



A still from *Liberty* (2018). Dir. Faren Humes.

**Africana Studies**  
**Undergraduate Course Catalogue**  
**Spring 2022**

## Africana Studies

**AAS 150** TTh 1:00-2:15

### **Introduction to Africana Studies**

Jafari Allen

This course will introduce students to major streams of organized and everyday visions of/toward freedom, by Black people. While this class focuses mostly on the US [roughly from the 1970s - present], it highlights the diversity of nationalities/ethnicities, genders, and sexualities among Black people; and historical and transnational/diasporic dimensions of Black life.

## Art History

**AAS 390 (ARH 320)** TTh, 1:00-2:15

### **Aesthetics and Meaning in African Art and Cultures**

Erica James

This lecture course engages the diversity and richness of artistic production and cultural life on the African continent. It explores the creative consciousness and aesthetic values of a variety of African cultures through sculpture, paintings, architecture and performance practices from the Tassili n'Ajjer region in the North to Southern Africa. The art of the major kingdoms of Africa including ancient Egypt, Kush, Ethiopia, Dogon, Dahomey, Yoruba, Akan and Kongo kingdoms, to the global expressions of contemporary artists; fashion forward creatives will also be featured. During the semester students will: Gain a better understanding of African Art in the context of African history, politics and cultural values; Be introduced to 'non-western' concepts of history, metaphysics and an expanded understanding of "art"; Explore the notion of "the Classical" in a non-western context; Relate artistic movements in Africa to movements in other parts of the world, particularly Latin American and the Caribbean; and actively engage contemporary issues of direct concern to African cultures and societies that have global significance. These issues may include debates centered on the destruction of ancient art and manuscripts due to war and religion; the looting of archeological sites and its relationship to the global art market; questions around authorship, value, and authenticity; the exhibition of African Art in museums in the west; the repatriation of art objects; the manner in which Africa is represented the west; and the meaning of the term "African diaspora".

(Prerequisite: AAS 150/Introduction to Africana Studies)

## Anthropology

**AAS 390 (APY 384)** TTh, 4:20-5:35

### **Caribbean Archeology**

Jorge Hung

An examination of human lifeways in the Antillean archipelago from first settlement through the development of complex socio-political structures in the Late Ceramic Age and ultimately the arrival of European and African migrants.

## Cinematic Arts

**AAS 490 (CCA 494)** M, 3:30-6:15

### **Race and/as Media**

Terri Francis

It is often said that representation matters but how so? What is representation? What comes before and what is beyond representation? This class critically examines how screen and audio-visual media (including film, video, television, radio, internet) mediate race and ethnicity and the other way around, primarily looking at materials produced in the United States. Using humanities approaches, such as historical inquiry, cultural interpretation, first-person essay, primary source research, and close textual analysis, topics may focus on representations and debates within mainstream cinema, art, or alternative media. While examining the racial underpinnings of media, the course addresses race as itself a media, a framing of experience, personhood, and the collective. The course addresses histories of racial formation, racism, and the ways media makers among various groups of Americans resist dominant narratives of belonging across the 20th and 21st centuries by using the very media that have been the key instruments of their marginalization in varying and surprising ways.

### English

**AAS 290** (ENG 261) MWF, 11:45-12:35

#### **Literature of the Americas**

Marina Magloire

Selected readings from North, Central, and South American, and Caribbean literature from their origins to the present.

**AAS 390** (ENG 396) MWF, 1:00-1:50

#### **Housing in the Black Literary Imagination**

Donette Francis

Where one lives determine quality of life conditions such as schools, employment, healthcare, services and food, hence homeownership has been a defining feature of the American Dream. Given the legacy of slavery, the politics of homeownership has been central to imaginings of Black freedom in the Americas. This course examines classic African American & Caribbean-American narratives that address issues of Black housing (sharecropping, farming, urban tenements and suburban houses) for what they suggest about Black mobility or immobility, security and surveillance as well as the perils and promises of the quest for home. Key themes: vulnerable cities, racial segregation, redlining, subprime lending, gentrification, the black middle-class, inheritance and intergenerational memory. While the classic black housing narratives are set in Pittsburgh, Chicago and New York, this semester we will use the city of Miami as our lab to think about how course themes materialize in the neighborhoods of Coconut Grove, Overtown, Little Haiti, and Liberty City. In addition to weekly assigned readings and unannounced quizzes, students will do a debate presentation, follow stories of Miami neighborhoods, write midterm and final essays. We will also have guest lectures.

**AAS 390** (ENG 396) MW, 3:30-4:45

#### **Black and Native Literatures**

Marina Magloire

This course explores the historic solidarities, tensions, and possibilities between Black and Native communities in the Americas through literature. We begin with early American encounters between enslaved people and the indigenous people of the US and the Caribbean, navigating a complex landscape in which indigenous communities could be enslaved or

enslavers and could offer Black maroons haven or harm. As we move into the twentieth century and the present, we will examine the ways that Black and Native communities try to envision a world where Native sovereignty enables Black liberation, and vice-versa.

