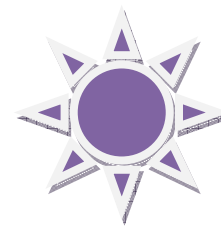


**AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES**  
**Course Listings for Fall 2010**



**BK 104 African-American History I**

**M W F 11**

*Cross Listed with HS 189*

*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 treats the period before the middle passage, the evolution of slave and free society, the development of Black institutions, and the emergence of protest movements up to the end of the Civil War. 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 110 Introduction to African Diaspora Studies**

**T TH 9**

*Cross Listed with HS 120*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

A survey of the African continent and the Diaspora that will include geography, history, politics, economics and literature. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to specific historical, cultural, social and political topics related to Africa and the African Diaspora. Because the scope of the course is so vast, we will explore important issues and themes to give students a desire to further pursue more specific classes in African and African Diaspora Studies. Boston College faculty members will be invited to lecture in their area of expertise specific to Africa and the Diaspora throughout the semester.

*Martin Summers*

**BK 120.01 Religion in Africa**

**T TH 1:30**

**BK 120.02 Religion in Africa**

**T TH 3**

*Cross Listed with TH 107*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course is designed to introduce the varieties of African religious experience. The content and significance of African religion as an autochthonous religion will be outlined. Christianity and Islam as the extended religions of Africa will be discussed. While emphasis will be placed on the impact religion has had on African communities within the context of peace and justice in the world, the course will also consider the role of religion in a changing Africa.

*Aloysius Lugira*

**BK 138 Race, Class and Gender**

**MWF 3**

*Cross Listed with SC 038*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

Viewing race, class, gender, sexuality, and other identities as inseparable from discussions of inequality and power, this course will begin by discussing the social construction of these categories and how they are connected. We will then look at how these social identities shape and are also shaped by four general subject areas: (1) wealth and poverty, (2) education, (3) family, and (4) crime, law, and social policy. Although this course is separated into subject areas, we shall see that these areas greatly overlap and are mutually influenced by one other.

*C. Shawn McGuffey*

**BK 139 African World Perspectives**

**T TH 9**

*Cross Listed with SC 039*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

*Satisfies Social Sciences Core Requirement*

The aim of this course is to provide a broad overview of how Africa has impacted the world and how the world has impacted upon Africa. The course is divided into six basic topic of "units". Each unit deals with a major area of debate in the field of African studies.

*Zine Magubane*

**BK 174 Modern Latin America**

**T TH 9**

*Cross Listed with HS 174*

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 201 Versions in Black: Black Women's Writing**

**T TH 9**

*Cross Listed with EN 201*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Requirement*

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 209 Ethnic Theatre Studies**

**T Th 3-4:30**

*Cross Listed with CT 209*

*Department Permission Required*

Dance is a dynamic art form that expresses itself through the movement of the body in space, while also providing a window into the society and culture from which it arises. As the world has become increasingly interconnected, we have seen a corresponding growth of exciting new dance/physical theater works. This course is a creative dance/movement/theater course (focused on Korea), designed to introduce students to the basic techniques of Korean and Western dance/movement/theater, and to provide an environment in which the students and the instructor can collaborate conceptually and technically to create new and original work. Students will be encouraged to make use of the skills learned in the class to express in dance their unique personalities and backgrounds, as well as their own perceptions of Korean culture and everyday life. The course will include lectures and discussions on Korean and Western dance (focused on modern dance) and the performing arts, as well as video presentations, guest artist performances, and, finally, presentations of created work.

*Sun Kim*

**BK 214 Modern Southern Africa**

**T TH 10:30**

*Cross Listed with HS 214*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Requirement*

Conflicts between Africans and European settlers in southern Africa have deep historical roots. Beginning with the first encounters between European and African societies, the course examines the expansion of European dominance, the politics and economics of racial inequality, and the resulting African protest movements and guerrilla warfare. The course covers South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

*David Northrup*

**BK 217 Sub-Saharan Africa: Issues and Problems**

**MWF 2**

This course introduces students to the study of politics and government in Africa. It surveys the different approaches used to examine the history of political development on the African continent as well as the institutional structure of the African states. We will explore some of the dimensions of social change and political reform in Post-Colonial Africa, with special reference to factors such as nationalism, ethnicity, state dysfunctionality, the problem of political order, democratization, and development. We will explore all these issues against the backdrop of the debate between Afro-pessimism and Afro-optimism as we all grapple with the fate of the continent, which is an object of various controversies.

*Masse Ndiaye*

**BK 243 Gender and Slavery**

**MWF 1**

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

Discussions of slavery have focused upon the enslaved males' roles and responses. To gain a more complete picture of the complex social interactions and political and social consequences of slavery, we will examine it from the enslaved female's perspective as well. This course focuses upon women's labor, their roles in family life, the plantation community, and how gender informed the style and types of resistance in which men and women engaged. We will also discuss the effects of white paternalism upon gender roles in the slave communities and white female responses to the effects of slavery upon their lives.

