Spring 2012 Course Offerings

**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 nation-states in the Americas. Particular attention will be placed on the interrelationship between race, gender, class, and nation.

**Professor Perry**

**AFRI 0880 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. Enrollment limited to 40.

**Professor Rose**

**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 Focuses on analysis of unpublished titles.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 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 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. Enrollment limited to 20.
Professor Dzidziienyo

AFRI 1090 Black Freedom Struggle Since 1945
Examines the extended history of the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. with a range of primary sources. Starting at World War II, the course considers the roles of the courts, the government, organizations, local communities, and individuals in the ongoing struggle for African American equality, focusing on African American agency. Sources include photographs, documentaries, movies, letters, speeches, autobiography, and secondary readings. Must have taken at least one post-1865 U.S. history course demonstrating a foundation in this time period. Enrollment limited to 50.
Professor Hamlin

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. Enrollment limited to 40.
Professor Cobb

AFRI 1440 Theorizing the Black Diaspora
This seminar will focus on the theorization of the black diaspora as a way to explore the various articulations of colonialism, 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-a-vis theories of diaspora, transnationalism, transformative politics, identity formation, and community. Enrollment limited to 20.
Professor Perry
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 2002 Theories of Africana Thought: Literary and Expressive Cultures
A central preoccupation of the field of Africana Studies involves the central yet highly contested role of the notion of what constitutes black culture in the modern world. To what degree can we claim aesthetic and other formal distinctions between black/Africana cultures in the Diaspora and other modern western cultural practices and expressive forms? What role did enslavement, forced migration and segregation play in shaping Africana culture in the modern west? These cultural debates which played a central role in literary, musical, philosophical, aesthetic, historical and sociological analyses of the culture of people of African descent frame this course. Enrollment limited to 12 graduate students.
Professor Rose