Spring 2017 Course Offerings

AFRI 0610: Black Student Protest from Jim Crow to the Present
This is a history-driven class about black student protest. It puts this history in direct dialogue with other kinds of student protests over the long twentieth century. The point of the class is to ground conversations about contemporary protest culture in a deeper historical context that extends well beyond Brown, that moves into the deep history of higher education and education more generally, and that reveals the intersection of protest with other global, national, and local plotlines. It is, as well, meant to think about how all of these histories have been represented popularly and politically in the very recent past.
Professor Guterl

AFRI 0760A: Rastafarianism
This course explores the philosophy, history, politics, and theology of Rastafari, one of the Caribbean’s most influential and misunderstood liberation movements.
Professor Meeks

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 Focuses on analysis of unpublished titles.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 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 1050W: Transnational Hispaniola: Haiti and the Dominican Republic
This course will examine the historical, political, and cultural development of the island of Hispaniola, currently divided in the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In this course we will call into question popular narratives that portray Haiti and the Dominican Republic as locked in an ahistorical, continuous conflict and explore the island’s long history of Haitian-Dominican collaborations and networks. Over time, the two countries have developed different understandings of race, ethnicity, and national identity. This course will therefore engage in a comparative survey of the interwoven dynamics of race and national construction in the making of both nations.
Professor Mann-Hamilton

AFRI 1050X: Slavery, Materiality, and Memorialization
The institution of slavery ended in the Americas in the 19th century, but its official conclusion says little about the ways in which its legacies are materially present and memorialized today. This course is designed to place the material aspects of slavery in conversation with less tangible dimensions of how slavery is or isn’t remembered and publicly acknowledged. Students will be introduced to the social and economic dimensions of transatlantic slavery, conduct archival research, and visit sites in the Providence area in order to inspire critical dialogue about how the material realities of slavery affect our past, present, and future.
Professor Reilly

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 1190A: Framing Haiti: History, Culture, Politics & Literature
In broadest terms, the objective of this multidisciplinary course will be to introduce students to the varied “nature” of the Haitian society and its fluid and dynamic culture, and then attempt to make historical and socio-anthropological sense of the country in relation to the region as a whole (particularly to the United States and Dominican Republic). Throughout the course we will discuss the dynamics of power in the realm of governance, with particular emphasis placed on the notion of struggle for sovereignty and the culture of resistance (through the arts) that forms the fundamental character of the national culture.
Professor Sylvain

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 Bogues
AFRI 2002: Theories of Africana Thought: Literary and Expressive Cultures
A preoccupation of Africana Studies involves the central, 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 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 play a central role in literary, musical, philosophical, aesthetic, historical and sociological analyses of the culture of people of African descent frame this graduate course. This course is restricted and only being offered to Africana Studies graduate students.

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. Enrollment limited to 20.

Professor Henry

AFRI XLIST - BIOL 1920B: Health Inequality in Historical Perspective
Seminar takes a historical perspective to explore causes of health inequality in the US. Draws on studies from the 19th century-present. Examines socio–political and economic context of health/disease, focusing on how race, class, and gender shape the experience of health, disease causality, and public health responses. Includes health consequences of immigration, incarceration, race-based medicine, the Chicago heatwave, and Katrina. BIOL0200 and work in Africana Studies and/or science-technology courses suggested. Not for biology concentration credit. It is suitable for a theme course for HHB. Enrollment restricted to 20, third- and fourth-year students.

Professor Braun

AFRI XLIST - ENGL 1710J: Modern African Literature
This course considers themes, antecedents, and contexts of modern African literature and related forms. Our readings will include fiction in English or in translation, traditional oral forms like panegyric and festival poetry, and some films. We will examine how these diverse materials explore the interplay of ethnicity, nationality, and race. We will also address the issue of "tradition" in contexts where nationalisms of various stripes are becoming stronger, even as the world becomes more interconnected through trade, immigration, and digital technology. Authors include Achebe, Cole, Dangarembga, Farah, Gordimer, Ngugi, Salih, Soyinka, Wicomb. Films by Blomkamp, Loreau, Sembène.

Dr. George

AFRI XLIST - ENGL 1711E: African American Literature After 1975
This course examines major authors and currents in African American literary writing from 1975 through the present. The class positions these works in relation to historical developments such as the rise of black nationalism, the evolution of a distinctive black feminist tradition, and the growing social divisions within the African American community. Authors include Toni Morrison, Jamaica Kincaid, Colson Whitehead, and John Wideman.

Professor Murray
AFRI XLIST - HIST 2970C: Rethinking the Civil Rights Movement
This graduate course encourages a rethinking of the complex components, arguments and activities that have characterized what we have come to know as the Civil Rights Movement, concentrating primarily on African American agency, actions and politics, through careful reading of recent scholarship in the field. While knowledge of U.S. history is preferred, this course asks larger thematic questions about protest movements (the role of the state, relationships with and between oppressed groups and organizations, and periodization), that will interest non-Americanists also. Some of the topics covered include: gender, organizing and strategies, the local, global ramifications and interactions, organizational structures and politics, and the recent concept of the Long Civil Rights Movement.

Professor Hamlin

AFRI XLIST - PLCY 1701W: Race, Gentrification, and the Policing of Urban Space
This seminar focuses on the relationships between structures and processes of racialization, gentrification, and the policing of urban space in the post 1970s United States. Through readings, lectures, and original research, students will develop analyses of a series of linked case studies in North American cities including Baltimore, Ferguson, New York, New Orleans, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Students will develop an inventory of concepts such as race, class, gender, sexuality, neoliberalism, rent, restructuring, scale, and space that are foundational for analyzing the interrelationship between housing and policing policies.

Professor Camp