*Sandra Sandiford Young*

**BK 245 Growing up Ethnic in America: Contemporary Multicultural Fiction M 4-5:15**

*Freshman Topic/Advising Seminar – 1 credit Pass/Fail*

In this seminar students will read short stories by AHANA writers that navigate the complex terrain of race and ethnicity in America. The stories and excerpts will depict a variety of experiences but suggest that what constitutes an American identity is far from settled. Ethnic difference has a profound effect on personal and social understandings of what it means to be an American. As we discuss the literature, students will be expected to share their own personal narratives of growing up – stories of race, ethnicity, class, gender, faith, and nationality – and what it means to be “ethnic” in America. Some of the writers we will read include: Toni Morrison, Amy Tan, Louise Erdrich, Sherman Alexie, Sandra Cisneros, Junot Diaz, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Edwidge Danticat.

*Akua Sarr*

**BK 253 The Modern Black Freedom Movement**

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

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course is a comprehensive history of the people, the stories, the events, and the issues of the civil rights struggle in America. The course focuses on the stories of the little-known men and women who made this social movement and presents the material so that both those who lived through these turbulent years and those too young to remember them will come to know their importance in our lives.

*Lyda Peters*

**BK 255 Afro-Latin America Since Abolition**

**T TH 1:30**

The study of race in Latin America has been too closely linked to the study of slavery. While slavery is central to the development of the culture and economy of the Americas, it is too easy to overlook the role of free blacks in the development of the independent nations of Latin America. We will examine the role of the Afro-Latin American community throughout the Americas as it struggled with issues of manumission, abolition, national independence, and industrialization. The newly independent states of Latin America struggled with ideas of race and modernity, and those struggles continue until today.

*Zachary Morgan*

**BK 266.01 Rhythm & Blues in America**

**M W 4:30 – 6:50**

*Cross Listed with MU 321*

This course examines the elements of rhythm and blues in the Afro-American sense and traces the influence of these elements on American popular and classical music from the early 1900s to the present. Records, tapes, and audio-visual material that include music from the early New Orleans period to present day Jazz/Rock and music videos will be used throughout the course.

*Department*

**BK 275 Race & Popular Culture after 9/11**

**MWF 11**

*Cross Listed with EN 342*

The central question for this course is how has film, television and fiction represented the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon? While we will explore how the attacks themselves have been represented, we will also concern ourselves with studying how national trauma reconfigures conceptions of national identity, civic duty and notions of insiders and outsiders. We will also consider how the attacks were/are represented differently inside and outside the U.S. Texts under consideration include the television shows *Sleeper Cell*, *The Unit*, and *24*, films including *Traitor*, *Standard Operating Procedure*, and *The Kingdom*, and novels including *Falling Man*, *Netherland*, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, and *Saturday*.

*Cynthia Young*

**BK 290 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. The Gospel Workshop will provide the lab experience for MU 321 (BK 266) and MU 322 (BK 285). Members of these classes will be required to attend a number of rehearsals and performances of the Gospel Workshop. Members of the classes may sing in the choir but it is not required for the course.

*Department*

**BK 292 African Music**

**MW 3**

*Cross Listed with MU 306*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course explores the way people make music in sub-Saharan Africa. We'll study representative popular and traditional musics such as Ewe drumming and dancing, Congolese *soukous*, and Nigerian *jùjú*. We'll consider musical pieces not only as significant works of art with distinct forms, styles & aesthetics, but as intricately linked to the rich and complex cultural contexts that surround them. Key issues discussed will include the politics of music during the colonial period and independence movements, the use of music in sustaining traditional rituals and ceremonies, and the globalization and representation of African music at home and in the West over the past few decades. Students will learn to play African music during in-class workshops and demonstrations, although no musical background, or knowledge of Western music notation, is required.

*Julie Hunter*

**BK 299.04 Readings and Research**

**By Arrangement**

*Sandra Sandiford-Young*

**BK 322 Haiti Cherie: Haitian Literature and Culture**

**TH 3-4:50**

*Cross Listed with RL 473*

*Conducted in French*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course will focus on the formation of a Haitian literary tradition along with the historic and cultural factors that have influenced it. We will consider the major movements and themes such as the 19th century literary movements, the politics of literature, and the role of the Haitian Diaspora. How has Haitian literature developed over the years? How have socioeconomic, historical and political factors been represented? How have Haitian writers taken on the question of language in their writing? Using a chronological approach to chart a timeline of Haitian literature we will observe various cultural trends in relation to history.

