Spring 2011 Course Offerings

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 The aim is to critique autobiography as a historical document as well as use it to tell the stories of the civil rights movement.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.
Professor Hamlin

AFRI 0570: 20th Century Black Feminist
Thought and Practice in the U.S This course will explore the ways that black women in the U.S. have experienced racial and gendered discrimination as well as what sorts of strategies (e.g., political, intellectual, narrative, and creative) black women have devised in response. We will be especially concerned with elements of African-American feminist thought and its articulation in writings, music, literature and practice/activism in the 20th century U.S. Enrollment limited to 80.
Professor Rose

AFRI 0710A: Racial and Gender Politics in Contemporary Brazil
Brazil is commonly understood as an example of a "racially democratic" nation, but as scholars have recently shown, racism permeates all aspects of Brazilian society. This course traces the development of the theorization of race, racial identity and race relations in contemporary Brazil. The approach of the course will be interdisciplinary, drawing upon works from anthropology, literature, history, music, and film. Topics will include colonialism and enslavement, nationalism, social activism and popular culture. We will also consider how Brazilian social relations differ from or conform to other racialized patterns in other nations-states in the Americas. Particular attention will be placed on the interrelationship between race, gender, class, and nation.
Professor Perry

AFRI 0710B: Ethics of Black Power
In his now classic text Blood in My Eye, George Jackson writes "All revolution should be love inspired". This course will plumb the depths of Jackson's remark by critically interrogating the ethical dimensions of the Black Power concept and the cultural, ideological, and political interventions influenced by the conceptual revolution. We will assess the ethical parameters of the various ideological tendencies that influenced the conceptual formulation and political articulation of Black Power including Black Nationalism, Feminism, Liberalism, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and Pan-Africanism.
Professor Walker
AFRI 0760B: Reggae, Rastafari and Revolution
Bob Marley in the song Revolution declares, "Revolution Reveals." Beginning from this frame this course will examine the history of Rastafari since it was formed in the late 1930s as an Afro-Caribbean religious practice. It will examine how the emergence of reggae music in Jamaica in the late 1960s mixed and then became one central ingredient of what has been called "conscious music" in the period of the flowering of anti-colonial and black radicalism in the 20th century. The course will explore how reggae music became a form of subaltern language rethinking questions of nation and history in the Caribbean and Africa.

Professor Bogues

AFRI 0901A: Unruly Crossings: Queerness, Race and Globalization
What happens to queerness when queers are on the move? What are the normative sexual and gendered assumptions underlying discourses of race, immigration and diaspora? How do border-crossing queer migrants negotiate implicit forms of control and the global-local divide? How have queerness and globalization impacted each other? These are some of the key questions that this seminar will address while examining theoretical debates, films and literature at the intersection of queerness, migration and transnational studies. Readings from migration studies, queer theory, critical race theory, anthropology and psychoanalysis. Films and literature from the African, Caribbean, Cuban and South/Asian diasporas in the global north. Enrollment limited to 20 undergraduates. Prerequisite: MCM 0100, 0150, 0230, 0240, 0250, 0260, or 1110. Students MUST register for a filming/screening, and a lecture section.

Professor Maitra

AFRI 0990: Black Lavender: Black Gay/Lesbian Plays/Dramatic Constructions in the American Theatre
An interdisciplinary approach to the study of plays that address the identities and issues of black gay men and lesbians and offers various perspectives from within and without the black gay and lesbian artistic communities. Focuses on analysis of unpublished titles. Also includes published works by Baraka, Bullins, Corbitt, Gibson, Holmes, West, and Pomo Afro Homos. Some evening screenings of videotapes. Enrollment limited to 40.

Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1020C: The Afro-Luso-Brazilian Triangle
Examines three historical components of the South Atlantic in terms of history, culture, and contemporary political and economic consequences. European colonialism in Africa and Brazil constitutes the baseline for this exploration, but the long and tardy nature of Portuguese colonialism in Africa in comparison with other European colonial powers, especially in its post-World War II manifestations, is our starting point.

Professor Dzidzienyo

AFRI 1020D: Race, Rights, Rebellion
Provides an in-depth examination of different kinds of social movements. Emphasis will be placed on the theoretical and methodological distinctions among the various kinds of social protests and social movement actors. From anti-slavery revolts to struggles for independence to anti-apartheid movements, key concepts will include power, resistance, subaltern, hegemony, identity politics and consciousness.

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’s 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). Instructor’s permission required.
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.
Professor Terry-Morgan

AFRI 1050M: Roots of African American Fiction: Oral Narrative through Richard Wright
This course will employ a variety of narrative forms -- oral folktales, WPA narratives, slave narratives, short stories by European and American writers -- will also investigate the multiple traditions of African American fiction. Spr AFRI1050M S01 23852 W 3:00-5:20(14) (J. Wideman)

AFRI 1050P: Art and Civic Engagement: Creativity/Reality
The primary objective of this course is to learn about and reflect upon public art and communities. This course will use selected public art and artists' ideologies as a framework for exploring culture, creativity, politics and practices and focus on the ways in which these public art works and artists' responses to varied forms of internal and external operators and stimuli successfully and unsuccessfully give voice to aspects of the environment, history, culture, social justice, health, politics and the imagination. This course will also pay attention to arts organizations, government agencies, history, power relations, human resources as well as leadership and the political that continues to influence public modes of artistic production.
Professor Baxter

