Spring 2013 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 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 Focuses on analysis of unpublished titles.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. Enrollment limited to 40.
Professor Dzidziienyo

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 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 1050Q: New Narratives in African American History: The Art and Craft of Poetic and Creative Non-Fiction
This seminar examines various examples of creative and poetic nonfiction, 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. Enrollment limited to 25.
Professor Bayeza

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 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 varities of Africana feminism/womanism, black nationalism, Marxism-LeninismMaoism, Pan-Africanism, and radical democracy. Enrollment limited to 20.
Professor Walker

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. Requirements: Weekly readings, documentary viewings, 4 short papers, 2 exams.

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 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. Enrollment limited to 25.

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 predetermined 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. 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 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. Enrollment limited to 12 graduate students.

Professor Rose

AFRI 2201: African American Women and Performance Theory
This class is a topical, upper-level elective seminar on African American women and Performance Theory, with an emphasis on common reading and individual research projects. Enrollment limited to 20.

Professor Guterl