*Régine Michelle Jean-Charles*

**BK 325 Revolutionary Cuba: History and Politics**

**MWF 12**

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

*Cross Listed with HS 325*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

This course has as its focus Cuba's foreign and domestic policies since the revolution. Because Cuba is, in Fidel Castro's words, a "Latin African" country, some attention will be focused on the issue of race and the revolution in Cuba. Likewise, the history of Cuba's policies in Africa and the Caribbean will be looked at closely. It is, however, not a traditional course in diplomatic history. It explores the interface between domestic and foreign policy throughout, relating this to the specific case of Cuba since 1959.

*Frank Taylor*

**BK 357 Haiti & Globalization**

**T TH 10:30**

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

The first independent Black Republic, Haiti occupies a prominent place in the African Diaspora. This course introduces Haitian Studies through art, literature, history, and politics. We will utilize an interdisciplinary approach drawing from historical documents, poetry, novels, and film to obtain a critical perspective on the Haitian past, present and future. We will examine discourses surrounding Haiti and observe how artists and scholars have responded to them. We will provide a critical context for understanding perspectives on religion (vodou, Catholicism, evangelical Protestantism), politics (USA occupations, Duvalier dictatorship, Aristide presidencies), society (classism, poverty), and environment (floods of 2008, earthquake of 2010).

*Régine Michelle Jean-Charles*

**BK 366 Philosophies of Black Struggle: African Independence and the US Civil Rights Movement**

**MWF 9**

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

James H. Meriwether describes an ambivalent relationship between African independent and liberation leaders and those of the African American Civil Rights Movement. Alphonse Elungu claims that an African ideology of political liberation originated in the Americas, an ideology that led to African political independence. Another critical strain holds that the independence of African countries in the 1950s and 1960s inspired and strengthened the US Civil Rights Movement. Finally, before relationships between Africa and its Diaspora were social and political they were religious and intellectual. Taking these ideas as points of departure, this course creates an archeology of relationships, analyses, and interpretations of connections to and differences between black intellectuals and activists on the African continent and in the United States. Looking at the work of WEB DuBois, Frantz Fanon, Leopold S. Senghor, Edward W. Blyden, P. Olanrewaju Esedebe, Kwame Nkrumah, Steve Biko, Alphonse Elungu pene Elungu, and Vincent Y. Mudimbe, we explore and analyze the complex relationships between Black Africans and African Americans in their respective struggles for freedom and liberation and in their respective searches for identity.

*Donatien Cicura*

**BK 373 Slave Societies in The Caribbean and Latin America**

**MWF 3**

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

*Cross Listed with HS 373*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

Over 90 percent of slaves imported into the Americas during the Atlantic slave trade were brought to the Caribbean Islands and South America. The Caribbean Islands received 42.2 percent of the total slave imports and South America 49.1 percent. Among the topics covered are the rise and fall of slavery, the economics of slave trading, slave demography, patterns of slave life, slave laws, slave resistance, slave culture, social structure and the roles of the freed people. The compass of the course embraces a variety of English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch speaking countries and a comprehensive approach.

*Frank Taylor*

**BK 462.01 Popular Music and Identity**

**T TH 2:30**

*Cross Listed with CO 462*

The goal of this course is to increase the understanding of basic concepts and principles of popular music as a form of communication, and specifically, popular music as a symbolic form of behavior that relates to individual and group identity. This course will introduce you to theory and research in the area of popular music studies in communication, and will help you apply this knowledge in understanding popular music as meaning-making cultural practice. Seeing music as culture, we use both transmission and ritual/symbolic perspectives to address social/cultural dimensions of popular music in the U.S. as well as in international contexts.

*Roberto Avant-Mier*

**BK 493.01 Diversity and Cross-Cultural Issues**

**W 9-10:50**

**BK 493.03 Diversity and Cross-Cultural Issues**

**W 4:30-6:20**

*Prerequisite: Permission of Graduate School of Social Work*

*Cross Listed with SW 723*

The course provides a critical perspective on current issues and problems in American racism, sexism, heterosexism, ablism, and ageism. These issues and problems are studied in the context of the dynamics of social process, historical and anthropological perspectives, and theories of prejudice and social change. Social work's responsibility to contribute to solutions is emphasized. Different models for examining the issues of race, sex, sexual orientation, age and ability are presented.

*Department*

**BK 508 Black Theology**

**TH 3-5:20**

*Cross Listed with TH 509*

*Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement*

Interrogates some of the ways in which biblical teaching and religious doctrine interact with race, simultaneously to impede and to facilitate cultural, social, and existential liberation.

*M. Shawn Copeland*

**BK 598 The Politics of Black Sexuality**

**M 12- 2:20**

*Cross-listed with SC 598*

Using Black bodies as a focal point, this course will examine the intersections of race and sexuality in the U.S. on both an inter-personal and national level. Although we will pay careful attention to the historical foundations for many of the contemporary issues now facing people of African descent, we will primarily focus on modern day dynamics and debates within and outside of African-American communities. Topics covered include: poverty and social policy, family and sex education, religion, hip-hop, and public health.

*Shawn C. McGuffey*