AFRI 1060E: West African Writers and Political Kingdom
Do West African writers have a role to play in the changing political landscape of their countries? An examination of the ways and means through which a select group of West African writers have dealt with issues that relate to the role of the state in the management of individual and group relations, the politics of gender, civil and military relations, and the construction of new forms of civil society.
Professor Dzidzienyo

AFRI 1060G: Black Radical Tradition
This advanced seminar in Africana philosophy will explore the contours of insurgent forms of Africana social and political philosophy. With a temporal focus on the twentieth century, we will concern ourselves with explicating the dominant themes, theoretical orientations, and methodological understandings that in/form constructions and articulations of the varieties of Africana feminism/womanism, black nationalism, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, Pan-Africanism, and radical democracy. Enrollment limited to 20.
Professor Walker
AFRI 1110L: Aspects of Contemporary Prose Practice
Using Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus, Tayeb Saleh's The Wedding of Zein and Other Stories, Luis Bernard Honwana's We Killed Mangy Dog, and Our Sister Killjoy, this course will look at prose narrative in contemporary African Literature, for a background to general narrative practice. Among areas of special interest, the course will examine the contents and structure of the short story, not as an abbreviated novel, but as an autonomous genre. We shall also look at literature in translation, and discuss what the reader loses in the process if anything, and how much that matters, if at all. Students will be expected to work on short stories and novel chapters. Instructor permission required. Enrollment limited to 12.
Professor Aidoo

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 poeticists, 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 1260: The Organizing Tradition of the Southern Civil Rights Movement
This seminar aims to fill in some of the gaps of the official canon by emphasizing that the modern (1954-1966) southern civil rights movement was not as it is mainly portrayed, a movement of mass protest in public spaces led by charismatic leaders; but rather, a movement of grassroots community organizing - quiet day-to-day work.
Professor Cobb

AFRI 1360: Africana Studies: Knowledge, Texts and Methodology
This course will explore the issues of Africana Studies as a discipline by engaging in a series of critical readings of the central texts, which laid the protocols of the discipline. The course will also raise issues of knowledge production and methodologies. This course is a senior capstone seminar. Open to all senior Africana Studies concentrators; others by instructor permission only.
Professor Bogues

AFRI XLIST: ENGL 1710I Harlem Renaissance: The Politics of Culture
The Harlem Renaissance was a remarkable flowering of culture in post-war New York as well as a social movement that advanced political agendas for the nation. This course takes up the relationship between literature and politics by exploring such matters as the urbanization of black America, the representation of the black poor, the influence of white patronage, and the rise of primitivism. Writers may include Hughes, Hurston, Larsen, Fisher, Locke, and McKay.
Professor Murray

AFRI XLIST: ENGL 1760B Contemporary African American Literature and the End(s) of Identity
African American writers and intellectuals have begun to question the wisdom of defining black identity in terms that overemphasize the shared racial and cultural heritage of black people. Course assesses a range of literary and scholarly writing that engages these concerns. Explores such topics as the growing class division among African Americans, the effects of integration, the decline of
nationalism, and the visibility of sexual minorities. Likely authors include Johnson, Morrison, Wideman, Beatty, and Senna. Enrollment limited.

**Professor Murray**

**AFRI XLIST: ENGL 1760T Literary Africa**
Explores the sense in which the word "Africa" has come to carry a range of disparate moral, epistemological, and political connotations in literary and related discourses. We will study 19th century autobiographical and travel writing by black African agents of Christian missionary organizations (Ajayi Crowther, Birch Freeman, Philip Quaque, Joseph Wright); critical essays by contemporary scholars of postcolonial cultures (Appiah, Bhabha, Mudimbe, Peel, Pratt); and imaginative literature by African writers (Achebe, Soyinka, Ngugi, Marechera, Vera). Enrollment limited. Not open to first-year students.

**Professor George**

**AFRI XLIST: ENGL 1900T The Postcolonial and the Postmodern**
Explores the contexts and conceptual implications of theories of postmodernism and postcolonialism. Particular attention to intersections and disjunctions between both concepts as attempts to grapple with the challenges of modernity from the vantage point of the late-20th century. Course will end with two novels that address related issues with the tools of fictional narrative: Coetzee's Foe and Rushdie's Midnight's Children. Readings include: Butler, Hall, Jameson, Laclau, Lyotard, Spivak. Not open to first-year students.

**Professor George**

**AFRI XLIST: HIST 1965 Social Change in the 1960s**
The 1960s continue to resonate in today's culture as the decade left an indelible imprint on the present society. This course focuses on the tumultuous decade and incorporates the following topics: the Civil Rights Movement, race and ethnicity, the Women's Movement, the Peace movement, student movements, Vietnam War and foreign policy, sexuality, and cultural productions (music, film, art, photography). Lectures are rooted in historical narratives, but engage with interdisciplinary methodologies. In this way, as the semester unfolds we witness the complexity, the intertwining of movements and issues, and the evolution of cultural and political ideas and policy. First-year students require instructor permission.

**Professor Hamlin**