

AFRICANA STUDIES

Overview & Learning Goals

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Africana studies offers courses in the following fields of study: African American; African, and African diaspora. Over the course of their major/minor in Africana studies, students acquire knowledge and develop skills through coursework, independent studies, and, in some cases, a senior honors project. These skills and knowledge include:

- learning about the past and present of the African continent and its diaspora, with a particular focus on the United States, by employing interdisciplinary methods;
- writing clear and concise arguments about the historical, literary, economic, political, social, visual, and religious texts of Africa and its diaspora;
- working collaboratively with peers and/or faculty on research pertaining to African American and African political thought and historical contexts;
- speaking or performing coherently to a diverse audience about a specific topic pertaining to African American and African culture and politics; and
- designing a project using primary and secondary sources regarding Africa and its diaspora.

Options for Majoring or Minor in the Department

Students may elect to major in Africana studies or to coordinate a major in Africana studies with digital and computational studies, education, or environmental studies. Students pursuing a coordinate major may not normally elect a second major. Non-majors may elect to minor in Africana studies.

Department Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/africana-studies/>)

Faculty

Brian Purnell, *Department Chair*
Elizabeth Palmer, *Department Coordinator*

Associate Professors: Judith S. Casselberry, Tess Chakkalakal (English), Brian Purnell (History), Michele Reid-Vazquez‡ (Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies), Bianca Williams‡ (Anthropology)
Visiting Faculty: Michael Yekple

Contributing Faculty: Charlotte Daniels, Guy Mark Foster, David M. Gordon, Tracy McMullen‡, Ingrid A. Nelson*, Patrick J. Rael, Hanétha Vété-Congolo‡

Faculty/Staff Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/africana-studies/faculty-and-staff/>)

Requirements

Africana Studies Major

The major in Africana studies consists of nine courses. There are two tracks or concentrations:

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
AFRS 1101	Introduction to Africana Studies	1
Select one 2000-level Africana studies intermediate seminar.		1
Select one 3000-level Africana studies senior seminar.		1
Select six additional Africana studies electives. ^{a,b,c}		6

- a At least five courses at the intermediate or advanced level (2000 or higher)
- b Students in the African American concentration must take at least one course from the African and African Diaspora track.
- c Students in the African and African Diaspora concentration must take at least one course from the African American track.

For both concentrations:

- A maximum of two courses, either as an intermediate or advanced level independent study course or a course taken at another college or university, can count toward the major.
- An approved honors project fulfills the senior seminar requirement. A complete honors project comprises two semesters of work.

Africana Studies Minor

The minor in Africana studies consists of five courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Required courses		
AFRS 1101	Introduction to Africana Studies	1
Select four Africana studies elective courses from either of the two Africana studies tracks. ^{d,e}		4

- d Three of these courses must be at the 2000 and 3000 levels.
- e Only one of these four electives can be an intermediate or advanced level independent study course or a course taken at another college or university.

Additional Information

Additional Information and Program Policies

- A first-year writing seminar in Africana studies counts toward the major or minor in Africana studies.
- Courses that count toward the major or minor must be taken for regular letter grades, and students must earn grades of C- or better.
- The chair of Africana studies will work with students to discuss double-counting cross-listed courses with other departments or programs.
- Since the AP African American Studies course is new, the AFRS department is reviewing the exam and AP course design recommendations to determine if or how to grant credit. The department will make its decision on this issue by 2026. See the Chair if you have questions.

Information for Incoming Students (p. 2)

This fall, we will be offering one section of AFRS 1101 Introduction to Africana Studies; it is capped at 48 students and often fills. This class will likely also be offered in the spring, depending on student demand. All Africana studies classes are open to first-year students, with the exception of those taught at the 3000-level. Most of our courses attract students from all class years and academic interests, allowing first-years to get to know their fellow students in different years and with different levels of academic experience. There are many courses appropriate for first-year students that are cross-listed in other departments such as history, English, Francophone studies, anthropology and sociology. If you have questions about any of these courses, contact the department chair: Professor Brian Purnell (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/profiles/faculty/bpurnell/>).

Courses

AFRS 1010 (b) Deconstructing Racism

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the social, political, and historical evolution of racism as a system and the challenges to studying and eradicating racism in contemporary American society. Investigates the construction of race, the various logics used to justify racial thinking, and the visible and invisible forces that perpetuate racial stratification and inequality in American life. Understands the various political and social debates that complicate and undermine how racism is defined and identified. Explores its impact on individuals, institutions, and cultures in the United States, and the various formal and subversive strategies deployed by individuals and collectives for challenging and combatting it. Emphasis on developing a language for discussing, debating, and writing about race and racism sociologically for public and academic audiences. (Same as: SOC 1010)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

AFRS 1012 (c) Affirmative Action and United States History

Brian Purnell.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Interdisciplinary exploration of the rise and fall (and reappearance) of the affirmative action debate that shaped so much of the American culture wars during the 1970s and 2000s. Students primarily study affirmative action in the United States, but comparative analysis of affirmative action systems in societies outside the United States, such as South Africa and India, is also considered. Examines important Supreme Court cases that have shaped the contours of affirmative action, the rise of diversity discourse, and the different ways political and cultural ideologies – not to mention historical notions of American identity – have determined when, where, and how affirmative action has existed and whom it benefits. Study of law, economics, sociology, anthropology, history, and political science introduces students to different methodological approaches that inform Africana studies and the field's examination of the role people of African descent have played in contemporary and historical American society. Writing intensive. Analytical discussions of assigned texts. (Same as: HIST 1019)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

AFRS 1026 (c) Freedom Stories

Tess Chakkalakal.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores the ways in which the idea of American freedom has been defined both with and against slavery through readings of legal and literary texts. Students come to terms with the intersections between the political, literary, and historical concept of freedom and its relation to competing definitions of American citizenship. (Same as: ENGL 1026)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

AFRS 1048 (b) Black Radical Thinkers and the Caribbean

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores how the Black Caribbean scholars transformed race, nation, and class; expanded Blackness as a political stance and identity; and brought together Black radical traditions across the globe. The trans-Atlantic slave trade and capitalist expansion in the Caribbean radically altered notions of race, class, nation, and Blackness. Since then, Caribbean scholars have contributed new social theory through their critique and engagement with race and capitalism, exchange of ideas with Black scholars in the U.S., Europe, and Africa, and commentary on events across the world. Using the Caribbean as a starting point, the class seeks to define, interrogate, and expand what is meant by race, nation, and class through the lens of Blackness and introduces Caribbean scholarship as a site of global political, social, and cultural thought. (Same as: SOC 1018, LACL 1048)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

AFRS 1101 (c) Introduction to Africana Studies

Brian Purnell.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 50.

Focuses on major humanities and social science disciplinary and interdisciplinary African American and African diaspora themes in the context of the modern world. The African American experience is addressed in its appropriate historical context, emphasizing its important place in the history of the United States and connections to African diasporic experiences, especially in the construction of the Atlantic world. Material considered chronologically and thematically builds on historically centered accounts of African American, African diaspora, and African experiences. Introduces prospective Africana studies majors and minors to the field; provides an overview of the predominant theoretical and methodological perspectives in this evolving discipline; and establishes historical context for critical analyses of African American experiences in the United States, and their engagement with the African diaspora.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

AFRS 1105 (c) Egyptian Archaeology

Jim Higginbotham.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces the techniques and methods of archaeology through an examination of Egyptian material culture. Emphasis is placed upon understanding the major monuments and artifacts of ancient Egypt from the prehistoric cultures of the Nile Valley through the period of Roman control. Architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and other "minor arts" are examined at sites such as Saqqara, Giza, Thebes, Dendera, Tanis, and Alexandria. Considers the nature of this archaeological evidence, its context, and the relationship of archaeology to other disciplines such as africana studies, art history, anthropology, history, and classics. Course themes include the origins and development of complex state systems, funerary symbolism, contacts between Africa and the Mediterranean, and the expression of social, political and religious ideologies in art and architecture. Selected readings supplement illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds of Egypt. Class meetings include artifact sessions in Bowdoin College Museum of Art. (Same as: ARCH 1103)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 1108 (c) Introduction to Black Women's Literature

Guy Mark Foster.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

Examines the twin themes of love and sex as they relate to poems, stories, novels, and plays written by African American women from the nineteenth century to the contemporary era. Explores such issues as Reconstruction, the Great Migration, motherhood, sexism, group loyalty, racial authenticity, intra- and interracial desire, homosexuality, the intertextual unfolding of a literary tradition of black female writing, and how these writings relate to canonical African American male-authored texts and European American literary traditions. Students are expected to read texts closely, critically, and appreciatively. Possible authors: Harriet Jacobs, Frances Harper, Nella Larsen, Jessie Faucet, Ann Petry, Ntozake Shange, Suzan-Lori Parks, Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, Gayle Jones, Jamaica Kincaid, Terry McMillan, Sapphire, Lizzette Carter. Note: Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 1108, GSWS 1104)

