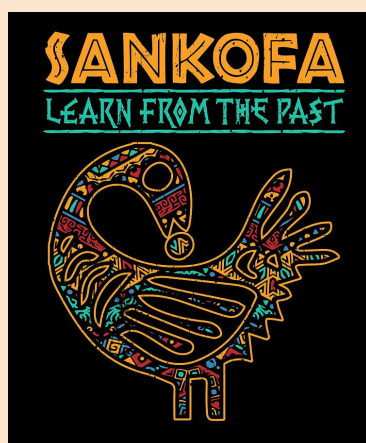


# AFRICANA STUDIES

## UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SPRING 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**.

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### 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/>.

# SPRING 2026

## AFRICANA STUDIES COURSES:

### **AAS 290 Q-LEC (11843) Special Topics in Africana Studies: Black Central American Literature, Art, Diaspora**

This course explores Black Central American cultural production, including literary, visual, and multimedia texts, as a transnational archive of memory, resistance, and belonging. From poetry, fiction, and memoir to photography, film, and visual art, Afro-descendant and Afro-Indigenous creators from Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama contest racialized geographies, colonial legacies, and nationalist exclusions. Their work engages themes of gender, language, land, migration, and cultural survival, often written, imaged, or filmed in relation to the Caribbean Coast, long positioned as a racialized periphery in the Central American imaginary. The course places 20th-century figures such as Quince Duncan, Eulalia Bernard Little, June Beer, and Zee Edgell in conversation with contemporary writers and artists such as Shirely Campbell Barr, Jenise Miller, Janel Martinez, Breena Nuñez, Dianne Hebbert, Katie Numi, Marton Robinson, and Gianna De Dier. By reading literature alongside visual art, film, photography, and performance, students will consider how these works circulate across borders and illuminate the complexities of displacement, survival, and belonging in the Americas. Primary texts will be paired with critical works in Black feminist theory, diaspora studies, and cultural histories of Black Central America, framing cultural production not only as regional expression but as hemispheric and world-making practice. *This course is combined with ENG 261 Q-LEC (5010) Literature of the Americas: Black Central American Literature, Art, Diaspora*

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

**MELANIE WHITE**

**AAS 490 4G-LEC (1354) Senior Seminar in Africana Studies - Race and/as Media**

This class critically examines how screen and audio-visual media (including film, video, television, radio, internet) mediate race and ethnicity and how race and ethnicity mediate screen and audio-visual media with a primary focus on materials produced in the United States. Using humanities approaches including historical inquiry, cultural interpretation, first-person essay, primary source research, and close textual analysis, topics will focus on representations and debates within mainstream cinema, art, and/or alternative media.

*This course is combined with CCA 413 - 4G (1426) Race and/as Media*

**We** 2:30PM - 5:15PM

**TERRI FRANCIS**

**REQUIRED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE WITH AFRICANA THEMES:****ENG 106 HI-LEC (5047) Writing About Literature and Culture**

This course introduces students to the foundational writing practices essential for literary study, with a focus on Caribbean and Global Black Studies. Through a synthesis of fiction, poetry, music, visual art, and theoretical texts, we will explore how cultural workers respond to migration, tourism, and the shaping of Caribbean perspectives. What is Caribbean idiom? How do artists and writers navigate movement, memory, and resistance? Students will develop core writing skills including crafting complex thesis statements, asking research questions, and engaging with credible secondary sources. Major assignments include a close reading-based critical analysis, an annotated bibliography, a literature review, and a final research paper. Weekly responses and two presentations (one on a syllabus text, one on a research topic) support students' growth as literary thinkers and communicators. By semester's end, students will be equipped to write with clarity and confidence about literature and literary criticism.

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

**SADE GORDON**

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

**\*APY 385 HI-LEC (4032) Caribbean Cultures**

Caribbean societies, including ethnic diversity, production and exchange, domestic organization, and belief systems.

Class Attributes: Individualized People & Society Cognate

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

**LOUIS MARCELIN**

**BPH 305 QE34-PBL (2235) Issues in Health Disparities**

This course will be an introduction to the general research on health systems and health disparities. Emphasis will be placed on social, biological, economic, and social policy issues that impact on the health of minority populations. Concepts associated with epidemiology, poverty, racism, public policy, and international politics will be explored. Prerequisite: BPH 206

Class Attributes: Individualized People & Society Cognate, Dialogue and Discussion

**We** 5:05PM - 7:50PM

**INSTRUCTOR TBA**

**CCA 414 1G-LEC (11495) Blackness and American Television**

Examines the sites of production, reception, representation, and industry as related to black televisual images from the 1950s to today.

**Mo** 2:30PM - 5:15PM

**ALFRED MARTIN**

**CCA 494 Q-LEC (1349) Special Topics in Cinematic Arts: Cinematic Afrofuturism**

This course explores Afrofuturism, an international movement in cinema, music, art, literature and more featuring futuristic themes and speculative fiction that intersect with elements of African and Black diasporic history and culture. In film, Afrofuturism largely means combining Black history, culture, and social issues with science fiction. The course will further explore the border between Afrofuturism and Afrosurrealism, a concept that draws upon surrealism as well as Négritude as articulated by Suzanne Césaire and Aimé Césaire in the early twentieth century. Both modes have influenced contemporary media today and while Afrofuturism is the more well-known, the terms are at times used interchangeably, though they are distinct.

