



"Pauli Murray In the World," a mural by Brett Cook, Durham, NC.

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AFRICANA STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE COURSE CATALOG SPRING 2023

AAS 150 Introduction to Africana Studies
Multiple sections, in-person and remote instruction.

Instructors

Edmund Abaka (Online): Experiences of African American and other African-descended peoples with emphases on social, cultural, political, and historical concerns.

Marlon Moore (TuThu 12:30-1:45): To introduce students to the field of study, this course centers on the “big questions” that drive much of the research in Black Studies. It is taught in a flipped-learning format, which means class time will be devoted primarily to group discussion and debate, sharing observations, and building knowledge in a participatory manner. Some activities will take place in virtual spaces/online.

ANTHROPOLOGY

AAS 490 (APY 486)

Senior Seminar: Black Feminist Theory & Praxis

TuThu 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Jafari Allen

Black feminist theory, produced primarily by Black women scholars, artist and activists, throughout the diaspora constitutes a distinctive and influential body of politics and thought. Black feminist’s uninvited interventions in Black politics, arts and letters-- produced at the interstices of violence, silence, invisibility, or forgetting-- exposes and makes available a wider horizon of possibilities than had been proposed before its emergence. The central theoretical innovation of this praxis (later claimed by theorists of various stripes), is the multiple— ‘interlocking’, ‘intersectional’, ‘compounded’—constitution of “identity,” oppression, aesthetic sensibilities, for example, and therefore of roads toward freedom. This distinctive body of work is not only interdisciplinary, multilingual; but also constitutive to specific geographies, politics, experiences, and particular intellectual and political streams.

CINEMATIC ARTS

AAS 490 (CCA 494) Senior Seminar: Global Black Film

Mo 3:35 pm - 6:20 pm

Terri Frances

This course explores the international history of film, centered on the pioneering innovations by people of African descent from 1898 to the present. The practice of Black film, including the work of directors, performers, writers and more, is part of a global system of circulation, citation, and exchange. On and off screen, the stories of Black film history feature themes of migration, travel, and the quest. In the course, topics include the careers of individual international stars like Josephine Baker as well as landmark films that point to histories of collective film creativity amid transformative political movements in the Caribbean, Africa, the United States, and Europe.

ENGLISH

AAS 390 (ENG 395) Special Topics: Black Diaspora Literature, Cinema, and Social change

TuThu 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Patricia Saunders

This course examines the role of literature and film in documenting social justice movements and representing the critical need for these movements across the African Diaspora. The dramatic increase in contemporary films that focus on histories of racism and social inequity in the African Diaspora suggests that the increased visibility of social inequities is fueling this renaissance. However, the stories being told are written at the height of the Civil Rights Movement and the anti-colonial movements in Africa and the Caribbean region. Films such as: *I am Not Your Negro* (2016) and *If Beale Street Could Talk* (2018), both original texts by James Baldwin, have evoked a good deal of public commentary and critical acclaim. But this trend is not new—*The Color Purple* (1985), based on the novel by Alice Walker, and most notably the novel, *Roots* (1977), based on the novel by Alex Haley, also address the deeply rooted impacts of slavery, sexism and racism in American history. There has also been a long tradition of social protest in African cinema with Senegalese films like *Hyenas* (1992), by Djibril Mambety, and *Xala* (1975), by Ousmane Sembene. We will discuss how films help shape our collective national consciousness about social injustice, racism and colonial and neocolonial power. No matter the point of social and political engagement, these films all bring with them a long tradition of Black Diaspora cinematography that we will also discuss with the help of invited guests.

ENG 361 Caribbean Literature

MoWe 3:35-4:50pm

Kelly Josephs

This course is designed to explore the issues and themes commonly found in Anglophone Caribbean cultural production set in the Caribbean and its diasporas. We will consider a variety of genres via texts published in the twentieth and early twenty-first century, reading the texts from several different angles – including colonialism, globalization, and migration. Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to representations of history, sexuality, diaspora, and the aftermath of catastrophes (natural and man-made). Our class will be organized via the Keywords for Caribbean Studies digital project and we will read canonical authors such as Kamau 23 Brathwaite, Jamaica Kincaid, Jean Rhys, and Derek Walcott alongside newer Caribbean writers and creators. Class will be discussion based, with short in-class writings, oral presentation, potential digital project creation, and a final paper.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

AAS 390 (GSS 315) Special Topics: Gender, Race, and Class

TuThu 5:05 pm - 6:20 pm

Sumita Chatterjee

Conceptions and intersections of gender, race, and class in historical and contemporary cultures; the impact of these experiences on individuals and society as a whole.