AFRS 1211 (c, IP, VPA) Introduction to Music in Africa

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces students to the rich and diverse musical traditions of sub-Saharan Africa. Covers traditional and modern musical practices from various regions, and explores their roles in social, cultural, and political contexts from historical and contemporary perspectives. Students learn to identify basic regional musical properties and characteristic musical styles. Case studies may include West African dance-drumming, Ghanaian highlife, musical oral historians, "African Ballets," South African a cappella, the protest music of Nigerian Fela Kuti and Zimbabwean Thomas Mapfumo, as well as contemporary hip-hop and religious pop music. Based on lectures, readings, performances by visiting artists, discussions, and audio and video sources. No prior musical knowledge necessary. (Same as: MUS 1211)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 1213 (c, VPA) Introduction to Caribbean Dances and Cultures

Adanna Jones.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

From the folkloric dance forms to popular and secular dance practices, this course journeys through various islands and countries of the Caribbean to learn about their various histories and cultures, including the music, costumes, and basic rhythms associated with each particular dance form. This in-studio course provides a general introduction to some of the sacred and popular dances of the Caribbean. Although movement is the primary work of this course, what we learn in class may be supplemented by readings and outside research. *Please note that no prior experience or training is required. Grading will not be based on technical skill levels, but on mindful, full-bodied participation that demonstrates comprehension and articulation of course materials. (Same as: DANC 1213)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 1215 (c, DPI, IP) The Global Caribbean: History and Society

Every Year. Enrollment limit: 50.

This course introduces students to connective concepts and issues in locations throughout the region, such as Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. The course engages a combination of historical and qualitative analysis to provide a deeper understanding of the Caribbean's complex history, cultural vibrancy, and global connections. Topics may include Indigenous and African enslavement, degrees of freedom within slave systems, rebellion and revolution, anticolonial and social movements, contemporary migration, and social justice issues. (Same as: LACL 1215)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 1271 (c, DPI, VPA) Experiencing Latin American Music(s)

Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 50.

This course is an opportunity to engage with the history, heritage, and culture of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latin American and Caribbean communities in the US through music. We will explore issues of race, identity, religion, and politics from a broad temporal span of around five hundred years—from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century. We will cover a broad variety of regions, contexts, and musical genres from classical, folk, and popular traditions, such as salsa, Cuban son, hip-hop, Latin polyphony, rock, villancicos, protest song, chamber music, reggaeton, vallenato, and more. This course is not meant to be comprehensive but will reflect on the many ways in which music has been used in different cultural and historical contexts, offering a close examination of its characteristics, means, and meanings. (Same as: MUS 1271, LACL 1271)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

AFRS 1300 (c) Black Biography

Tess Chakkalalal.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces students to the genre of African American biography by examining the form from its first inception in the eighteenth century with biographical sketches of important black figures – such as Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, and Benjamin Banneker – to the contemporary African American biopic feature film of figures including Jackie Robinson, Mohammad Ali, and Nina Simone. Note: Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 1300)

AFRS 1320 (c, DPI) Racial and Ethnic Conflict in U.S. Cities

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 50.

American cities have been historic cauldrons of racial and ethnic conflict. Concentrates on urban violence in American cities since 1898. Students study moments of conflict during the early republic and the nineteenth century. Topics examined include the post-Reconstruction pogroms that overturned interracial democracy; the Red Summer and its historical memory; the ways race and ethnicity shaped urban residential space; the effects of immigration on urban political economy and society, and the conflicts over space, labor, and social relations that arose; and the waves of urban violence that spread across the country in the mid-1960s. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 1320, URBS 1320)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2021.

AFRS 1461 (c, DPI, IP) African Civilizations to 1850: Myth, Art, and History

David Gordon.

Every Other Year. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 50.

African peoples are often imagined as victims of history. This course challenges such stereotypes by introducing students to the great civilizations of medieval and early modern Africa. Includes the Nile Valley, Ethiopia, Mali, Oyo, Dahomey, Asante, Kongo, Lunda, Swahili, and Zulu. Various themes include political power and governance; culture and society; trade and economy; women and gender; and youth and generational conflict. Content is explored by reading fiction, poetry, myth, artwork (including art in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art), and historical scholarship. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Africa. It also meets the non-Euro/US requirement and pre-modern requirements. (Same as: HIST 1461)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

AFRS 1581 (c, VPA) History of Jazz I

Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 50.

A socio-cultural, historical, and analytical introduction to jazz music from the turn of the twentieth century to around 1950. Includes some concert attendance. (Same as: MUS 1281)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021.

AFRS 2052 (b, DPI) Race, Ethnicity, and Politics

Angel Saavedra Cisneros.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the impact of race and ethnicity on American politics. Key topics include the impact of race on government, and the development and influence of group identities. Also covers rights, representation, and voting, as well as impacts on education and criminal justice. (Same as: GOV 2052)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022.

AFRS 2140 (c, DPI) The History of African Americans, 1619-1865

Patrick Rael.

Every Other Year. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the history of African Americans from the origins of slavery in America through the death of slavery during the Civil War. How could anyone (let alone the Founding Fathers) have traded human beings as chattel? How did African-descended people in America come to be both part of and yet perpetually marginalized in America? What does this say about the nature of American democracy and the mythologies of American history? How much agency did African Americans have in crafting their own experience, and what does this say about the nature of both their oppression and their resistance? In what ways have African Americans contributed to the formation of American society? We will be concerned not simply with the important task of reinserting the African American past into our national historical narrative. We will also be interested in understanding the depths to which American society has been predicated on the intersections of race, economy, and society. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2140)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2141 (c) The History of African Americans from 1865 to the Present

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the history of African Americans from the end of the Civil War to the present. Issues include the promises and failures of Reconstruction, the Jim Crow era, black leadership and protest institutions, African American cultural styles, industrialization and urbanization, the world wars, the Civil Rights Movement, and conservative retrenchment. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2141)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 2145 (c, DPI) The United States Civil War

Patrick Rael.

Every Other Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

This course explores the United States Civil War. Beginning with an overview of causes and ending with prospects for Reconstruction, it focuses on the key issues raised by the war: the relationship between military and political factors, the social changes wrought by war, and the crucial issues of slavery and emancipation. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States (Same as: HIST 2145)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020.

AFRS 2201 (c, DPI, VPA) Black Women, Politics, Music, and the Divine

Judith Casselberry.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines the convergence of politics and spirituality in the musical work of contemporary black women singer-songwriters in the United States. Analyzes material that interrogates and articulates the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality generated across a range of religious and spiritual terrains with African diasporic/black Atlantic spiritual moorings, including Christianity, Islam, and Yoruba. Focuses on material that reveals a womanist (black feminist) perspective by considering the ways resistant identities shape and are shaped by artistic production. Employs an interdisciplinary approach by incorporating ethnomusicology, anthropology, literature, history, and performance and social theory. Explores the work of Shirley Caesar, the Clark Sisters, Meshell Ndegeocello, Abby Lincoln, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and Dianne Reeves, among others. (Same as: GSWS 2207, MUS 2291, REL 2201)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021.

AFRS 2208 (b, DPI) Race and Ethnicity

Jamella Gow.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduction to the sociological study of race and ethnicity in the contemporary United States. Examines prominent theories pertaining to the social and cultural meanings of race and ethnicity, causes and consequences of structural racism, relationships between race and class, how immigration and assimilation shape and are shaped by social constructions of race and ethnicity, dynamic representations of race and ethnicity in the media, formation and shifts of intra-group and inter-group boundaries, and more. (Same as: SOC 2208, LACL 2708)

Prerequisites: SOC 1101 or AFRS 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2021.

AFRS 2220 (b) "The Wire": Race, Class, Gender, and the Urban Crisis

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate seminar. Postwar US cities were considered social, economic, political, and cultural zones of crisis. African Americans – their families; gender relations; their relationship to urban political economy, politics, and culture – were at the center of this discourse. Uses David Simon's epic series "The Wire" as a critical source on postindustrial urban life, politics, conflict, and economics to cover the origins of the urban crisis, the rise of an underclass theory of urban class relations, the evolution of the urban underground economy, and the ways the urban crisis shaped depictions of African Americans in American popular culture.

Prerequisites: AFRS 1101 or EDUC 1101 or GSWS 1101 or SOC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022.

AFRS 2228 (c, VPA) Protest Music

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Focuses on the ways black people have experienced twentieth-century events. Examines social, economic, and political catalysts for processes of protest music production across genres including gospel, blues, folk, soul, funk, rock, reggae, and rap. Analysis of musical and extra-musical elements includes style, form, production, lyrics, intent, reception, commodification, mass-media, and the Internet. Explores ways in which people experience, identify, and propose solutions to poverty, segregation, oppressive working conditions, incarceration, sexual exploitation, violence, and war. (Same as: ANTH 2227, MUS 2292)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 2236 (c, VPA) Afro-Modern II Techniques and Histories

Adanna Jones.

