



AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES
Course Listings for Spring 2010

BK 105 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 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 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 121.01 Christianity in Africa

T TH 1:30

BK 121.02 Christianity in Africa

T TH 3

Cross Listed with TH 108

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 137 Managing Diversity

T TH 12

Cross Listed with MB 137

Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

Students in this course will learn about contemporary empirical and theoretical research on the dynamics of international culture, gender, race and other special differences in the workplace. They can also increase skills in diagnosing and solving diversity-related conflicts and dilemmas, and develop a capacity to distinguish a monolithic organization from one that treats diversity as a competitive advantage.

Judith Clair

BK 138 Race, Class and Gender

T TH 12

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.

Autumn Green

BK 155 Introduction to African-American Society

T TH 1:30

Cross Listed with SC 043

Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

Satisfies Social Sciences 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 208 Contemporary Francophone Women

M 3-4:50

Cross Listed with RL 454

Borrowing from Hélène Cixous' model of *écriture féminine*, this course explores the specificity of francophone women's writing. We will examine narratives by women from a wide variety of perspectives and geographic location including the Caribbean, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. The question of genealogy is central to this course as we attempt to delineate a matrilineal francophone literary tradition. As such we will also consider these narratives in relation to feminist theory, history, socio-cultural politics, culture and ethnicity. Some of the themes we will study include silence and voice, the female body, mother-daughter relationships, migration and immigration, and canon formation.

Régine Jean-Charles

BK 217 Sub-Saharan Africa: Issues and Problems

MWF 10

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 222 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 re-segregation.

Lyda Peters

BK 229 Multicultural Narratives

M 4:30-6:50

Does not count for Minor Credit

This course is a Capstone Course and is available to Seniors Only

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 247 African American Critical Thought

T 3-5:20

This is an intensive survey of various thinkers and strategies, which have shaped the African American quest for human flourishing, self-realization, and equality in the United States of America. Readings will cover the 19th and 20th centuries.

M. Shawn Copeland

BK 285 Jazz in America

M W 4:30

Cross Listed with MU 322

This course provides a thorough and detailed study and examination of the Black music that has come to be known as jazz. The socio-political nature of Black music in America, Black music in education, and the relationship between Black music and the mass media are considered.

Hubert Walters

BK 291 Voices of Imani

T TH 6:30-8:30

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.

Hubert Walters

BK 316 Racism: French and American Perspectives

MWF 12

Cross Listed with RL 302

Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

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 318 Post-Slavery History of Caribbean

MWF 12

Cross Listed with HS 172

Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

See course description in the History Department.

Frank Taylor

BK 329 The Caribbean During the Cold War

M W 3

Cross Listed with HS 329

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 340 Gender and Sexuality in African American History

MWF 12

Cross Listed with HS 547

This course examines the intersections of gender and sexuality as both categories of identity and modes of power in the shaping of the historical experiences of African Americans. Through readings and lecture, we will explore three broad and interconnecting themes: how cultural understandings of race have impacted cultural understandings of gender and sexuality (and vice versa); how dominant cultural notions of gender and sexuality have underpinned relations of power between blacks and whites; and how gender and sexuality have shaped relationships within African American communities.

Martin Summers

BK 385 Health and Disease in the African-American Experience

MWF 2

Cross Listed with HS 528

This course examines the historical relationships between race, medicine, and health care from the era of New World slavery to the age of AIDS. In doing so, we will pay particular attention to the role of ideas of racial difference in the production of medical knowledge, the historical persistence of racial disparities in the delivery of health care, and folk and professional healing within the African American community.

Martin Summers

BK 414 Race & Philosophy

T TH 12

This course employs methods of recent Anglophone philosophy to examine such topics as the bases and justification of racial solidarity; whether races are real and, if so, what they are (social constructions? natural categories?) and how they come to exist; racial identity; and the nature, preconditions, loci, subjects, and targets of racism.

Jorge Garcia

BK 442 Intercultural Communication

M W 3

Cross Listed with CO 442

Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

This course studies communication as it relates to culture, and as it occurs interculturally and internationally. In those contexts, questions and issues will be pursued which reveal processes, effects, methods, and critical norms for evaluating interpersonal, group, and mass communication.

Roberto Avant-Mier

BK 462.01 Popular Music and Identity

MWF 11

BK 462.02 Popular Music and Identity

MWF 1

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 596 Black Families and Society

T 4:30-6:50

Cross Listed with SC 596

This course will examine Black families within the United States. This reading and participation intensive seminar will analyze family dynamics from a race, class, and gender perspective and will not assume a uniform Black family experience. Although we will pay careful attention to the historical foundations for many of the contemporary issues now facing families of African descent, we will primarily focus on modern day dynamics and debates within and outside of Black families.

C. Shawn McGuffey

BK 600 Senior Seminar

T 3-5:20

Prerequisite: BK 110 Introduction to the African Diaspora

Department Permission Required

As the capstone course for the African and African Diaspora Studies minor, this course draws upon the work of sociologists, philosophers, feminists and critical theorists to critically examine the concept of race and the phenomenon of racism in the United States. Topics will include the social construction of race and gender, white privilege, race and identity.

Régine Jean-Charles

SOUTH AFRICA SUMMER ABROAD COURSE!!

**BK 363: The History and Literature of South Africa
June 14th – July 9th, 2010
Four weeks in South Africa
with Profs. Zachary Morgan and Cynthia Young**

Divided into three periods, this four-week course aims to acquaint students with South Africa's major historical events and seminal writers. Beginning in the colonial period, we will discuss the colonizing of South Africa and the first Boer War. We will then compare and contrast fictional texts by a white and a black South African, each of whom represent the colonial period in strikingly different ways. We will then spend two weeks on the Apartheid era focusing on the political and social structures created by Apartheid and the anti-Apartheid movement that eventually brought the system down. We will conclude by considering the various issues that have beset post-Apartheid South Africa: the persistence of entrenched poverty, political corruption, the intensification of gender violence, and the struggle to define a modern South African identity.

This course's objectives are to:

- Familiarize students with South Africa's major historical events from the colonial period through the post-Apartheid period
- Introduce students to major South African writers from various racial communities and political persuasions
- Assist students in talking and writing about difficult racial issues in a complex and sensitive manner
- Train students to write short critical essays on literature and film
- Teach students how to write brief essays focusing on key historical issues