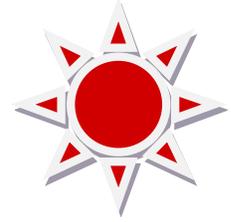




**AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES**  
**Course Listings for Spring 2014**



**BK 101.01 Africa Since 1850**

**M W F 12**

*Cross Listed with HS 101*

*Offered Periodically*

This course provides an overview of the recent history of sub-Saharan Africa. It begins by examining colonization and the dynamics of colonialism, then traces the development of anti-colonialism and nationalism, and concludes by surveying the trajectories of post-colonial states and societies. Throughout the semester we will think about popular experiences in addition to institutional or elite narratives, ask questions about the changing position of Africa in the world, and contemplate the stakes of conceptualizing African history in the present. Materials will include a range of academic literature, fiction and non-fiction works by African intellectuals, and visual media.

*Priya Lal*

**BK 105.01 African-American History II**

**M W F 11**

*Cross Listed with HS 190*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

The two-semester survey examines the history and culture of African-Americans from the pre-colonial period to the present. The first semester focuses on the period before the middle passage, the evolution of slave and free society, the development of Black institutions, and the emergence of protest movements through the Civil War's end. During the second semester, the emphases are placed on issues of freedom and equality from Reconstruction, urban migration, civil rights struggles through current consideration of race, class, and gender conflicts.

*Karen Miller*

**BK 114.01 Intro to African & African Diaspora Religions**

**T TH 12\***

*Offered Periodically*

This course will focus on indigenous traditions of Africa, like those of the Akan, Yoruba, Ndebele, and Fon, as well as related traditions of the Americas like Candomblé, Lukumi, and Haitian Vodou with attention to the movement of these traditions through the slave trade and, more recently, through voluntary migration and digital travel. This course will explore topics including: concepts of God and cosmology, ways of knowing, spirit possession, ritual, ceremony, divination, and art, within a religious studies framework that employs phenomenology, anthropology of religion, and other approaches.

*Funlayo Wood*

**BK 121.01 Christianity in Africa**

*Cross Listed with TH108*

**T TH 9\***

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course is intended to give a historical view of Christianity in Africa. While Christianity generally will be touched on, emphasis will be placed on the development and the extension of the Catholic tradition in Africa. The three stages within which Christianity has so far been established in Africa will be discussed. Finally, a theological outline of the response Christianity has received in Africa will be considered for the purpose of visualizing the future of Christianity in a changing Africa.

*Aloysius Lugira*

**BK 150.01 Intro to Sub-Saharan African Politics**

**T TH 10:30\***

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

*Offered Periodically*

This course provides students with the necessary analytical tools for understanding politics in sub-Saharan Africa. It follows the historical-institutional approach, and departs from the assumption that history matters. Thus, students will critically survey the key historical events (such as colonialism, decolonization, one-party state, democratization, among other issues), which have impacted overall political development in the continent. This course seeks to eradicate the overwhelmingly negative image of the continent, often the result of media reports, which may adversely influence a serious analysis of politics in Africa.

*Abel Djassi Amado*

**BK 155.01 Introduction to African-American Society**

**T TH 1 30\***

*Cross Listed with SC 043*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

In 1896, distinguished scholar W.E.B. DuBois became convinced that the experience of Africans in the Americas was so distinctive that it was imperative to study Black people in order to understand power dynamics at all levels of society. This course will study those power dynamics. While paying particular attention to the many ways that racial power dynamics have impacted all people of African descent in the United States, this course does not assume a uniform Black experience. We shall see that gender, class, and sexuality greatly shape the differing experiences of African-Americans.

*C. Shawn McGuffey*

**BK 172.01 Post Slavery History of the Caribbean**

**M W 3\***

*Cross Listed with HS 172*

*Offered Periodically*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

*Frank Taylor*

**BK 174.01 Modern Latin America**

**T TH 12\***

*Cross Listed with HS 174*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

*Offered Periodically*

This course explores the political and social consequences of independence and the building of national states in former colonies still deeply dependent within the international economy; the long endurance and final abolition of slavery in Brazil and Cuba; the emergence of U.S. economic imperialism and military interventionism, with the revolutionary responses in Cuba in 1898 and in Mexico in 1910; the consolidation of the American empire after World War II; and the revolutionary challenges in Cuba and Central America.