Every Other Year. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 22.

A continuation of modern dance principles introduced in Dance 1211 with the addition of African-derived dance movement. The two dance aesthetics are combined to create a new form. Technique classes include center floor exercises, movement combinations across the floor, and movement phrases. Students also attend dance performances in the community. (Same as: DANC 2241, LACL 2396)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

AFRS 2238 (c, VPA) Gesturing Towards Meaning: Dance as a Meaning-Making Praxis

Adanna Jones.

Every Other Year. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

An introduction to dance as a meaning-making, cultural practice. Using embodiment/performance, writing, and discussion, students will use the gestures embedded within dance cultures as critical tools necessary for analyzing and theorizing aspects of race, sexuality, gender, and nationalism. Accordingly, students will understand the meanings and roles of dance and gesture within larger historical, cultural, social, and theatrical contexts. In sum, this class examines dance forms and dancing bodies, such as Indian classical dance, Puerto Rican bomba, and blackface minstrelsy, to better understand how cultures throughout the globe come to know and understand both themselves and the world at large. (Same as: DANC 2506)

Prerequisites: DANC 1000 or higher or THTR 1000 or higher or AFRS 1000 or higher or GSWS 1000 or higher or ANTH 1000 or higher.

AFRS 2240 (c) Creating Change, Getting Free: The Civil Rights and Black Power Movements

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

Students examine the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement to understand the centrality of race, racism, and political organizing in change-making processes in the US. Critical perspectives offered in speeches, biographies, music, and films shed light on the connections between ever-changing notions of Blackness(es), structural and institutional forms of oppression, and the bloody, sweaty, and tearful efforts people engaged in to create change. Analyzes the political and social transformations made possible by changemakers such as Angela Davis, Malcolm X, Ella Baker, Martin Luther King Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, the Black Panther Party, SNCC, and the Freedom Riders, providing insight into the diversity of strategies and methods for organizing and resistance that Black peoples and allies used to get free(er).

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2257 (c, DPI, IP) Black Germany

Richmond Embeywa.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

In this course, we will engage inter-disciplinarily with a wide range of media and texts (films, documentaries, prose works, autobiographies, and essays) in examining the historical development of Black Germany and discuss diasporic and transnational influences instrumental to the formation of early Black German movements. The content intersects with a variety of aspects—for instance, how the Afro-German poet, activist, researcher, and educator May Ayim links feminist issues with racial discourse or how W.E.B. DuBois intersects with both African American history and German philosophy. The course is structured along a chronological axis and into five units: German colonial occupations in Africa, Weimar Republic, Nazi period, the postwar era, and the post-unification period. We will discuss how Blackness was constructed in relation to Germanness, nationality, gender, and race and how these conceptualizations shaped the experiences of Black persons living in Germany. Lastly, in looking to the contemporary, we will consider the importance of Black popular culture for Germany and highlight notable efforts in scholarship, activism, cultural production, and creativity. Authors may include Franz Fanon, May Ayim, W. E. B. DuBois, Grada Kilomba, Tina Campt, Fatima El-Tayeb, William Gardner Smith, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, and others. (Same as: GER 2257)

AFRS 2261 (c, VPA) Holy Songs in a Strange Land

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 35.

Seminar. Examines black sacred music from its earliest forms, fashioned by enslaved Africans, through current iterations produced by black global actors of a different sort. Explores questions such as: What does bondage sound like? What does emancipation sound like? Can we hear corresponding sounds generated by artists today? In what ways have creators of sacred music embraced, rejected, and re-envisioned the "strange land" over time? Looks at musical and lyrical content and the context in which various music genres developed, such as Negro spirituals, gospel, and sacred blues. Contemporary artists such as Janelle Monáe, Beyoncé, Bob Marley, and Michael Jackson included as well. (Same as: MUS 2261)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022.

AFRS 2271 (c) Spirit Come Down: Religion, Race, and Gender in America

Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the ways religion, race, and gender shape people's lives from the nineteenth century into contemporary times in America, with particular focus on black communities. Explores issues of self-representation, memory, material culture, embodiment, and civic and political engagement through autobiographical, historical, literary, anthropological, cinematic, and musical texts. (Same as: GSWS 2270, REL 2271)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

AFRS 2281 (c, DPI) History of Jazz II

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 35.

Provides a socio-cultural, historical, and analytical introduction to jazz music from around 1950 to the present. Students learn to understand the history of jazz in terms of changes in musical techniques and social values and to recognize music as a site of celebration and struggle over relationships and ideals. Students increase their ability to hear differences among performances and styles. They gain greater knowledge of US history as it affects and is affected by musical activities and learn to appreciate the stakes and motives behind the controversies and debates that have often surrounded various styles of African American music. (Same as: MUS 2281)

Prerequisites: MUS 1281 (same as AFRS 1581) or MUS 1101 or MUS 2711 or AFRS 1101 - 2969 or AFRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022.

AFRS 2290 (c, DPI, IP) Hip-Hop Histories and Presences: Dances, Cultures, and Contexts

Lindsay Rapport.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 12.

This course examines hip-hop culture's vast array of expressive practices. Focusing primarily on hip-hop dance practices, our study will situate these dances within a larger hip-hop culture, acknowledging hip-hop as both inherently African diasporic and specific to the particular US historical, cultural, and sociopolitical contexts in which—and the communities from whom—these practices emerge. Exploring aesthetics and/as cultural values, we will pay particular attention to the roles of power and inequity, interrogating themes that may include racism, anti-Blackness, white supremacy, globalization, appropriation, community, joy, and agency. We will examine our own positionalities, asking what it can mean to engage responsibly in hip-hop as well as what it can mean to be responsible to the communities of folks who created and continue to create hip-hop culture. Primarily a reading-, writing-, and discussion-based course, our study will be supplemented with physical practice in the studio. (Same as: DANC 2404, MUS 2298)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 2293 (c, DPI, VPA) Geographies of the Sexiness: Dance and Politics of (Dis)Respectability Across the Americas

Adanna Jones.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Dance—an art form whose medium is the body—and ethnography—the study of people and their cultures—are great tools for addressing some of the ways different dancing bodies have been historically policed for “dancing sex(y).” Other tools, such as critical dance and Black theories, in addition to queer and feminist approaches, will also be utilized to comprehend the uneven ways these bodies are further racialized, sexualized, and gendered throughout the Americas. In particular, students will learn about various dances (such as the Argentine tango, the Martinican bélé, US voguing, and the Trinidadian wine) through readings, lectures, and actual in-studio dancing/embodiment. Ultimately, the intention here is to understand dancing as both a meaning-making activity and a way of understanding the world. In turn, it is an important lens for critically thinking, talking, researching, and writing about politics of identity (especially regarding nationality, gender, race, and sexuality). (Same as: DANC 3505, GSWS 3104, LACL 3310)

AFRS 2310 (b, DPI, IP) Peace-Building and Peacemaking in Africa

Michael Yekple.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of armed conflicts on the continent and practical strategies for resolution. Delves into African conflicts' historical and sociopolitical contexts, exploring the complexities underlying their causes. Students will gain insights into peace-building frameworks and engage with case studies to analyze successful peace-building initiatives. Introduces traditional sources of peace-building and peacemaking in Africa and efforts and initiatives by Africa's regional organizations, such as the African Union and ECOWAS. Encourages critical thinking and equips students with the skills to understand Africa better. Through lectures, discussions, and practical exercises, students will emerge with a nuanced perspective on the challenges and opportunities in fostering sustainable peace in Africa. (Same as: GOV 2532)

AFRS 2330 (b) Diversity in Higher Education

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores higher education in the contemporary United States through a sociological lens, highlighting the ways that colleges and universities both promote social mobility and perpetuate inequality. Examines the functions of higher education for students and society; issues of inequality in college access, financing, campus experiences, and outcomes later in life; the challenges and benefits of diversity and inclusion; and other topics, with special attention across all topics to the case of African Americans. (Same as: SOC 2330, EDUC 2279)

Prerequisites: SOC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2336 (c, VPA) African Legacies in Latin American Music(s)

Ileri Chavez-Barcenas.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

How “African” is Latin American music? Although the size, nature, and significance of the Black population in Spanish America is often dismissed, the massive forced migration of African peoples to transatlantic Portuguese and Spanish dominions changed not only the soundscape but also tastes and musical practices in the entire Western Hemisphere. This course explores the legacies of Western African traditions in the music of Latin America. The scope and diversity of Afro-Latin, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Latinx musical traditions is immense, but we will explore specific historical narratives, regions, music genres, and sources and will engage with diverse scholarly approaches for the study of African roots in Latin American music(s). Some examples include seventeenth-century negrillas, eighteenth-century songs and dances for the Luso-Brazilian viola, Afro-Dominican salves, Mexican spirituals, Colombian vallenato, Brazilian samba, Cuban timba, Puerto Rican bomba, and Caribbean reggae, reggaetón, rap, and hip-hop. (Same as: MUS 2297, LACL 2336)

Prerequisites: MUS 1101 or AFRS 1101.