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

**TERRI FRANCIS**

**\*ENG 348 CD-LEC (11660) Modern African Literature and Film**

This class will give students an introduction to the amazing range of African literature and film from the era of independence from colonialism in the late 1950s, through the postcolonial Cold War era, into the post-apartheid, post-Arab Spring present. African writers and film-makers have been unusually politically engaged, but they are also often aesthetically experimental, and their works tell stories that often challenge preconceived notions about the continent. We will look at some of the most historically important writers and film-makers, and examine a few of the big debates in African literary studies, such as the question of why and how writers use the languages of the former colonizers; but the class will also emphasize questions of gender and sexuality in African cultural production, and highlight the vibrant work of female and queer writers and film-makers.

Class Attributes: Individualized Arts & Humanities Cognate, Individualized People & Society Cognate

**MoWe 10:10AM - 11:25AM**

**BRENNA MUNRO**

## **GSS 315 U-LEC (11376) Gender, Race, and Class**

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. 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 the Southern U.S., driven to an extent by material conditions, racist policies, and individual/familial desires to overcome barriers placed by race, gender, class statuses in Jim Crow South. 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.

Class Attributes: Individualized People & Society Cognate

**TuTh** 6:35PM - 7:50PM

**SUMITA CHATTERJEE**

**HAI 102 J-LEC (5576) Elementary Haitian Creole II**

Basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in Elementary Haitian Creole 101. Students will produce more complex grammatical structures in oral and written presentations, and focus on improvement of pronunciation.

Prerequisite: HAI 101.

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

**CHEROL MARCELIN**

**\*HIS 210 P-LEC (11350) African-American History, 1877-PRESENT**

History of people of African descent in the United States from 1877 to present.

Class Attributes: Individualized Arts & Humanities Cognate, Individualized People & Society Cognate

**TuTh** 11:00AM - 12:15PM

**KEVAN MALONE**

**HIS 320 R-LEC (5007) Africa & The Indian Ocean World**

Since ancient times and through the modern era, the East African littoral has had a vibrant exchange of commodities, peoples, ideas, diseases, technologies, etc., with the rest of the Indian Ocean world. This course examines selected themes in the history of Africa's interactions with the world of the Indian Ocean, which span several centuries. Its focus includes human-environment interactions, the roles of Islam, maritime commerce, European involvement in the region, and the creation of a distinct Swahili culture that connected societies and economies in the East African interior to the Indian Ocean world. It relies on weekly reading, multiple activities, and writing requirements, appreciating methodological challenges that confronted historians to understand the region's dynamic and most complex historical processes. The course, therefore, starts with readings and discussions about the idea of Africa, issues in its historiography, and key historical concepts related to the

Indian Ocean Africa. While Africa remains the course's principal focus, the nature of the lectures and activities invite discussions from global perspectives.

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

**ETANA DINKA**

**\*MCY 121 Hip-Hop History, Culture, and Globalization (Online)**

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.

Class Attributes: Individualized Arts & Humanities Cognate

**TuTh 11:00AM - 12:15PM - P-LEC (8080)**

**TuTh 2:00PM - 3:15PM - R-LEC (8081)**

**BRENT SWANSON**

**MCY 124 R-LEC (8060) The Evolution of Jazz**

An overview of the sociological approach to the analysis of structured socioeconomic inequality (a.k.a. "social stratification") in contemporary American society. In this regard, emphases are placed on identifying trends, causes, and consequences of the distribution of a wide range of material (e.g. income, wealth) and symbolic (status, prestige) rewards in American society.

Class Attributes: Individualized Arts & Humanities Cognate

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

**LUCAS APOSTOLERIS**

**\*MCY 222 S-LEC (8079) African-American Song Traditions**

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.

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

**MELVIN BUTLER**

**MCY 313 R-LEC (11303) Music of Latin America**

An introduction to the music of Latin America, with special emphasis on Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, the Andes, and the Caribbean. Covers folk, popular, and classical music traditions. Open to non-music majors.

Class Attributes: Individualized Arts & Humanities Cognate

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

**MARYSOL QUEVEDO**

**POL 324 4J-LEC (5747) Crime and Punishment: Implicit Bias in the Justice System**

This course will focus on the relationship between the rational (and sometimes irrational) connection between criminal conduct and the punishment imposed. We will delve into questions such as: Why are young men of color so overrepresented on death row? Why do sentences for the same crime vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and even from judge to judge? Students will consider racial, gender, age, and other biases inherent in the judicial process and explore sentencing alternatives. Students will be invited to attend sentencing hearings and discuss specific sentencing rationales with the presiding judge. From time to time, guest lecturers including judges, legal professionals, victims and offenders may come to lead class discussions.

**We** 5:05PM - 7:50PM

**ELLEN VENZER**

**SOC 303 P-LEC (6094) Social Inequalities**

An overview of the sociological approach to the analysis of structured socioeconomic inequality (a.k.a. “social stratification”) in contemporary American society. In this regard, emphases are placed on identifying trends, causes, and consequences of the distribution of a wide range of material (e.g. income, wealth) and symbolic (status, prestige) rewards in American society.

**TuTh** 11:00AM - 12:15PM

**GEORGE WILSON**

**SOC 387 O-LEC (6352) Race and Ethnic Relations**

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.

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

**JOMILLS BRADDOCK**

**SOC 388 P-LEC (6311) The Black Ghetto in Urban Society**

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. Prerequisite: SOC 101.

Class Attributes: Individualized People & Society Cognate

**TuTh** 11:00AM - 12:15PM

**MARVIN DAWKINS**

**SOC 389 O-LEC (6245) The Black Athlete in White America**

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. Prerequisite: SOC 101.

Class Attributes: Individualized People & Society Cognate

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

**MARVIN DAWKINS**

