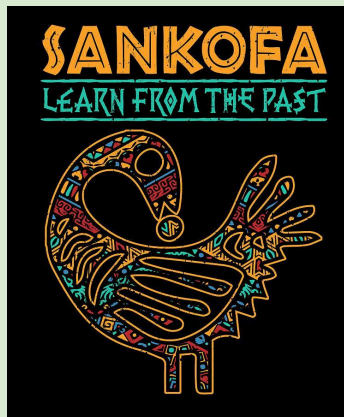


# AFRICANA STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  SUMMER FALL 2026 COURSES

Learn about the experiences of people of African descent in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and continental Africa.



**SANKOFA** is a term from the Akan people of Ghana that represents the **importance of learning from the past to build a stronger future**. It is symbolized by a mythical bird looking backward while flying forward, literally translating to "go back and get it". The concept is widely used in African diaspora communities as **a symbol of cultural identity, resilience, and a reminder** that the knowledge of the past must not be forgotten. Sankofa embodies **humility, reflection, and respect for ancestry**, teaching us that **progress comes through understanding and honoring history**.

---

## AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA COGNATE

Courses included in the cognate are identified by an asterisk (\*). To ensure you're on track, regularly check your [Degree Progress Report](#) for the most current list of acceptable electives and to confirm courses are properly distributed into your *major, minor, or cognate*. Access your Degree Progress Report:

<https://um.my.site.com/CC/s/article/How-can-I-view-my-academic-requirements>.

If you need to *request course substitutions*, ask your primary advisor to contact the Director of Africana Studies, Dr. Kelly Baker Josephs, at [aas@miami.edu](mailto:aas@miami.edu).

For more information, visit our website: <https://africana.as.miami.edu/>.

# SUMMER 2026

*Most summer courses are designed for distance learning instruction. The designation "online" signals an asynchronous format. Confirm in Canelink or contact the instructor directly.*

## **AFRICANA STUDIES COURSES**

### **AAS 150 Introduction to Africana Studies**

**ONLINE**

JOVANTÉ ANDERSON

This introductory course exposes students to a comprehensive overview of the lived experiences of Black people throughout the African Diaspora. We will survey the complex history of Africans in the Americas, Black cultural production in the arts, and historic and contemporary forms of resistance. We will also examine the process of racialization in different parts of the African Diaspora, including Latin America and the Caribbean, and the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality as they relate to Black people today. We do this through a close examination of literature, music, film, social and political histories, and digital cultural production.

### **AAS 390 Special Topics in Africana Literary & Cultural Studies: Afro-Latin Cinema**

**ONLINE**

JORDAN ROGERS

Focusing on works by and about Afro-Latin peoples from Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela, and their diasporas, we will contextualize the role of cinema in Afro-Latin history and culture. With due consideration given to Black women and Black LGBTQ+ folks, this course endeavors to analyze the Black cinematic experience in Latin America from a variety of different angles.

\*\*\*\*\*

# FALL 2026

## AFRICANA STUDIES COURSES

### **AAS 150 Introduction to Africana Studies**

**TuTh 3:30PM - 4:45PM**

KELLY BAKER JOSEPHS

This introductory course exposes students to a comprehensive overview of the lived experiences of Black people throughout the African Diaspora. We will survey the complex history of Africans in the Americas, Black cultural production in the arts, and historic and contemporary forms of resistance. We will also examine the process of racialization in different parts of the African Diaspora, including Latin America and the Caribbean, and the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality as they relate to Black people today. We do this through a close examination of literature, music, film, social and political histories, and digital cultural production.

### **AAS 360 Black Miami Studies: Black Cinematic Miami**

**Th 2:00PM - 4:45PM**

TERRI FRANCIS

Miami's position as the north of the global south and the paradisiacal elsewhere of the United States makes it a unique cinematic setting to study. Meanwhile Afro-Miami's multinational, multilingual identities challenge and expand upon dominant anglophone US-centric constructions of Black belonging. Through a survey of Black Miami's motion picture history and present, this course critically investigates such dynamics as well as topics of climate, immigration, gentrification, labor, leisure, and public health at the crossroads of the United States, the US South, and the Global South. The social-cultural, aesthetic, political and historical forces shape Black Miami and provide the context for the films studied in the course. This course surveys a range of filmmakers who have taken up the question of Black Miami through avant-garde, fiction, and nonfiction modes. Students will learn methods of close analysis, research, and oral history through biweekly written assignments, quizzes, a class presentation, and a final project.

*This course is combined with CCA 494/795 Special Topics: Black Cinematic Miami*

**AAS 390 Special Topics in Africana Literary & Cultural Studies: Caribbean Literature**

**MW 3:35PM - 4:50PM**

INSTRUCTOR TBD

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 in Caribbean Studies](#) digital project and we will read canonical authors such as Lorna Goodison, Kamau 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.