AFRS 2348 (b, IP) Girlhood and Empire: Girls, Power, and Resistance in Global Perspectives

Emily Mitamura.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Investigates the construction of girlhood through the lens of global feminist resistance, centering the writings and struggles of young women and femmes in the experience and practice of colonized, transnational, and refugee girlhood. With groundings in race, class, gender, ability, and sexuality, the course will engage with not only academic writing but also media and cultural production by and concerning girls. The work of this course is to interrogate (neo)colonial histories by centering not only what empire wants and takes from girls (how their images are deployed, how their reproductive labor is extracted), but also what girls want and do in the course of their living with, under, and against colonial power(s). (Same as: GSWS 2348, ASNS 2348, LACL 2348)

AFRS 2350 (b, DPI) Race, Land, and Settler (Racial) Capitalism: Ongoing Topics in (Dis)/(Re)Possession

Allison Guess.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

An introduction to ongoing topics in colonialism, racial thinking, environmental studies, global, and Caribbean studies. Examines how race, gender, and class operate under racial capitalism and settler colonialism. Readings will center on the works of critical geographers, Caribbeanists, and scholars of the African diaspora (including Latin America), among other critical, anti-capitalist, decolonial, and environmentalist scholars. Reading in this course will take up the question(s) of land and land-making and race, racialization, and racial thinking alongside questions of space and place, as they all relate to the various processes, projects, and methods of (dis)/(re)possession. Weekly in-class discussions will be combined with guest lectures to provide the opportunity for exploring how race, space, and (dis)(re)possession can be understood geographically, and to also explain how a range of these territorializing processes operate. Sample topics include the following: indigeneity and Blackness, dispossession and accumulation, and environmental imperialism, war, and colonial resistance. (Same as: ENVS 2360, LACL 2860)

AFRS 2354 (c, IP) Conquest, Colonialism, and Independence: African History, 1885 - 1965

David Gordon.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

Surveys history of Africa after conquest by European powers until independence in the 1960s, with a focus on west and central Africa. Includes the global precursors to colonialism, African resistance to European encroachment, and the violence of conquest. The nature of the colonial endeavor, in terms of the type of colonial regime (concessionaire, settler, or trade) is explored alongside the policies of British, French, Belgian, and Portuguese colonists and early resistance to colonialism. Covers the rise of anti-colonial nationalism and decolonization and why European powers quit Africa after only sixty years of formal colonialism. Addresses the diverse hopes and visions of the first independent generation of African leaders, including Kwame Nkrumah, Leopold Sénghor, Nnandi Azikiwe, Julius Nyerere, and Patrice Lumumba. Concludes with colonial legacies in the form of the postcolonial "gatekeeper" state. Within this time frame, considers the politics of gender, race, and class. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Africa and Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2364)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2366 (c, DPI, IP) Apartheid's Voices: South African History, 1948 to 1994

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

The study of apartheid in South Africa, the system of racial and ethnic segregation that began in 1948 and ended with the election of Nelson Mandela in 1994. Explores the many different facets of apartheid: how and why it emerged; its social and economic aspects; how people lived under, resisted, and collaborated with apartheid, and its similarities and differences to other forms of racial and identity-based governance, including European colonialism in Africa, US segregation, and Zionism in Israel / Palestine. The readings, lectures, and class discussions focus on the voices of diverse South Africans, activists, youth, workers, artists, soldiers, and students, exploring their different gendered, ethnic, and racial perspectives. NOTE: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Africa; and Atlantic Worlds. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2366)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020.

AFRS 2367 (c, DPI, IP) After the Revolution: African History, 1965 to Recent Times

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

The end of European colonialism was a revolutionary moment across the African continent. This course explores not only how this revolution was betrayed and compromised, but also how the anti-colonial revolution continued to inspire struggles for political and economic justice. Topics of study may include African socialism and nationalism; post-colonial predatory states; underdevelopment and globalization; the politics of aid; civil society and the African nation-state; inter-state and civil wars; eco-struggles; gender; music, movies and popular culture; health and healing; contested sovereignties and citizenships; and African diasporas. A general survey of continental trends south of the Sahara with particular emphasis on Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Angola, Mozambique, Senegal, Mali, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Nigeria. (Same as: HIST 2367)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 2407 (c, DPI, IP) Francophone Cultures

Meryem Belkaid.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

An introduction to the cultures of various French-speaking regions outside of France. Examines the history, politics, customs, cinema, and the arts of the Francophone world, principally Africa and the Caribbean. Increases cultural understanding prior to study abroad in French-speaking regions. (Same as: FRS 2407, LACL 2407)

Prerequisites: FRS 2305 or higher or Placement in FRS 2400 level or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2409 (c, DPI, IP) Spoken Word and Written Text

Katherine Dauge-Roth.

Every Semester. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

Examines oral and written traditions of areas where French is spoken in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America from the Middle Ages to 1848. Through interdisciplinary units, students examine key moments in the history of the francophone world, drawing on folktales, epics, poetry, plays, short stories, essays, and novels. Explores questions of identity, race, colonization, and language in historical and ideological context. Taught in French. (Same as: FRS 2409, LACL 2209)

Prerequisites: FRS 2305 or higher or Placement in FRS 2400 level or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

AFRS 2506 (c) American Literature II: 1865 - 1920

Tess Chakkalalal.

Every Other Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

Continues the themes and issues introduced in American Literature I into the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In particular, examines the aftermath of the Civil War and slavery, both its material devastation as well as the technological and literary innovation it generated that helped the country prosper for the next five decades. Examines the development of various literary movements including, realism, naturalism, and African American literature through readings of works by William Dean Howells, Henry James, Edith Wharton, W.E.B. DuBois, Charles Chesnutt, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Booker T. Washington, Stephen Crane, Sarah Orne Jewett, Mark Twain, Ida B. Wells, Frank Norris, Pauline Hopkins, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. (Same as: ENGL 2506)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2530 (b, IP) Politics and Societies in Africa

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Surveys societies and politics in sub-Saharan Africa, seeking to understand the sources of current conditions and the prospects for political stability and economic growth. Looks briefly at pre-colonial society and colonial influence on state-construction in Africa, and concentrates on three broad phases in Africa's contemporary political development: (1) independence and consolidation of authoritarian rule; (2) economic decline and challenges to authoritarianism; (3) democratization and civil conflict. Presumes no prior knowledge of the region. (Same as: GOV 2530)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 2566 (b, DPI, IP) Black Feminisms and Social Movements

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate seminar. This course examines past and present social movements through the lens of global Black feminist writing and media. By reading and engaging key texts of activist groups and leaders (such as the Combahee River Collective, The Black Panther Party, and the Movement for Black Lives), students will learn about the principles, philosophies, and organizing praxis of Black feminist activists. (Same as: ANTH 2566, GSWS 2566)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

AFRS 2582 (c) Reading "Uncle Tom's Cabin"

Tess Chakkalalal.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Introduces students to the controversial history of reader responses to Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 antislavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Students engage with various theoretical approaches—reader response theory, feminist, African Americanist, and historicist—to the novel, then turn to the novel itself and produce their own literary interpretation. In order to do so, students examine the conditions of the novel's original production. By visiting various historic locations, the Stowe House on Federal Street, the First Parish on Maine Street, Special Collections of the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, students compare the novel's original historical context to the history that the novel produced. Aside from reading Stowe's antislavery fiction, students also read works produced with and against *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Note: Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2582)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

AFRS 2596 (b, IP) Buried Treasure, Hidden Curse? The Politics of Natural Resource Extraction in Africa

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

: Oil, diamonds, gold. . . riches in the midst of poverty. How can Africa boast so many natural resources and yet remain the poorest continent on earth? What is the "resource curse?" Begins by putting Africa in the context of global resource extraction, oil in particular. Establishes Africa's long pre-colonial experience with trade in iron, gold, salt, and slaves. The colonial period deepened the reliance of many territories on specific resources, a pattern that continues to the present. Uses Burkina Faso as a specific example of gold extraction, contrasting industrial and artisanal mining. Modern streams of prospectors throughout West Africa echo the California gold rush, but with important distinctions.. A research-based writing seminar in political science, the course will highlight the interplay between national and foreign governments, international and domestic firms, and local and migrant prospectors as they vie for access to valuable resources. Students will gain skills in library research, writing and revision, peer review and oral presentations. (IRBW) (Same as: GOV 2596)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 2603 (c) African American Fiction: Humor and Resistance

