Fall 2011 Course Offerings

AFRI 0090: An Introduction to Africana Studies
This course introduces students to the vibrant and 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. Beginning with a critical overview of the history, theoretical orientations, and multiple 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

AFRI 0110C: Autobiography of the Civil Rights Movement
Most of the rich written history of the civil rights movement originates from first-hand accounts documented in oral histories and autobiographies. This interdisciplinary course plots the milestones of the civil rights movement through the lens of several autobiographies. The aim is to critique autobiography as a historical document as well as use it to tell the stories of the civil rights movement. We will compare and contrast different texts, analyze content and map a history of the era. Students will work with a writing fellow to develop one critical paper and one autobiographical paper. Enrollment limited to 20 first year students.
Professor Hamlin

AFRI 0210: Afro Latin Americans and Blackness in the Americas
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 of migration of people and ideas within the hemisphere are explored.
Professor Dzidzienyo

AFRI 0600: 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
AFRI 1050A: Advanced RPM Playwriting
Third level of RPM Playwriting; for students that have successfully completed RPM Playwriting and Intermediate RPM Playwriting (workshop). Instructor permission. Enrollment limited to 14.
Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1050D: 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). Instructor's permission required. Enrollment limited to 13.
Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1050E: RPM Playwriting
Research-to-Performance Method (RPM) Playwriting guides students through the process of developing new plays that are informed by scholarly research (workshop). Instructor's permission required. Enrollment limited to 13.
Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1050G: Narrating the Radical Self
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. Enrollment limited to 20.
Professor Perry

AFRI 1060F: 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. Enrollment limited to 20.
Professor Walker

AFRI 1110: 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. Enrollment limited to 40.
Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1150: Afro-Caribbean Philosophy
An introduction to the field of Afro-Caribbean philosophy. The first half focuses on the history of the field, identifying its African background and surveying some of its major schools, such as the Afro-Christians, the poeticians, the historicists, and existentialists. The second half consists of a more intensive comparative focus on the ontologies and epistemologies of two of these schools.
Professor Henry
AFRI 1180: Visual Cultures of the Afro-Americas
This course will examine how the visual modalities of power operate to ascribe, authenticate, and contest meaning within the Afro-Americas, understood here to include Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latin American and African-American cultures. We will query the complex histories and technologies that constitute the social life of vision in the Afro-Americas, while cognizant of the fact that the field of visuality cannot be understood from single point of view. We will consider images made of and images made by peoples of African descent throughout the Americas as we attend to the reception, interpretation and reproduction of images, as well fields of invisibility. Enrollment limited to 20 juniors and seniors.
Professor Smith

AFRI 1955: History and Memory in Africana Literature
Focuses on the close reading of nine works by writers of African descent - encompassing a variety of eras, forms and genres, stretching from the slave narrative to more contemporary settings. The thrust is to examine how each writer wrestles with issues of history and memory, with particular attention to the sometimes explicit, sometimes implicit interest in ideas and modes of expression that are rooted in African culture. Enrollment limited to 20 sophomores, juniors, and seniors; preference given to Africana Studies and English concentrators.
Professor Ndibe

AFRI 2001: Theories of Africana Thought: Intellectual History and Critical Theory
This course will be a close reading of the various ideas, theories and practices of the thinkers, writers, artists and activists whose work and practices have constituted an Africana intellectual tradition. In conducting this review we will examine questions around the formation and the history of thought and intellectual traditions in general. We will also think about the various fields of knowledge which have shaped Africana thought. The course therefore will spend some time working through the different meanings of intellectual work and critical thought and theory. Enrollment limited to 12 graduate students.
Professor Bogues