*Zachary Morgan*

**BK 175.01 Booker T. Washington**

**M W F 2**

*Cross Listed with HS 175*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

*Offered Periodically*

This course examines the life, times, and legacy of Booker T. Washington, 1856-1915. A complex and often polarizing historical figure, Washington alienated almost as many as he influenced domestically and internationally with his conflicting public statements and private acts regarding race, politics, violence, education, capitalism, and foreign relations never failed to elicit impassioned responses from adversaries and supporters alike. Despite his death in 1915, Washington's ideas and influence continue to spark debate even today.

*Karen Miller*

**BK 201.01 Versions in Black: Genres of Black Women's Writing**

**T TH 1 30\***

*Cross Listed with EN 201*

The phrase "Black Women's Writing" implies that such writing is a fixed, if not homogenous, "thing" that can be neatly defined and represented. Our course constitutes itself against this idea. Rather than experiencing writing by black women as easily definable, we seek to represent Black Women's Writing as diverse, complicated, and contradictory. Reading these works will encourage us to re-examine notions of blackness, gender, sexuality, community, and history. We will examine the varied genres black women writers use to articulate their experiences.

*Rhonda Frederick*

**BK 205.01 Race & Ethnicity in African Film and Literature**

**M W F 11**

*Offered Periodically*

Africa is an extremely diverse continent. This course will critically engage with issues of diversity, identity and belonging on the African continent. This course will examine how histories, legacies and experiences of slavery, colonization and globalization have impacted issues of identity and belonging in Africa. Students will engage with and examine works from Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa.

*Siphiwe Ndlovu*

**BK 211.01 Modern Brazil**

**T TH 3\***

*Cross Listed with HS 320*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

*Offered Periodically*

*Fulfills Non-Western Requirement for History Majors*

This course covers the making of the modern Brazilian state, from the rise of the Brazilian Empire in 1808 through the modern day. Through readings and analysis of both popular and documentary films, we focus on the importance of race, class, and violence in the abolition of slavery, the rise of the state, the militarization of government, and the foundation of Brazil's modern government.

*Zachary Morgan*

**BK 222.01 Black Education Movements**

**M 4:30-6:50**

*Cross Listed with HS 192*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course will cover the history of Black education movements, including freedman schools, citizenship education, court ordered school desegregation, War on Poverty's education programs, community control of schools, revolutionary political education, liberation schools, affirmative action, and the twenty-first century issue of resegregation.

*Lyda Peters*

**BK 229.01 Multicultural Narratives: Define Past & Invent Future**

**TH 4:30-6:50**

*Cross-Listed with UN 555*

*Capstone classes may NOT be taken Pass/Fail. You may take only ONE Capstone class before graduation.*

Guided by international and multicultural literature, students in this course will reflect on and explore the personal narratives that have contributed to their development. While examining the complex emotional lives of characters in the texts, we will also uncover our own intricate his (and her) stories. Stories of family, faith, race, gender, class, and nation and the rites of passage that have made us who we are and brought us to where we are emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually are the narratives we will share.

*Akua Sarr*

**BK 280.01 Race & Visual Culture**

**M W F 12**

*Cross Listed with EN482*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course considers representations of race in U.S. film, television and the visual arts. We will consider how the U.S.'s history of racial conflict and cooperation is imagined in various genres including art installations, t.v. and film. We will consider how such depictions are enabled or limited by their particular genre. How do police procedurals handle race differently than do sci-fi or family dramas? What typical metaphors, characters and/or visual signs arise and which topics seem particularly prevalent or taboo? Texts under consideration may include *The Wire*, *Battlestar Galatica*, *Torchwood*, *For Coloured Girls*, *the Siege*, *The Help*.