Elizabeth Muther.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores rich traditions of African American humor in fiction, comics, graphic narratives, and film. Considers strategies of cultural survival and liberation, as well as folkloric sources, trickster storytellers, comic double-voicing, and the lampooning of racial ideologies. Close attention paid to modes of burlesque, satirical deformation, caricature, tragicomedy, and parody in historical and contemporary contexts, including such writers and performers as Charles Chesnutt, Bert Williams, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Pryor, Ishmael Reed, Aaron McGruder, Dave Chappelle, and Suzan-Lori Parks. Note: Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2603)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

AFRS 2604 (c, VPA) African American Literature and Visual Culture

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores creative collaborations and cross currents in African American literary and visual arts over the past century. Considers the problems of minstrelsy, masking, and caricature -- as well as instruments of militant image-making in both literary and visual forms. Topics of special interest include uplift and documentary photography; modernist resistance languages of the Harlem Renaissance; shadows, silhouettes, and invisibility; comic strips and graphic narratives; and contemporary images -- prints, texts, and illustrations -- that introduce alternative socio-political allegories. The course will engage with works held in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art and in Special Collections and Archives. (Same as: ENGL 2604)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

AFRS 2605 (c) The Harlem Renaissance

Elizabeth Muther.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Focuses on the African American literary and cultural call-to-arms of the 1920s. Modernist resistance languages; alliances and betrayals on the left; gender, sexuality, and cultural images; activism and literary journalism; and music and visual culture are of special interest. Note: Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2605)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

AFRS 2606 (c, DPI, VPA) Power of Performance: What We Teach, Learn, and Challenge by Putting our Bodies on Stage

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

When we perform music on stage, what are we performing? Is it only the “music” or is there something more? When we watch a live musical performance, what are we taking into our bodies? Are we learning lessons about which bodies go with which music or who is allowed on a particular stage and who is “different” in that context? This course investigates lineages of performance practice for what these lineages teach about bodies and genre. For example, how did jazz music created in African American communities and initially replete with women artists in the 1920s turn into a musical community dominated by white middle-class boys and men? We will examine how musical lineages are constructed with particular attention to the history of segregation in post-secondary education in the United States. The course includes a final performance of a musical and/or theatrical nature. Previous music experience is not necessary but is welcomed. (Same as: MUS 2606, GSWS 2208)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

AFRS 2621 (b) Reconstruction

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Close examination of the decade following the Civil War. Explores the events and scholarship of the Union attempt to create a biracial democracy in the South following the war, and the sources of its failure. Topics include wartime Reconstruction, the Ku Klux Klan, Republican politics, and Democratic Redemption. Special attention paid to the deeply conflicted ways historians have approached this period over the years. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2621)

Prerequisites: HIST 1000 - 2969 or HIST 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2626 (c) African Americans in New York City Since 1627

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate seminar. Covers the history of people of African descent in what becomes New York City from the Dutch colonial period through the present. Students read key books on all major historical themes and periods, such as the early history of slavery and the slave trade; black life and religion during the early republic and gradual emancipation; the Civil War and draft riots; black communal life during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; the Harlem Renaissance; the Great Depression; the civil rights era; the age of urban crisis; the 1980s and the rise of hip-hop; and blacklife since 9-11. Students gain wide exposure to working with primary sources. (Same as: URBS 2626)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 2627 (c, DPI) Black Protest Thought

Patrick Rael.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores the canon of public protest thought developed by African Americans from the time of the American Revolution through World War I. Examines how black thinkers have conceptualized their relationship to a nation predicated on universal liberty that nonetheless enslaved and proscribed people of African descent. (Same as: HIST 2627)

AFRS 2630 (c) Staging Blackness

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the history and contributions of African Americans to United States theater from the early blackface minstrel tradition, to the revolutionary theater of the Black Arts writers, to more recent postmodernist stage spectacles. Among other concerns, such works often dramatize the efforts of African Americans to negotiate ongoing tensions between individual needs and group demands that result from historically changing forms of racial marginalization. A particular goal is to highlight what Kimberly Benston has termed the expressive agency with which black writers and performers have imbued their theatrical presentations. Potential authors include Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Lorraine Hansberry, Amiri Baraka, Ron Milner, Adrienne Kennedy, Ntozake Shange, George C. Wolfe, Anna Deavere Smith, Afro Pomo Homos, and August Wilson. Note: Fulfills the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2654, THTR 2854)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 2650 (c) African American Fiction: (Re) Writing Black Masculinities

Guy Mark Foster.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

In 1845, Frederick Douglass told his white readers: “You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man.” This simple statement effectively describes the enduring paradox of African American male identity: although black and white males share a genital sameness, until the nation elected its first African American president the former has inhabited a culturally subjugated gender identity in a society premised on both white supremacy and patriarchy. But Douglass’s statement also suggests that black maleness is a discursive construction, i.e. that it changes over time. If this is so, how does it change? What are the modes of its production and how have black men over time operated as agents in reshaping their own masculinities? Reading a range of literary and cultural texts, both past and present, students examine the myriad ramifications of, and creative responses to, this ongoing challenge. Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2650, GSWS 2260)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 2651 (c, DPI) Queer Race

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

How does the concept of queerness signify in cultural texts that are ostensibly about the struggle for racial equality? And vice versa, how does the concept of racialization signify in cultural texts that are ostensibly about the struggle for LGBT recognition and justice? While some of this work tends to reduce queer to traditional sexual minorities like lesbian and trans folk while downplaying racial considerations, others tend to limit the category race to people of color like blacks while downplaying questions about sexuality. Such critical and creative gestures often place queer and race in opposition rather than as intersecting phenomena. Students examine the theoretical and cultural assumptions of such gestures, and their implications, through close readings of selected works in both the LGBT and African American literary traditions. Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2651, GSWS 2651)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 2652 (c) African American Writers and Autobiography

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate Seminar. The struggle against anti-black racism has often required that individual African Americans serve as representative figures of the race. How have twentieth- and twenty-first-century black authors tackled the challenge of having to speak for the collective while also writing narratives that explore the singularity of an individual life? What textual approaches have these authors employed to negotiate this tension between what theorists of the genre broadly call referentiality and subjectivity? Authors include W. E. B. Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, Malcolm X, Jamaica Kincaid, Maya Angelou, Samuel Delaney, Barack Obama, among others. Note: Fulfills the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2013)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 2653 (c) Interracial Narratives

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Violence and interracial sex have long been conjoined in U.S. literary, televisual, and filmic work. The enduring nature of this conjoining suggests there is some symbolic logic at work in these narratives, such that black/white intimacy functions as a figural stand-in for negative (and sometimes positive) commentary on black/white social conflict. When this happens, what becomes of "sex" as a historically changing phenomenon when it is yoked to the historically unchanging phenomenon of the "interracial"? Although counter-narratives have recently emerged to compete with such symbolic portrayals, i.e. romance novels, popular films and television shows, not all of these works have displaced this earlier figural logic; in some cases, this logic has merely been updated. Explores the broader cultural implications of both types of narratives. Possible authors/texts: Richard Wright, Chester Himes, Ann Petry, Lillian Smith, Jack Kerouac, Frantz Fanon, Kara Walker, Amiri Baraka, Alice Walker, Octavia Butler, John R. Gordon, Kim McLarin, *Monster's Ball*, *Far From Heaven*, and *Sex and the City*. Note: beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, and multiethnic American or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2653, GSWS 2283)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

AFRS 2654 (c, DPI) White Negroes

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate seminar. Close readings of literary and filmic texts that interrogate widespread beliefs in the fixity of racial categories and the broad assumptions these beliefs often engender. Investigates whiteness and blackness as unstable and fractured ideological constructs that become most visible in narratives of racial passing. These are constructs that, while socially and historically produced, are no less real in their tangible effects, whether internal or external. May include works by Nella Larsen, Norman Mailer, John Howard Griffin, Mat Johnson, Toi Derricotte, and Mohsin Hamid. Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2004, GSWS 2257)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 2655 (c, DPI) Black Sexualities

Keona Ervin.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

Uses historical and contemporary case studies to explore the intersections of sexuality, gender, class, and race in the lives and labors of people African descent. Addresses how the construction of Black identity has been informed by understandings and expressions of transness, masculinity, femininity, and queerness. Examines how Black people mobilize and practice sex and gender to create community, mutual aid, leisure, joy, sexual agency, self-expression, and political struggle. Analyzes the topic through the interdisciplinary study of film, music, art, literature, historical and sociological scholarship, queer-of-color critique, critical race theory, and Black feminist thought. (Same as: GSWS 2280)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023.

AFRS 2660 (c, VPA) Introduction to Art History: African Americans and Art

Dana Byrd.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

Investigates the intersection of African American life and art. Topics include the changing definitions of "African American Art," the embrace of African cultural production, race and representation in slavery and freedom, art as source of inspiration for social movements, and the politics of exhibition. Our mission is to develop art-historical knowledge about this critical aspect of American art history, while facilitating ways of seeing and writing about art. (Same as: ARTH 1500)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021.