HISTORY

AAS 590 (HIS 561-40) Advanced Topics: Slavery in Fact and Fiction

Th 5:00 pm - 7:45 pm

Scott Heerman

How can we come to terms with slavery? Scholars, artists, and activists have all produced work that tries to make sense of slavery in the United States. Yet the answers remain elusive, in part because of the difficulties of placing enslaved people at the center of those works. In this class we will explore how historians and novelists have portrayed slavery and explore how we might better know the history of enslaved people.

HIS 569 Studies in African American History

Tu 6:00 pm - 8:45 pm

Donald Spivey

Throughout the history of Black folk in America there has been a wide range of thought about what should be the right course of action or agenda for the race. The thinking has ranged the gamut from the advocacy of freedom “By Any Means Necessary” to accommodation and integration, to the building of a separate Black nation within America, to the Back-to-Africa Movements. This seminar will probe the thinking and formulations of those Black leaders. While our concentration will be on African-American leadership, we will have a strong comparative component as we also explore the ideas of some of the key leaders of African descent in other parts of the Diaspora during the all-important foundation years of the late 19th and 20th Centuries.

MODERN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

AAS 590 (FRE 775) Advanced Topics: Francophone Black Feminisms in Translation

Tu 11:00 am - 1:45 pm

Cae Joseph-Massena

Taught in English. Centers key literary texts, films, and music authored by Black and Brown women within francophone worlds. Because the African diasporic experience is always already in translation, and because of the tangential relationship between U.S. Black feminisms and francophone Black feminisms in particular, we will pair each text with an array of critical essays belonging to Black feminist epistemologies from an array of linguistic traditions as well as cultural/theoretical frameworks. This course aims to ponder on the following questions: what are the specificities of francophone Black women’s experiences and modes of world and meaning making? How can their aesthetics, depicted struggles, delineated modes of embodiment, relationship to space, time, nation, history, consciousness or what it means to be (in)human help expand our understanding of the contemporary worlds, and make light of the way we chose and are made to inhabit our lives?

LAS 301/POR 322 LGBTQIA+ Brazil and Querying the Paradise of Paradox

TuThu 2:00- 3:15 pm

Steven Butterman

Taught in English. Cultural issues in the Portuguese-speaking world. Topics include media, religion, language in society, popular and mass culture, the arts, immigration, social movements, race, ethnicity, and gender.

MUSICOLOGY

AAS 290 (MCY 222) Special Topics:

African American Song Traditions

TuThu 3:30-4:45 pm — Flipped Learning Format

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.

MCY 121 Hip-Hop History, Culture, and Globalization

TuThu 11:00 am - 12:15 pm — Online Format

Brent Swanson

A critical history and analysis of the hip-hop culture in the U.S. and beyond. The course will cover major historical periods hip-hop in the U.S. beginning in the 1970s through its global impact in the 21st century. The course will also include analysis of technology, gender, race, sexuality, religion, and politics related to hip-hop culture.

MCY 124 The Evolution of Jazz

TuTh 2:00-3:15 pm

Charles Bergeron

A study of the origin, development, and styles of jazz music and its exponents.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

AAS 390 – J (REL 372) Special Topics: Islam & The United States: The Politics of Race, Media, and Terrorism

MoWe 5:05 pm - 6:05 pm

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 AND CRIMINOLOGY

AAS 390 – N (SOC 388) Special Topics:

The Black Ghetto in Urban Society

TuThu 8:00 am - 9:15 am

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.

AAS 390 (SOC 389) Special Topics:

The Black Athlete in White America

TuThu 9:30 am - 10:45 am

Marvin Dawkins

The impact of racism on sport in the United States with a specific focus on the Black athlete. Drawing upon the literature on race and sport in America, the course takes a historical view of the social context in which black athletes have competed and excelled in their craft against tremendous odds both inside and outside of sport competition.