Fall 2012 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 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 0620: 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

**AFRI 0700: Freedom Films**
This First Year Seminar will focus on historical documentary films related to the Southern Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. We will analyze how these films reflect, change, and inform our views of the traditional Civil Rights Movement and how some offer contrasting narratives of that movement. We will also examine how and in what ways the films accurately reflect the historical realities of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, based on readings and other research. The seminar will place special emphasis on the important role played by young people, particularly the young organizers of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); the leadership role played by women in that movement; the grass roots philosophy that grounded especially SNCC; the adult influences on the young organizers, particularly that of Ella Baker; the non-competing tactics and strategies used (sometimes simultaneously); including: nonviolent direct action, self-defense, voter registration, economic boycotts, along with the goals of educational advancement (both traditional and non-traditional), economic empowerment; and the historical context of earlier movement struggles in the South.
Professor Richardson
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 required.
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).
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).
Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1060T: South Africa Since 1990
South Africa transformed after 1990, but the past remains powerful. This seminar explores the endurance and erosion of the apartheid legacy, as expressed in historical and fictional narratives. We begin with transition to majority rule and continue with the administrations of Mandela, Mbeki, and Zuma, connecting the formative histories of these leaders with the changing dynamic of politics. We end with narratives about the ways that ordinary people experienced new times. The syllabus includes scholarly works in history and politics, biography, fiction and film. Two short writing assignments and a major research paper. Enrollment limited to 20 juniors and seniors.
Professor Jacobs

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.
Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1170: 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

AFRI 1190: Haiti, "A New World, A Free World": History, Art, Politics and Revolution
This course will examine the dual Haitian Revolution as a pivotal moment in the making of the modern world. It will review the various historical interpretations of the Haitian events, examine how these events contribute to or trouble our ideas about modern politics and notions of freedom as well as our conceptions of revolution. The course will engage in these issues by working through three archives: Vodou Religion; The Art of the Revolution and the conventional historiography about the revolution, and will be tied to the hosting of a joint Brown/RISD exhibition on Haitian Art. Enrollment limited to 15 juniors and seniors concentrating in Africana Studies, Visual Art, or History; and 15 RISD students.
Professor Bogues
AFRI 1210: 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

AFRI 1280: 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

AFRI 1620: Black New Orleans: A Research Seminar
Examines the development of a unique African/American cultural and political identity in New Orleans. The seminar focuses on the development of the Faubourg Tremé, the oldest free black community in the United States, and covers the period from 1718 until 1899. Topics include: slavery and resistance; relations between enslaved and free blacks; social and political agitation; and the resulting early development of the nation's Civil Rights movement and legislation. There is discussion also of the formation and continued tradition of artists' and artisans' guilds; Creole language (e.g., Creole slave songs, proverbs); NOLA relationship to the Caribbean and Latin America.
Professor Osbey

AFRI 1630: Modernist Africana Poetry of the Americas
Focus on origins of Modernism among Africana authors of the Americas, with emphasis on the poetry, poetics and poetry movements of Brazil and Latin America, the Caribbean and US from 1888 through the first half of the 20th century. Begins with an overview of innovations wrought by Rubén Darío of Nicaragua, arguably the first modernist poet, and continues with the Harlem Renaissance of the 1910's and 20's; the Brazilian writers at the center of the Week of Modern Art of 1922; Caribbean writers of the Negrismo and Négritude movements; concludes with the work of such US and Anglophone Caribbean poets as Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Hayden and Martin Carter.
Professor Osbey

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.
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
AFRI 2101: Africana Studies and Interdisciplinarity
This graduate seminar brings together various methodological and theoretical approaches to interpreting Africana life, culture, thought, and politics. Placing special emphasis on emergent scholarship that shapes and reshapes the discipline of Africana Studies, we examine a selection of humanistic and social scientific studies of various local, national, and international contexts. The texts demonstrate the ways in which innovative interdisciplinary methods are crucial for understanding the complexity of the Africana world. We will give attention to the strategies scholars utilize to formulate their research questions, design their methodologies, and create new ideas that contribute to the advancement of Africana Studies scholarship.

Professor Perry