AFRS 2700 (c) Martin, Malcolm, and America

Brian Purnell.

Every Other Year. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines the lives and thoughts of Martin L. King Jr. and Malcolm X. Traces the development in their thinking and examines the similarities and differences between them. Evaluates their contribution to the African American freedom struggle, American society, and the world. Emphasizes very close reading of primary and secondary material, use of audio and videocassettes, lecture presentations, and class discussions. In addition to being an academic study of these two men's political and religious commitment, also concerns how they inform our own political and social lives. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (IRBW) (Same as: HIST 2700)

AFRS 2721 (c, DPI, VPA) Between the Alamo and the Wall: Latinx Activism in the United States

Irina Popescu.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

This course explores the range of issues inspiring Latinx activism and its diverse expressions across the United States from the turn of the 20th century to the present. It introduces students to the intellectual traditions and analytical approaches that inform both Latinx and Afro-Latinx activism in the US. During the course of the semester students will 'travel' to U.S. cities (and regions) such as San Antonio and the Texas Borderlands, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Chicago, and the Central Valley in California. As we 'travel' to these locations, we will explore diverse expressions of Latinx activism, including labor activism, cultural activism, political activism surrounding citizenship rights, and the struggles for gender and sexuality rights. Students will also learn about the many similarities and differences among Latinx communities in the United States, including Afro-Latinx communities, specifically Afro-Cuban in Miami, and Afro-Puerto Ricans and Afro-Dominicans in New York. We will explore how these communities have used and continue to use activist practices ranging from labor strikes to literary texts, to gain visibility and negotiate their rights within the country. This course will also draw connections between Latinx and Afro-Latinx and other activist movements in the US, from civil rights to labor rights and the formation of worker's unions. Drawing from various disciplines including history, law, literature, sociology, and cultural studies, students will explore how Latinx activism has shaped understandings of race and inclusion, gender, sexuality, and citizenship in the United States. (Same as: LACL 2421, GSW 2720)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

AFRS 2722 (c, DPI) Afro-Latinx in the US

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

Afro-Latinx are one of the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States—among the sixty million Latinos in the US, almost one quarter embrace their Blackness and identify as Afro-Latino. The course examines Afro-Latinx communities—African-descended peoples from primarily Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin America and the Caribbean who reside in the United States. The class begins with an overview of Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latinx studies, explores historical perspectives on African enslavement in Latin America, and examines the development of racial ideologies in post-emancipation societies. Next, the class looks at the historical relationship between the US and Latin America and how this has shaped migration. We also examine the spectrum of Black identity through the contemporary experiences of Afro-Latinxs in the US by analyzing the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, politics, and representation through historical, textual, oral, and visual sources. (Same as: LACL 2422)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

AFRS 2800 (b, DPI, IP) International Relations of Africa

Michael Yekple.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate Seminar. Africa has attracted renewed interest in recent years after decades of marginalization following the end of the Cold War, when competition for the continent among global powers halted. Recent renewed interest among external actors has crystallized around core issues of energy supplies, trade and investment, and security cooperation. Within the continent itself, African countries have taken the affairs of their neighbors more seriously, facilitated by the enhanced role of African regional organizations like the African Union and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), promoting a multilateral approach to problems confronting the continent. The International Relations of Africa course aims to enhance students' understanding of Africa's international relations within the continent and with external actors. This course helps students explore the underlying historical context of African international relations as well as emergent issues and phenomena they spawn, including development, trade, and security relationships, and the dynamics of external relations with major powers like the United States, Europe, and China. Through lectures, thematic seminars, debates, memoirs, and documentaries, this course will equip students to interrogate the headlines about Africa they hear in the news through evaluating the set of policies guiding Africa's relationships toward global centers of power and that of major powers toward it. (Same as: GOV 2920)

AFRS 2821 (c, IP) After Mandela: History, Memory, and Identity in Contemporary South Africa

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

How do South Africans remember their past? Begins with the difficulties in developing a conciliatory version of the past during Nelson Mandela's presidency immediately after apartheid. Then explores the changing historiography and popular memory of diverse historical episodes, including European settlement, the Khoisan "Hottentot Venus" Sara Baartman, Shaka Zulu, the Great Trek, the Anglo-Boer War, the onset of apartheid, and resistance to it. Aims to understand the present-day social, economic, and cultural forces that shape the memories of South Africans and the academic historiography of South Africa. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Africa. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2821)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 2822 (c, IP) Youth and Revolution in Africa: Changemakers and Child Soldiers

David Gordon.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. The African continent has an unmatched percentage of young people in relation to total population. Over the last sixty years, these youth have driven a continent-wide revolution against an intersection of traditional, gerontocratic, and neo-colonial structures. By studying student activism in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa, youth movements against colonialism and neocolonialism in central Africa, the "blood diamond" wars of Liberia and Sierra Leone, the child soldiers of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and youth protests against policy brutality in West Africa, this course nuances oft-ascribed youth roles as changemakers and as child soldiers. It considers the gendered and political identities that have emerged through this continental societal revolution. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Africa. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2822)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

AFRS 2824 (c, DPI, IP) The Afro-Portuguese Atlantic World, 1400–1900

David Gordon.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Knowledge of the history of the slave trade to the Americas has grown immensely. This course pivots from viewing the Atlantic World through the lens of the trade in slaves to how a diverse Atlantic World developed through Afro-Portuguese encounters from the age of Henry the Navigator to the formal abolition of slavery in Brazil and the extension of colonization in Portuguese-ruled Africa. How and why did early modern Africans and Portuguese participate in the Atlantic trade? What other forms of commerce, such as ivory and rubber, proliferated? What cultural systems, cosmologies, religions, and identities emerged through these Atlantic World exchanges, including the formation of Afro-Portuguese identities? What are the legacies of the early modern Afro-Portuguese Atlantic world? In exploring these and other questions, this course introduces students to the histories of Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, and Brazil. It fulfills the non-Euro/US and premodern requirements for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2824, LACL 2824)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 2840 (c, DPI, IP) Africa and Globalization

Michael Yekple.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Provides an exploration of globalization processes in sub-Saharan Africa. Delves into the impact of international forces and emerging technologies on the continent's citizens and countries, while also examining how African nations and actors contribute to global dynamics. Topics covered include technological advancements, development, immigration, art and culture, foreign aid, and China's influence in Africa. Aims to spotlight both the opportunities and challenges that African countries face in the ever-evolving global landscape. Through this exploration, students will gain a nuanced understanding of Africa's place in the globalized world, challenging stereotypes and fostering a deeper appreciation for the diversity and resilience of African societies.

AFRS 2862 (c, IP) The Haitian Revolution

Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines one of the most significant and yet neglected revolutions in history. Between the years 1791-1804, Haitian revolutionaries abolished slavery and ultimately established a free and independent nation. Explores the Revolution's causes and trajectory and connects Haiti to the broader Atlantic world. Likewise, studies the revolution's aftermath and its impact on world history. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Latin America, Atlantic Worlds, and Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the premodern and the non-Euro/US requirements for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2862, LACL 2162)

Prerequisites: HIST 1000 - 2969 or LAS 1000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 2921 (b, IP) Military Effectiveness

Michael Yekple.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate Seminar. Military effectiveness is a key concept in international relations. Many scholars see military power as the main factor determining war and peace, global stability or instability, and how political and economic power is distributed across countries. States often evaluate their own military strength compared to that of their allies and enemies, which influences their alliances, efforts to prevent conflict, and domestic spending. But what exactly is military power? Why are some militaries strong and effective while others are weak? And how do we measure and explain military effectiveness? The course on military effectiveness aims to educate students on the subject of military effectiveness while introducing them to the international relations and comparative politics approaches and tools employed by scholars in understanding the subject. (Same as: GOV 2921)

AFRS 3005 (b) Race, Crime, and the Law in the United States

Brian Purnell.