*Cynthia Young*

**BK290.01 Gospel Workshop**

**T TH 6:30-8:30**

*Prerequisite: Performance course*

*Corequisite: No experience is required for membership, but a voice placement test is given to each student.*

*Cross-Listed with MU 096*

This course emphasizes study and performance of the religious music of the Black experience known as Spirituals and Gospels. One major performance is given each semester. Concerts and performances at local Black churches also occur with the Voices of Imani Gospel Choir. Members are required to attend a number of rehearsals and performances. Members of the classes may sing in the choir but it is not required for the course.

*Chauncey McGlathery*

**BK 310.01 Studies of Race, Law, and Resistance**

**W 6:30 - 9**

This course will examine and analyze protest movements for racial and economic justice from 1954 to 1968 and how these struggles contributed to sweeping reforms in U.S. law and public policy during and beyond this period. This course will examine violence and resistance focusing on the legal and extra-legal strategies by "discrete, insular minorities" in the South and the North challenging de jure and de facto discrimination based on race, color, national origin and/or ancestry. This course will be of special interest to students interested in social justice and the law and to those considering post-graduate legal studies.

*Juan Concepcion*

**BK 316.01 Racism: French and American Perspectives**

**M W F 12**

*Cross-Listed with RL 302*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

*Offered Periodically*

French visitors have been observing and commenting on race relations in the United States since before the Civil War. During the twentieth century Paris became a magnet attracting disillusioned African-American artists, musicians and writers in search of a home and an opportunity to express their talents. And today the French confront a history of colonialism and struggle to combat racism as they interact with immigrants from former colonies. What is racism? What are the influences that shape attitudes towards race relations? We will explore these issues in the writings of Tocqueville, Beauvoir, Wright, Baldwin, and Fanon, among others.

*Jeff Flagg*

**BK 319.01 Politics of Race & Ethnicity**

**T TH 3\***

*Offered Periodically*

This course analyzes the influence of race and ethnicity in political development. It discusses how political decision, actions, omission are the outcome of racial/ethnic politics. The first part of the course (up to 1994) focuses on how race has influenced politics in the United States, Brazil and South Africa. The second part of this course will analyze the impact of ethnicity in democratic and non-democratic politics, its linkage to identity politics, and its impact on global and diaspora politics.

*Abel Djassi Amado*

**BK 329.01 The Caribbean During the Cold War**

**M W F 12**

*Cross Listed with HS 329*

*Offered Periodically*

The focus is the Caribbean, a vitally strategic area as attested to most recently by the U.S. invasions of the Dominican Republic in 1965, Grenada in 1983, or Panama in 1989. The efforts of these small states to overcome their vulnerabilities provide a most fascinating subject. Of added interest is the fact that outside of Africa, the Caribbean countries are virtually the only sovereign communities of people of African descent in the world. We will analyze the historical ambience within which the states of the Commonwealth Caribbean operate and evaluate their attempts at maximizing their independence.

*Frank Taylor*

**BK 381.01 Black & Green: Race & Urban Ecology**

**TH 6-8:30**

*Cross Listed with SC 350*

Race has been a controversial topic for the largely White and affluent environmental movement. In this course we will examine how this racial bias has arisen and what many are doing to promote more diverse and equitable strategies for sustainability. Using a historical and sociological perspective we will cover key modes of environmental thought coming from African American, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous communities. Themes include the legacy of slavery and its effect on participation in the environmental movement, the role of racialized modes of thought such as hip hop, and the environmental justice movement.

*Mike Cermak*

**BK 515.01 Race and Capitalism: Blackness in Global Economy from Slavery to Mass Incarceration**

**W 3-5:25**

*Offered Periodically*

This course explores how violence against black bodies has been an integral component of global economic development from the eighteenth century to the present. Focusing broadly on the African diaspora, we will study the history of capitalism's racial violence as it leverages cultural forms, norms and identities: how it is lived through the uneven social formations of race, gender, nationality, and sexuality, among others. We will critique relationships among capitalist economies, race, and culture in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, and beyond, particularly as they develop from histories of racial slavery, colonial expansion, ghettoization, mass incarceration, and overseas warfare.