*This course is combined with ENG 631 Caribbean Literature*

**AAS 490 Senior Seminar Africana Studies**

**MWF 2:30PM - 3:20PM**

ALLANNAH K. KARAS

This course examines the ways that contemporary artists reconfigure Greek and Roman gods, heroes and myths in an expression of joyful agency and creativity. While Classical mythology has been appropriated to promote exclusionary ideologies throughout history, many artists of the African diaspora repurpose classical figures for healing and repair. This course examines these artists, their artwork, and the ancient stories upon which they are based. Artworks to be discussed range from sculpture, painting, and mixed media pieces to installations; texts include passages from ancient Greek and Roman poetry and drama (in translation).

*This course is combined with CLA 324 Classical Myth and Contemporary Art*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **REQUIRED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE WITH AFRICANA THEMES**

**ENG106 Writing About Literature and Culture—The Animal Within**  
**MWF 8:00AM - 8:50AM**  
BENDJHI VILLIERS

This course juxtaposes African American, African, and Caribbean scholarship engaging animality to explore how claims to reason and freedom have undergirded debates about gender hierarchy, racialization, immigration, and other mechanisms used to deny specific populations access to resources. Drawing on 20th- and 21st-century literature, we ask what it means to be human by interrogating the claim that humans are the only “rational mortal animal”: animal because we are living things, mortal because we are not gods, and rational because we—alone among mortal things—are said to possess reason. Our core texts will include Alain Mabanckou’s *Memoirs of a Porcupine*, excerpts from Jacques Derrida’s *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, Octavia Butler’s “Bloodchild,” and René Depestre’s *Hadriana in All My Dreams*. Class will be discussion-driven and workshop-based, pairing close reading with short lectures and student-led discussions. At the end of the course, you will produce a research paper using primary and secondary sources that analyzes contemporary definitions of the human in a digital world and the literary strategies writers use to make those claims.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **AFRICANA STUDIES MAJOR/MINOR/COGNATE COURSES FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

**GSS 315 Gender, Race, Class**  
**TuTh 2:00PM - 3:15PM**  
SUMITA CHATTERJEE

This course interrogates common sense thinking about gender, race, and class drawing on academic readings, documentaries, podcasts and fiction from the social sciences and humanities. We will explore the ways in which intersections of gender, race, and class shape society and the lived experiences of individuals and groups within it. The focus of such readings will be the United States and its institutions such as public policy, economy, education, immigration, and media. We will analyze how categories of gender, race, and class intersect, create inequities, and build solidarities and resistance movements for change over historical time and in specific cultural contexts. Class readings, lectures, discussions, and class activities will be from an intersectional and multidisciplinary perspective.

The course will be structured around five modules lasting two/three weeks each. In module one we will study the ways in which difference is constructed along the axis of race, class, gender drawing from scholarship in the social sciences and humanities – examining definitions and theories regarding these social constructs. Module two will lay the historical foundations on which social constructions such as race, gender, class found meaning in the United States – the colonial encounter with the Native America, and the coming of plantation economy, early capitalism, and slavery that scaffolded this history. Module three looks at the great migration of African Americans from Southern U.S., driven to an extent by material conditions, exclusionary policies, and individual/familial desires to overcome barriers placed by race, gender, class statuses. Module four will focus on how gender, race, class play out in social institutions such as public policies, laws, economy, education, and media. Module five will examine the ways in which individuals and groups in society have resisted and challenged inequities through social justice movements, creative pursuits, and formed solidarities within and across frames of gender, race, and class identities to foster change and challenge inequities.

### **HIS 201 History of Africa I (to 1800)**

**TuTh 2:00PM - 3:15PM**

ETANA DINKA

This course surveys selected themes in African history from the origins of agriculture to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Its focus encompasses historical processes in African civilizations, statecraft, societies, cultures, economies, the environment, and demography across Africa's diverse geographical regions and global encounters since the sixteenth century. It covers all geographical zones—north and south of the Sahara. We draw on primary sources, contemporary historical scholarship, and selected documentary films to represent myriad experiences in Africa's past and the continent's place in centuries of global interactions.

### **HIS 353 History of Cuba**

**TuTh 2:00PM - 3:15PM**

MICHAEL BUSTAMANTE

This course surveys modern Cuban history from the colonial era to the present. We begin by considering Cuba's winding path to independence from Spain in the wake of slave emancipation and under a U.S. shadow. We will then examine, and debate, the nature of the political and economic order that followed the founding of the Cuban Republic in 1902. The bulk of the course, however, explores the Cuban Revolution (leading up to and after 1959) as a contested historical process and experience. We will assess evolving conceptions of what it meant to be "revolutionary" in the post-1959

context; we will evaluate conflicting claims about the Castro government's legacies of repression and empowerment; and we will dissect the politics of race, gender, and culture alongside Cuban economic policies, state formation, and foreign relations. Against accounts that treat recent Cuban history as a mere function of the island's conflicted relationship with the United States, or as a series of Cold War flash points, we will explore the relationship *between* local, national, and international forces. To that end, we will also consider the formation, evolution, and impact of Cuban exile and diaspora communities. Course assignments and lectures incorporate significant engagement with primary and cultural materials, including visual art, literature, and film, in addition to historical scholarship.