Every Other Fall. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Advanced seminar on the criminal justice system in America and the ways African Americans specifically, and racial minorities in general, experience protection and prosecution in it. Students read Harvard Law Professor Randall Kennedy's provocative text of the same title and explore and debate such topics as racial criteria in jury selection, racial disparities and capital punishment, and the rise of mass incarceration in America. Students study key Supreme Court decisions that have considered questions of race and criminal justice. Students conduct research on a specific academic question or policy issue of their choosing and present their findings.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

AFRS 3010 (c) Reconstruction and Realism

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Advanced Seminar. Explores the rise of American literary realism that occurred following the Civil War and its relationship to the social and political events of the South's Reconstruction. Studies works by the major figures of the movement such as Charles Chesnut, Paul Laurence Dunbar, William Dean Howells, Henry James, Sarah Orne Jewett, Mark Twain, and Edith Wharton. Students are required to develop original readings of these literary texts that engage the political and social contexts in which they were produced. All students present their research in written and oral form. Fulfills the advanced seminar requirement for African studies and English majors. (Same as: ENGL 3800)

Prerequisites: AFRS 2000 - 2969 or ENGL 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

AFRS 3011 (c) African American Film

Elizabeth Muther.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Advanced Seminar. Explores a spectrum of films produced since 1950 that engage African American cultural experience. Topics may include black-white buddy movies, the L.A. Rebellion, blaxploitation, the hood genre, cult classics, comedy and cross-dressing, and romance dramas. Of special interest will be the documentary impulse in contemporary African American film; gender, sexuality, and cultural images; the politics of interpretation—writers, filmmakers, critics, and audiences; and the urban context and the economics of alienation. Extensive readings in film and cultural theory and criticism. Note: Fulfills the film theory requirement for Cinema Studies minors. Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 3011, CINE 3011)

Prerequisites: ENGL 1000 or higher or AFRS 1000 or higher or FILM 1000 or higher or CINE 1000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 3015 (c) James Baldwin

Guy Mark Foster.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 15.

Examines the major postwar writings of the controversial African American author and the role his fiction and nonfiction played in challenging that era's static understandings of racial, gender, and sexual politics. Although Baldwin lived abroad for much of his life, many critics associate the author narrowly with the United States black civil rights and sexual liberation struggles. In recent years, however, Baldwin has increasingly been recognized as a transnational figure and for his invaluable contributions to the discourse of globalization. Indeed, Baldwin's "geographical imagination," one informed by critical racial literacy, led him to anticipate many of the central insights of contemporary Queer Studies, Whiteness Studies, as well as Africana philosophical thought. Note: Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American or global literature requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 3015, GSWS 3015)

Prerequisites: ENGL 2000 - 2969 or AFRS 2000 - 2969 or GLS 2000 - 2969 or GSWS 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

AFRS 3018 (b, DPI) Ethnography of American Blackness(es)

Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 16.

Reading the relationship between Blackness and Americanness through texts from the African diaspora, this course takes W.E.B. Du Bois's concept of double-consciousness and places it into a global conversation about Black experiences. "Black" and "American" are frequently viewed as "warring ideals," implying that they are separate entities. However, they are also simultaneously lived and discussed as interwoven subjectivities that mutually shape and define the complex experience of being Black American. Using ethnographic, biographical, and fictional texts and media from the US, Caribbean, and Africa, the course explores how these broad concepts are defined, represented, and deconstructed. This multi-sited, multi-genre analysis pays close attention to the diversity of lived experiences, cultural representations, and political ideologies that fit under the umbrella of "American Blackness(es)," highlighting the ways the concept is defined from both inside and outside the US. (Same as: ANTH 3018)

Prerequisites: Two of: AFRS 1101 and AFRS 2000 - 2969 or either ANTH 1100 or ANTH 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 3020 (c) Black Heat, Black Cool: Theorizing Blackness

Judith Casselberry.

Every Spring. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Interdisciplinary examination of ideas and expressions of blackness by black people in the United States from the nineteenth century to the present. Shifts focus from "what" is blackness to "where" and "when" is blackness. Students analyze the fluidity of blackness and the implications for the production of ideologies, discourses, and identities of black people. Materials for analysis may include primary and secondary written texts, film, video, and audio by James Baldwin, Beyoncé, Julie Dash, Martin Luther King Jr., Saidiya Hartman, Nina Simone Hortense Spillers, and Ida B. Wells.

AFRS 3030 (c, DPI) Black Archival Praxis: Documenting and Preserving Black Life

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 15.

As the field of Africana studies, and particularly slavery studies, has expanded, scholars raise a plethora of new questions and concerns regarding theories and methods in documentation of Black life and Black archival creation, preservation, and promotion. This advanced seminar explores fundamental questions about the concept of the archive, as well as past and current archival practices. Students will analyze conventional and unconventional scholarly and artistic repositories of Black life. Concepts of witnessing, testimony, (collective) memory, "living" archive, ethics, collection, ownership, and access will be explored. Materials for analysis may include music, film, literature, existing institutional archives, and ongoing digital recovery projects. Scholarly writings may include Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Zora Neale Hurston, James Scott, Jessica Marie Johnson, Saidiya Hartman, and Jacques Derrida.

Prerequisites: Two of: AFRS 1000 - 2969 and AFRS 1000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 3142 (c, DPI) Jim Crow Justice

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

What are the historical origins of our modern system of mass incarceration? This research seminar explores the relationship between race and justice from the end of the Civil War through the early twentieth century. We will begin by framing our concerns in light of recent scholarship on the phenomenon (such as Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*), and then dig into the archives ourselves to craft 25-30 page research papers on aspects of the problem. Our sources will include Congressional documents, the Department of Justice Peonage Files, records of the NAACP, and other major collections. Students will benefit from prior coursework in African American history or Africana Studies. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: US. (Same as: HIST 3142)

Prerequisites: HIST 1000 - 2969 or AFRS 1000 - 2969 or HIST 3000 or higher or AFRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

AFRS 3151 (c, DPI) African American Music: Reverberations of Power, Love, and Theft in America's Audible Archive

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 15.

Examines African American Music as a multi-genre phenomenon with a focus on music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Of central concern are issues of appropriation, romanticism, lineage, expressive culture, music and identity, and music as an archive. Genres may include soul, funk, disco, hip-hop, jazz, blues, and classical music. Course will culminate with a final capstone project that can have a creative component. (Same as: MUS 3151)

Prerequisites: AFRS 1101 or ANTH 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

AFRS 3205 (c, IP) African Popular Music and Cultural Hybridity: Sounds, Discourses, and Critical Issues

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 12.

Examines the politics and poetics of cultural hybridity in the context of select popular music genres in and from Africa, and critically engages with related scholarly, nationalist, and popular discourses. Musical genres covered range from early twentieth-century West African palm wine music to contemporary manifestations of hip hop across the African continent and include musical products of post-independence cultural policies and the transnational marketing niche of "Afropop." The rise and popularity of these genres is historicized and analyzed in the context of major social, ideological, political, and economic forces that have shaped Africa over the past 100 years, including colonialism, modern urbanization, independence movements, and globalization. Course materials include writings from the fields of ethnomusicology, cultural studies, and postcolonial theory, musical audio and video recordings, and journalistic and promotional sources, as well as film documentaries. (Same as: MUS 3205)

Prerequisites: MUS 2000 - 2969 or AFRS 2000 - 2969 or MUS 3000 or higher or AFRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

AFRS 3211 (c, DPI, IP) Bringing the Female Maroon to Memory: Female Marronnage and Douboutism in French Caribbean Literature

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Enslaved Africans who fought against oppression through escaping the European plantation system in the Caribbean for freedom in the mountains are called maroons, and their act, marronnage. Except for Queen Nanny of the Jamaican Blue Mountains, only male names have been consecrated as maroons and freedom fighters (the Haitians Makandal or Toussaint Louverture, the Martinican Louis Delgrès, the Jamaican Cudjoe or the Cuban Caba). The course examines the fictitious treatment French-speaking Caribbean authors grant to forgotten African or Afro-descended women who historically fought against enslavement and colonization. The literary works are studied against the backdrop of "Douboutism," a conceptual framework derived from the common perception about women in the French Caribbean as expressed in the Creole say "fanm doubout," which means "strong woman." Authors studied may include Evelyne Trouillot, Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, André Schwarz-Bart, Suzanne Dracius, and Fabienne Kanor. (Same as: FRS 3211, GSWS 3211, LACL 3211)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

AFRS 3213 (c, DPI, VPA) Aesthetics in Africa, the Caribbean and Europe
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

Aesthetics—the critical reflection on art, taste, and culture; as much as beauty, the set of properties of an object that arouses pleasure—are central to all aspects of society-building and human life and relationships. Examines the notions of aesthetics and beauty, from precolonial to contemporary times in cultures of the African, Caribbean, and Western civilizations as expressed in thought and various humanities and social sciences texts, as well as the arts, iconography, and the media. Considers the ways Africans and Afro-descendants in the American region responded to Western notions of aesthetics and beauty and posited their own. Authors studied may include Senghor, Cheick Anta Diop, Mudimbe, Gyekye Kwame, Anténor Firmin, Jean Price Mars, Damas, Suzanne Césaire, Aimé Césaire, René Ménénil, Fanon, Glissant, Socrates, Plato, Diderot, Montesquieu, Baumgarten, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Ronsard, Erasmus, de Grenailles, and Hugo. (Same as: FRS 3213, LACL 3213)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 3215 (c, IP, VPA) Portraits of Exile: Identity and Performance in Iberian Culture

Yoel Castillo Botello.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Through an exploration of self-fashioning and performance from early modern to contemporary Iberian cultural production (Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan theater, dance, film, visual arts, music), this course will study how marginalized groups have historically constructed and negotiated their identities in response to official narratives of both exclusion and appropriation. We will examine theoretical and cultural debates surrounding race, ethnicity, gender, and identity in Spanish discourses of culture and nationhood. Topics include early to contemporary Spanish portrayals of exile, colonization, and the periphery; Roma identity and representation; and Afro-Iberian contributions to the history of music and theater. The seminar will involve active workshops with theater and dance components (no prior experience required). All discussions and assignments will be in Spanish with some theoretical perspectives in English. (Same as: HISP 3258)

Prerequisites: HISP 2409 (same as LACL 2409 and THTR 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LACL 2410).