**AAS 490 (ENG 486) TTh, 1:00-2:15**

**Early African-American Literature**

Marlon Moore

How does queerness as an analytical framework help us to access and (re)assess configurations of intimacy, kinship, and belonging in African American contexts? How have black trans, lesbian, gay, and bisexual artists and scholars shifted paradigms through their articulations of difference, community, and identity? What fault lines and frictions emerge among such articulations? This interdisciplinary methods course addresses these questions through a survey of academic and cultural texts that have contributed to black queer studies as an epistemological formation. Discussions will place a strong emphasis on the methods, analytical concepts, and reformulations that deepen our understanding and (re)shape our thinking about black LGBTQ cultures, politics, and sense of community in the US. Assignments include weekly short papers and an oral presentation. The final weeks of class will be devoted to the development of a research proposal and annotated bibliography. Students will be required to formulate a black queer-inflected methodology for analyzing, contextualizing, and making arguments about a contemporary black cultural text of their choosing.

**History**

**AAS 390 (HIS 318) TTh, 2:40-3:55**

**History of the Caribbean, I**

Kate Ramsey

Caribbean history major topics, debates, and themes from the fifteenth to early nineteenth centuries; the centrality of the Caribbean to larger world histories of conquest, colonialism, slavery and emancipation, capitalism, migration, religious transformation, republicanism, and nation-state formation.

**AAS 390 (HIS 412) MWF, 10:30-11:20**

**Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr: A Call to Civic Engagement**

Sumita Chatterjee

Selected works of M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. and their legacies and impact on the field of community service and civic engagement. The class will be organized into three modules - 1) academic learning inside the classroom, 2) work on similar themes in the community, 3) reflections of civic engagement before, during, and after conclusion of modules. Through a detailed study of Gandhi and King's writings, speeches, archival and visual materials we will explore their theories and praxis of engaged citizenry, political, social and economic justice. Students will be paired with City Year Miami based in Miami-Dade County that works in areas of education access and closing the gap in marginalized communities.

**AAS 490 (HIS 554) F, 2:15-5:00**

**Caribbean Religions: Healing and Power**

Kate Ramsey

This seminar studies Caribbean religious histories and cultures with a particular focus on questions of healing and power. The scope of the course will be pan-Caribbean and transhistorical, from the seventeenth century to the present. We will reflect on the central place of healing in Caribbean religious traditions, and consider how spiritual practices have been a key resource for popular political struggle across histories of colonialism, slavery, indenture, occupation, and movements for national independence and full citizenship. Throughout the semester we will think about the complex interconnections among Caribbean religious communities, and interrogate the concept of “religion” itself. Texts will include primary sources, historical studies, ethnographies, literary works, film, and materials at UM Libraries’ Cuban Heritage Collection and Special Collections.

### **Musicology**

MCY 124 TTh, 2:40-3:55

#### **The Evolution of Jazz**

Charles Bergeron

A study of the origin, development, and styles of jazz music and its exponents. This course is not for music majors. Music majors should enroll in MSJ 113 and MSJ 213.

MCY 125 TTh, 2:40-3:55

#### **African-American Gospel Music**

Melvin Butler

This course surveys the stylistic evolution of African-American gospel music from the nineteenth-century folk spiritual to twenty-first century commercial genres. The focus is on the contributions of some of gospel music's most influential figures, including Thomas Dorsey, Sallie Martin, William Herbert Brewster, Mahalia Jackson, James Cleveland, Shirley Caesar, Andraé Crouch, Fred Hammond, Kirk Franklin, and others.

MCY 222 TTh, 4:20-5:35

#### **African-American Song Traditions**

Melvin Butler

A study of the origins, development, and styles of African American song traditions from early plantation songs, shouts, hollers, and spirituals, to the development of blues traditions, to gospel. Areas to be explored include the development of an African American cultural consciousness and the political and socio-economic influences on the content and musical styles.

### **Religious Studies**

AAS 390 (REL 372) TTh, 1:00-2:15

#### **Islam and the United States: The Politics of Race**

Nebil Husayn

A critical review of the cultural and political history of U.S. relations with various Muslim communities both domestic and foreign. Major themes include the experience of Muslims in North America, xenophobia, racism, national security, law enforcement and violence.

### **Sociology**

AAS 390 (SOC 387) TTh, 8:00-9:15 am

#### **Race and Ethnic Relations**

Jomills Braddock

The nature and dynamics of race and ethnic relations with particular emphasis on racial and ethnic groups in the United States. We examine basic concepts and major theories in the analysis of race and ethnic relations, racial and ethnic inequality, past and recent immigration experiences, and the historical and current status of specific racial and ethnic groups. Students will also be engaged in a variety of exercises designed to develop critical assessment and analytical skills for examining and understanding issues related to race and ethnicity. (Prerequisite: SOC 101)

**AAS 390 (SOC 388) TTh, 8:00-9:15 am**

**The Black Ghetto in Urban Society**

Marvin Dawkins

The origin and development of the concept of "ghetto" and application of this concept to both past and contemporary-views of black life in America. Students are introduced to the historical and social significance of the black ghetto in the context of the larger body of literature on the ghetto phenomenon. Emphasis is placed on gaining an understanding and developing critical insight into issues and prospects for the resolution of issues related to black ghettoization.