AFRI 0590: Politics, Prisons, and Punishment
"Prisons do not disappear problems, they disappear human beings." This statement by Angela Davis captures the complex interrelationship between politics, prisons and punishment in America. This course will explore the depths of this problematic by critically examining the ways in which these three areas have developed and evolved in the unfolding of the American experiment with democracy. Particular attention will be devoted to how and in what ways prisons and punishment have formed and informed politics and political culture within the context of the America's enduring culture and pervasive logic of anti-black racialism and racism.
Professor Walker

AFRI 0710: 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 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 Focuses on analysis of unpublished titles.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.
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 permission.
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 1050Q: New Narratives of African American History
This seminar examines various examples of creative and poetic non-fiction, pertaining to race and the African American experience. While touching upon historic examples and precedent, emphasis will be on contemporary works, including the genres of poetry, drama, the narrative, the memoir, the travelogue and the personal essay. The course will explore what these works offer to the knowledge, popularization and perception of black history and to the shaping of cultural dialogue on blackness and race.
Professor Bayeza

AFRI 1050R: The History of Afro-Futurism and Black Science Fiction
Any class called The History of Afro Futurism and Black Science Fiction automatically begs the question – "Well, what isn't futuristic about being Black in America?" The entire history of Black America can be seen as a fundamentally futurological and science fictional enterprise – a perpetual bidding on hope and struggling for change endeavor that frequently employs far flung visions of tomorrow and other more oblique speculative stratagems in pursuit of outcomes barely foreseeable in the near-present.
Professor Tate

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 1060V: Black Transnationalism
This seminar will explore the complex dynamics of black transnationalism during the long 20th century, focusing on the circulation of ideas and practices by Africans and African-descended communities and how they were contested and reconfigured as they flowed back and forth. Particular attention will be paid to some less-examined archives, interpretations and perspectives; ideas of black women activist-scholars; aesthetic practices, sonic regimes and religion; insights and experiences of those who lived diaspora. Seminar readings and discussions will introduce and "trouble" some key theoretical issues in the notion of black transnationalism, e.g. diaspora, Pan-Africanism, globality, translocalism, identity, articulation, and solidarity.
Professor Augusto
AFRI 1090: Black Freedom Struggle Since 1945
Lecture course that examines the extended history of the mass civil rights movement in the U.S. Starting at World War II, we consider the roles of the courts, the federal and state governments, organizations, local communities, individuals and various activist strategies in the ongoing struggle for African American equality, focusing on African American agency, particularly in the South, but also in Boston, Mass. Sources include photographs, documentaries, movies, letters, speeches, autobiographies, and secondary readings.
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.
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 Walker

AFRI 1640: Development, Dependency and Decline in Africa, 1950-2025
This course on the history of Africa begins as European empire unraveled after the Second World War and ends with a look toward the future. Development was high on the international and national agenda in the mid-twentieth century, but the most conspicuous outcome of the following decades was dependency and decline. Yet the story is more mixed than has been represented in American headlines; it was not one of pre-determined and constant failure. More than ever, at the beginning of this new millennium, conditions across the continent have diverged. What are current signs for future development or continuing crisis?
Professor Jacobs

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 2002: Theories of Africana Thought: Literary and Expressive Cultures
A preoccupation 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 distinctions between black 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.
Professor Rose
AFRI 2102: Interdisciplinary Methods and Africana Studies
This graduate seminar focuses on interdisciplinary methodology and Africana Studies. The seminar explores how students and scholars in Africana Studies use interdisciplinary methods developed in the social sciences and the humanities in novel and innovative ways. Students will critically examine key methodological issues in Africana Studies and how and in what ways these issues are similar to and differ from such disciplines as economics, history, sociology, and literature. Prerequisite: a prior undergraduate or graduate level methods in Humanities or Social Sciences.
Professor Henry

AFRI 2201: African American Women and Performance Theory
This graduate seminar is on African American women and theories of performance, with an emphasis on common readings and individual research projects. The assigned texts range across the relatively new field of performance studies, and the course moves from common readings on theory to a close reading of a single case study. The seminar is designed to introduce students to Performance Theory generally, and to the specific ways that performance theory analyzes the social and intellectual work of African American women. The seminar encourages the close reading of monographs in the field, and also close reading of a single case study, which can serve as both an illustration and a test of the field’s conventions.
Professor Guterl