Spring 2018 Course Offerings

AFRI 0550: African American Health Activism from Emancipation to AIDS
This historical survey course examines African American activism and social movements from Emancipation to the contemporary period through the lens of African American access to health resources. By paying close attention to how social and cultural aspects of medicine impact access and quality of care by race, gender, and sexuality, the course examines how segregation, poverty, incarceration, and policing shaped activism and healthcare. The course develops a sense of how African American activists crafted responses to different historical crises including Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and the War on Drugs by the demands they made for specific resources.
Professor Ramos

AFRI 0760A: Rastafari Studies
This course will introduce students to the theoretical frameworks, methods, and practice-based application of engaging with the Rastafari movement. We'll critically examine literature produced about Rastafari & the community-based activism of the movement in the context of African & African Diasporic movements from the 1930s to the present. Approach of the class is interdisciplinary and thematic, drawing upon works from Africana studies, literature, history, music, and film. Students will be able to engage with Rastafari guest speakers and read the most recent literature in Rastafari studies. Special emphasis will be placed on gendered anti-Black racism and Rastafari woman’s community activism.
Professor Alhassan

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 Focuses on analysis of unpublished titles.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 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.
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 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 1060U: An Introduction to Africa
Africa invokes myriad images in the global imagination. It figures in debates on the evolution of humans; in the formation of capitalism, and even as a counterpoint to discourses on human progress. This course interrogates how “Africa” gets mobilized in popular discourse in the US and beyond. How might we reconcile the idea of Africa with contemporary conditions of the African continent? We will not only examine Africa through a broad range of disciplinary perspectives; but also become familiar with social, cultural, political and economic diversity of the African continent. We will engage the disciplines of history, economics, politics, cultural studies and gender studies among others.
Professor Ayobade

AFRI 1100A: Comparative Identity Politics in Africa
This course is a comparative analysis of identity politics in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Africa is a heterogeneous region with ethnic and religious diversity. The course will introduce students to social identity theory and processes of identity politics and discuss how identity processes unfold in difference areas of political discourse.
Professor Agupusi

AFRI 1100B: The Caribbean: Cultures, Politics, Histories and Literature
The Caribbean archipelago has brought forth a new awareness of the region not as a fixed entity of islands as previously viewed; rather, it is a diverse group of islands that are not only geographically linked but share a common history of slavery and colonialism. This course aims to present students with an opportunity to delve into substantive multidisciplinary (social science and literary) texts that seek to analyze, expose and deconstruct forces that continue to shape the Caribbean.
Professor Sylvain
AFRI 1100C: Racial Slavery and Empire in an Age of Global Capital
This course challenges students to think critically about the interrelations between global capital, racial slavery, and imperialism in historical perspective. We will focus particularly on the 19th century with readings addressing the British and U.S. imperial worlds. Centrally, the course asks students to engage with the significance of racial slavery in its economic and colonial entanglements in the making of the modern world.
Professor Sell

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 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 Meeks

AFRI 2101: Methods in Africana Studies
This graduate seminar brings together various methodological and theoretical approaches to interpreting Africana life, culture, thought, and politics. Placing special emphasis on emergent scholarship that shapes and reshapes the discipline of Africana Studies, we examine a selection of humanistic and social scientific studies of various local, national, and international contexts. Texts demonstrate the ways in which innovative interdisciplinary methods are crucial for understanding the complexity of the Africana world. We will give attention to the strategies scholars utilize to formulate their research questions, design their methodologies, and create new ideas that contribute to the advancement of Africana Studies scholarship.
Professor Perry

AFRI XLIST: ENGL 1710I Harlem Renaissance: The Politics of Culture
The Harlem Renaissance was a remarkable flowering of culture in postwar 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 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.

Professor George

AFRI XLIST: HIST 1515 American Slavery
This lecture course will address the history of slavery in America. We will trace the emergence of slavery in the New World, with a heavy emphasis on slavery in the U.S. South, and a focus on the relationship of slavery to the emergence of systems of racial and gendered power. The course is broad in scope, beginning with the emergence of the slave trade and concluding with a look forward to the ways that the history of slavery continues to impact the way race and gender (as well as sexuality and class) structure our lives today.

Professor Owens

AFRI XLIST: HIST 1972F Consent: Race, Sex and the Law
In the context of recent student organizing on college campuses, the word “consent” has become headline news. But what is “consent” and what does it have to do with the history of race and sexuality in America? In this course, we will use history, law, and feminist theory to understand the origins of consent, to trace its operation as a political category, and to uncover the many cultural meanings of “yes” and “no” across time. Themes addressed include: slavery, marriage, sex work, feminism, and violence, from the founding of American democracy to the present.

Professor Owens