AFRS 3219 (c, DPI, IP) French Caribbean Intellectual Thought
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

An introduction to some of the main intellectual productions from the French-speaking Caribbean from the nineteenth century to the present, such as the Haitian post-Revolution thought, Indigénisme and Spiralisme or Martinican Négritude, and Diversalité or Tout-monde. Examines theoretical and literary texts by Louis Joseph Janvier, Anténor Firmin, Jean Price-Mars, Frankétienne, René Depestre, Marie Chauvet, René Maran, Léon Gontran Damas, Bertène Juminer, Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, René Ménénil, Aimé Césaire, Suzanne Césaire, Joseph Zobel, Frantz Fanon, Édouard Glissant, Vincent Placol, or Patrick Chamoiseau. Questions addressed include history, memory, ethics, humanism, freedom, relation, Caribbean epistemology, dignity, justice, existence, political theory, identity, race, and cultural autonomy. (Same as: FRS 3219, LACL 3259)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020.

AFRS 3222 (c, DPI, IP) The Anticolonial Tradition

Nasser Abourahme.

Every Other Fall. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

What is decolonization? What might decolonization still be? It is hard from the vantage point of our present to appreciate the extraordinary political hope that once was the promise of decolonization. And it is harder still to think about what kind of place in our present that promise might still have. To think through this question, this seminar course takes up the anticolonial tradition as a universal and world-making body of thought and practice that once challenged the very foundations of knowledge. This course will introduce students to the classics of anticolonial thought, and we'll think together about what kind of relevance they still carry in the present. (Same as: MENA 3222)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

AFRS 3226 (c) A Body "Of One's Own": Caribbean and Latinx Women Writers

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

What kind of stories do bodies tell or conceal? How does living in a gendered and racialized body effects the stories told by women? How do bodies and their stories converge with History or complicate historical "truths"? These are some of the questions addressed in this study of contemporary writing by women from the Hispanic Caribbean and the United States Latinx/Chicana communities. Feminists of color frame the analysis of literature, popular culture and film to guide an examination of the relation of bodies and sexuality to social power, and the role of this relation in the shaping of both personal and national identities. Theorists include Alexander, Barriteau, Curiel, Mendez and Segato. Novelists include Álvarez, Buitrago, García, Indiana Hernández, and Santos-Febres. Taught in Spanish with readings in Spanish and English. (Same as: HISP 3226, GSWS 3226, LACL 3226)

Prerequisites: Two of: either HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher and either HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

AFRS 3228 (c) Beyond the Postcard: Thinking and Writing the Caribbean

Nadia Celis.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

From the first chronicles of Columbus, who believed he had arrived in "The Indies," to the fantasies of global visitors lured by the comforts of secluded resorts, imagination has been a defining force impacting both the representation and the material lives of Caribbean people. Explores the historical trends that have shaped Caribbean societies, cultural identities, and intellectual history through a panoramic study of twentieth- and twenty-first-century fiction, essays, and films, with a focus on authors from the Hispanic Caribbean and US-Latinas of Caribbean descent. Engaging with the responses from Caribbean intellectuals to the challenges of the distorting mirror, addresses: how writers and artists have responded to the legacy of colonialism, slavery, and the plantation economy; how literature and art have depicted dominant trends in the region's more recent history such as absolutist regimes, massive migrations, the tourist industry, and even natural disasters; how the Caribbean drawn by artists and intellectuals relates to global representations of the region. Authors include Piñera, Padura, Santos-Febres, and Chaviano. Taught in Spanish. (Same as: HISP 3228, LACL 3228)

Prerequisites: Two of: either HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher and either HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher.

AFRS 3242 (c, VPA) Advanced Afro-Modern: Dancing Towards Social Change

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

This course fuses Afro-Diasporan aesthetics and cultural concepts with critical dance studies and US modern/post-modern/contemporary concert dance traditions. Students will engage with various Afro-based dance practitioners (such as Jawole Willa Jo Zollar), cultural praxes (such as Sankofa), and improvisational structures (such as Jamaican Dancehall and Haitian Yanvalou) to deepen their ability to create, rehearse, and perform original choreography, specifically for the purposes of advocating for social change and cross-cultural understanding. Using virtual, archival, digital, embodied, and scholarly research, students will learn about and generate performance material that is deeply connected to the histories, spaces, and places that we remember, take-up, and occupy. Students will also be expected to execute collaborations with each other and those within their communities as they create and perform movement for their final dance projects. (Same as: DANC 3242, LACL 3342)

Prerequisites: DANC 1213 (same as AFRS 1213) or DANC 2241 (same as AFRS 2236) or DANC 1000 - 2969 or DANC 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2020.

AFRS 3250 (b) Black Migrations and Mobilities

Jamella Gow.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Migrants, refugees, and other "displaced" people have been defined by their movement. This is particularly the case for people racialized as Black. From the trans-Atlantic slave trade to migration within colonies, centers of empire, and beyond, Afro-descent people have moved and been forcibly displaced globally. This course challenges students to view Black migrants' experiences through modern transformations of race, nation, culture, borders, and both inclusion and exclusion into global categories of difference. Drawing on personal writings, case studies, and theoretical work on Black migration, this class will explore how race and migration are deeply informed by the forced and voluntary movement of those who are racialized as and claim identity as Black. (Same as: SOC 3250)

Prerequisites: SOC 1101 or SOC 1000 - 2969 or AFRS 1101 or AFRS 1000 - 2969.

AFRS 3360 (c, DPI, IP) Diasporic Blackness: Transnational Issues in Afro-Latin American and US Afro-Latinx Communities

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 16.

The course addresses connective topics in Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latinx studies, fields that center the historical and contemporary experiences of the African diaspora in Latin America, the Caribbean, and their transnational communities in the US. Students will examine issues, dialogues, and solidarities among Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latinx communities across the hemisphere, such as invisibility, representation, civil rights, social and/or environmental justice; intersectionality, and digital spaces. (Same as: LACL 3360)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

AFRS 3517 (b) Rebel Ecology: Black and Native Struggles for Land and Life Against Extraction

Allison Guess.

Every Year. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 12.

Considers Dr. Guess's (2021) concept and theory of a "rebel ecology" by asking, more broadly, what other socioecological models exist? Weaves together a study of differing, yet often converging or synergistic traditions of Black/Womanist eco-feminism that often confront the social constructions of race, gender, class and sexuality, dominant religion as a means of social control, imperialism, capitalism and colonialism; Indigenous ecologies and perspectives on resistance to capitalist extraction, genocide, imperialism and colonialism; as well as eco-socialism, which often frames ecology in terms of a mode of production beyond or outside of capitalism and the prison industrial complex. Given ongoing struggles against the extraction of land and labor, the urgent calls raised in the "climate strike," the COVID-19 pandemic, Black-led pandemic rebellions, and long(er) histories of land-based peoples, globally, opposing environmental degradation, broadly defined. (Same as: ENVS 3917, LACL 3517)

AFRS 3520 (b, IP) State-Building in Comparative Perspective

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

States form the foundation of modern politics. Comparative government explores their variation; international relations examine their interaction. States can be instruments of oppression or engines of progress, and recent scholarship has focused on their strength, weakness, and failure. This capstone course explores the processes that produced the early modern state in Europe, then looks at more recent attempts to replicate state development in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The role of war in state formation and the subject of citizenship receive particular attention. (Same as: GOV 3520)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

AFRS 3600 (c, VPA) Race and Visual Representation in American Art

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Students enrolled in the Fall 2020 iteration of the course will have the opportunity to produce online content in support of "There Is a Woman in Every Color: Black Women in American Art," a forthcoming exhibition at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. (Same as: ARTH 3600)

Prerequisites: ARTH 1000 - 2970 or ARTH 3000 or higher or Placement in above ARTH 1100 or AFRS 1000 - 2970 or AFRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

AFRS 3801 (c) Herman Melville and Africa

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

This course explores the African sources of three of Herman Melville's most important books—Benito Cereno, Moby-Dick, and Redburn—that have become central to the canon of American Literature. Students will write short analytical essays as well as complete a final collaborative interdisciplinary project. (Same as: ENGL 3801)

Prerequisites: AFRS 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.