### **MCY 121 - Hip-Hop History, Culture, and Globalization**

**Two sections: TuTh 12:30PM - 1:45PM**

**TuTh 5:05PM - 6:20PM**

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 1970's 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 2:00PM - 3:15PM**

LUCAS APOSTOLERIS

The course is a study of the origin, development, and styles of jazz music and its exponents. The principal objectives of the course are to: (i) increase awareness of the wide range of musical styles and subgenres that make up the jazz soundscape, (ii) provide perspective on the complex cultural interactions that shape jazz, and the role these interactions play in shaping notions of ethnicity, gender, nationality, and other markers of identity, (iii) show how and why jazz's location on a "cultural hierarchy" has changed in North America over the past century, and (iv) explore the historical events, new technologies, and shifting cultural values that influence—and are influenced by—new jazz styles.

### **POL 378 African Politics**

**Tu 6:35PM - 9:00PM**

MICHAEL TOUCHTON

This course provides an in-depth examination of the political dynamics shaping contemporary Africa. Through a multidisciplinary approach, students will explore the historical, social, economic, and cultural factors influencing politics on the continent.

Topics covered include colonial legacies, state-building, governance, democratization, conflict, development, and globalization. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the diversity of African political systems and the complexities of addressing pressing issues facing the continent. Yet, general arguments only go so far- they cannot explain the experience of individual countries or of key regions within large, diverse national contexts. We debate these theoretical arguments and situate them in individual African countries and regions as we explore the broader topic of African politics.

### **SOC 387 Race and Ethnic Relations**

**TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM**

JOMILLS HENRY BRADDOCK II

This course introduces students to 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, 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 in examining issues related to race and ethnicity.

### **SOC 388 The Black Ghetto in Urban Society**

**TuTh 2:00PM - 3:15PM**

MARVIN DAWKINS

This course examines the evolution of the "ghetto" concept, its origin and applications, with a specific focus on past and contemporary views of "the Black ghetto" in urban America. We examine such forces as the "Great Black Migration" from the rural South to the urban North and other forces which, initially, had both positive and negative outcomes as the ghettoization of blacks took shape. A major focus of the course is on examining and resolving some of the negative consequences faced by residents of contemporary Black ghetto communities in the U.S.

### **SOC 389 The Black Athlete in White America**

**TuTh 9:30 - 10:45 AM**

MARVIN DAWKINS

This course examines the impact of racism on sport in the United States with a specific focus on the Black athlete. The course takes a socio-historical view to examine the social contexts in which Black athletes competed and the impact of individual, institutional and systemic racism on them both inside and outside of competition. Using the lens of biography, the sports careers of specific Black athletes across a range of sports are examined.

## **AFRICANA-RELEVANT ELECTIVES (NON-PROGRAM COURSES)**

These are not courses for the AAS major, minor or cognate, so they **will NOT give you credit toward an AAS major or minor**. But they are relevant to the field of Africana Studies. You can take these as general electives toward your degree and for broadening your knowledge on Africa and its Diasporas. **Please consult your advisor** if you are interested but unsure how the course might count toward your degree.

### **APY 311 Cuban Culture and Society**

MW 12:20PM - 1:35PM

JORGE HUNG

### **APY 425 Global Health Response to Disaster**

TuTh 3:30PM - 4:45PM

LOUIS MARCELIN

### **APY 435 Anthropology of Nature and Environment**

MWF 11:15AM - 12:05PM

JORGE HUNG

### **LAS 501 Politics, Societies and Cultures of Latin America**

Th 6:35PM - 9:20PM

JORGE HUNG

### **MCY 538 Music Gender and Sexuality**

TuTh 2:00PM - 3:15PM

MARYSOL QUEVEDO

### **SOC 303 Social Inequalities**

TuTh 11:00AM - 12:15PM


GEORGE WILSON

### **SOC 352 Sports and Society**

TuTh 8:00AM - 9:15AM


JOMILLS HENRY BRADDOCK

Fall 2026



# APY 311 Cuban, Culture and Society


Mon / Wed 12:20 - 1:35  
Merrick 103 A



How have geography, migrations, diasporas, and global links shaped Cuba's cultural diversity?

Fall 2026

## APY 435 Anthropology of Nature and Environment



Is "nature" a universal category or a cultural invention?

How do different societies conceptualize the relationship between humans and non-humans?

Mo/We/Fr. 11:15-12:05 | Dooley Memorial 117

