Harlem Renaissance: The Politics of Culture

ENGL1710J – Modern African Literature

ENGL1760B – Contemporary African American Literature and the End(s) of Identity

History

HIST1090 – Black Freedom Struggle Since 1945

History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 0650 – Eighteenth-Century Art – Imagining the Global Eighteenth-Century