*Justin Leroy*

**BK 516.01 African Rhythms in Latin American Music**

**TH 3-5:25**

*No musical skills are required*

This course studies the African influence on the music of Latin America and the Caribbean as a reflection of historical, social, religious, cultural, and economic events. Emphasis will be placed on selected music genres in South America and the Caribbean. Students will have the opportunity to learn and play traditional rhythms on native percussion instruments.

*Leonardo Blanco*

**BK 518.01 Women Writers of Africa & African Diaspora**

**M W F 2**

This course will comparatively look at portrayals of girlhood, womanhood, sisterhood and motherhood in the works of women writers in Africa and the African Diaspora. We will closely examine how issues of identity such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class and nationality intersect and create very particular positions for the characters within the texts. We will use the characters' particular positionality to think critically about issues concerning black women. The historical breadth covered by the novels will encourage us to compare women's issues not only in terms of identity construction and geographical location, but across different eras as well..

*Siphiwe Ndlovu*

**BK 553.01 The Old South from Colonial Times to 1860**

**M W F 11**

*Prerequisite: Any two semesters of HS 001 through HS 094*

*Cross Listed with HS 553*

*Offered Periodically*

The course analyzes the settlement patterns, sectional distinctiveness, political ideology, development of slavery and the plantation system, abolitionism and the slavery defense, and the growth of Southern nationalism; and it evaluates the influence of these factors, particularly the South's commitment to slavery, in shaping Southern society.

*Cynthia Lyerly*

**BK 566.01 American Immigration II (From 1865)**

**T TH 12\***

*Prerequisite: Any two semesters of HS 001 through HS 094*

*Cross Listed with HS 566*

*Offered Periodically*

This is the second half of a two-semester lecture course on American immigration. The first half covers the period up to 1865 and the second from 1865 to the present. Each half can be taken independently of the other. This semester we examine the history of Irish, Italian, Jewish, Latino, and Asian Americans since the Civil War, with particular attention to the overseas origins of migration; patterns of settlement and mobility; questions of ethnicity, race, labor, and class; anti-immigrant sentiment; and government policy.

*Arissa Oh*

**BK 570.01 Social Action in Urban America**

**M 3-5:25**

*Prerequisite: Any two semesters of HS 001 through HS 094*

*Cross Listed with HS 570*

*Offered Periodically*

This course examines the history of social action in the United States from the 1890s to the present. Looking at the grassroots level, we will do case studies of several liberal and radical social movements, including Populism, the settlement house movement, the labor movement, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and the community organizing movement of the 1970s. In addition to the class, there is a community service component that may be fulfilled through participation in PULSE or other volunteer programs in the Boston area. Students will investigate the history of their own community organization.

*Marilynn Johnson*

**BK 597.01 Contemporary Race Theory**

**M W 10:30-12**

*Cross Listed with SC 597*

*Offered Periodically*

This class will explore how various contemporary writers engage with the question of race both in the United States and transnationally. We will look at social constructionist theories of race, postmodernism, feminist theory, critical legal studies, and the intersection between contemporary race theory and queer theory.

*Zine Magubane*

**BK 600.01 Senior Seminar**

**T 3-5:20**

*Prerequisite: BK 110 Introduction to the African Diaspora*

*Corequisite: Department permission required*

This seminar focuses on selected issues related to food within and across the African Diaspora.

If Diaspora can be loosely defined as “the movement, migration, or scattering of a people away from an established or ancestral homeland,” then food provides a lens through which to explore and compare the impact of this dispersal on a people as they moved, adapted long-held practices to new places, new times, new concerns. We will focus on several themes including--the evolving food customs and traditions, how those traditions reflect the common bonds as well as the limitations of diaspora, the politics, economics, and health implications of food availability and scarcity, and the presence of food as a dynamic element in cultural production and representation in art, literature, film, and history. Seminar participants are also encouraged to examine and share their own familial food traditions and histories.

*Karen Miller*



NOTES

