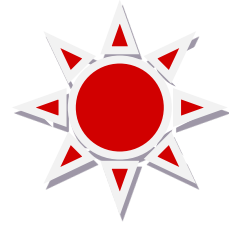




AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES
Course Listings for Fall 2019



AADS 1104 African-American History I

M W F 12-12:50

Cross Listed with HIST 2481

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

This 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, and civil rights struggles through current consideration of race, class, and gender conflicts.

Karen Miller

AADS 1110 Introduction to African Diaspora Studies

T TH 3- 4:15

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity and Social Science

A survey of the African continent and the Diaspora that would 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.

Rhonda Frederick

AADS 2182 Black Popular Culture

W 4:30-6:50

Cross Listed with COMM 2182

In this class, we will critically examine the development of black popular culture from blackface minstrelsy in the 1800s to present day. While we will primarily focus on black popular culture in the United States, we will also consider the work of diasporic authors and artists and the international implications of American media. Readings will draw upon theories and concepts in media studies, cultural studies, and rhetoric to center our discussion of black popular cultural texts such as television shows, films, music, poetry, and fashion. Course evaluation will be based on regular quizzes, two short papers, and a creative project.

Anjali Vats

AADS 2241 Black Feminisms 101: Harriet Tubman to Beyoncé

T TH 10:30-11:45

Black feminists have long explored the question of race versus gender in their politics, theories, and writing. This class takes a closer look at the intersection of race and gender by using Black feminist thought as a lens to examine literature and popular culture. We will read writers and theorists from Africa and the diaspora to provide definitions of Black feminism. We consider how race and gender have been thought about over time.

Régine Jean-Charles

AADS 2248 Advanced Community Service Research Seminar

T TH 10:30-11:45

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

Department permission required

Cross-listed as SOCY225401 and UNAS225401

CRP is a two-semester program that offers leadership, research, and public policy training for students interested in working with communities of color in Massachusetts. In the fall, students will participate in a seminar to study the process of community-based research and its methodologies and begin to design a research proposal for an independent study with a faculty advisor for the spring semester research project. The seminar will also include a lecture series, in which academic researchers and community professionals will discuss their current work and experiences on issues related to four research-interest communities.

Marla Derosa

AADS 2290 Gospel Workshop

T TH 6:30-8:30

Performance Course – Zero Credit

Cross Listed with MUSP 1770

This course is a 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 are also presented with the Voice of Imani Gospel Choir. The Gospel Workshop will provide the lab experience for MUSA2331 (AADS2266) and MUSA2332 (AADS2285). 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.

Shannon Jacob

AADS 2330 The History of Jazz

M W 3-4:15

Cross Listed with MUSA 2330

A history of America's music from its origins in African traditions through the contemporary scene. The course will explore its African roots; its consolidation in New Orleans and its spread into the cultural mainstream in the Jazz Age; its transformation into bebop, cool, third stream, funk, and avant-garde trends; and the return to traditionalism. Key figures covered will be Armstrong, Ellington, Parker, and Marsalis, among others.

Timothy Mangin

AADS 2350 Blackness and the Problem

T TH 9-10:15

Cross Listed with ENGL 2350

In *The Souls of Black Folk*, W.E.B. Du Bois famously observes that to be black is to serially confront a question: "How does it feel to be a problem?" This course undertakes a survey of African American Literature as an ongoing mediation on the "problem" of being black, from the advent of racial slavery through to its contemporary afterlives. Reading broadly across a black literary tradition spanning four centuries and multiple genres, we will consider how black writers represent the "problem" of being black not merely as an unwelcome condition to be overcome, but an ethical orientation to be embraced in refusal of an anti-black world that is itself a problem.

Jonathan Howard

AADS 2487 Race and Identity in African American History

M W 3-4:15

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

This course examines and engages readings that reflect a variety of approaches to questions of racial identity and "American-ness" over time. Textual materials have been selected to illustrate both historical and literary treatments of "race" and "identity" within the context of the United States. How do individuals become conscious of themselves as "racial" beings and as national citizens? How do racial identities comport with other identities? How does racial identity influence or color one's sense of self and relations with others within and outside of one's race? How, ultimately, does race impact the study and writing of history over time?

Karen Miller

AADS 3008 Walking Black Boston

T TH 12-1:15

Cross-Listed with ENGL 3008

The city of Boston has many faces, so many that it might best be understood as "Bostons." We will explore this plural city through *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (Malcolm Little first experiences differences between middle-class and working-class black people while moving through Roxbury and Boston. As Malcolm X, he preached at mosque in Dorchester), Danzy Senna's *Caucasia* (a bildungsroman-of-sorts that charts racial ideologies and activism through an interracial marriage, two mixed-raced and differently colored children, and the rhythms of Roxbury and Brookline), and Barbara Neely's *Blanche Cleans Up* (a mystery novel set in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Brookline). Students will read and interpret these "Bostons" with short supplemental readings on Boston's history, cultures, politics, and social developments. Site visits to locations central to each work supplement our learning. Students will write short critical response papers that respond to our readings and walking tours.

Rhonda Frederick

AADS 3310 Studies of Race, Law, and Resistance

W 6-8:25

This course will examine and analyze protest movements for racial and economic justice from 1896 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 other resistance, focusing on the legal and extra-legal strategies by disadvantaged ethnic minorities 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 those considering post-graduate legal studies.

Juan Concepcion

AADS 3326 Blackness, Performance, and Freedom

T TH 4:30-5:45

Cross-Listed with ENGL 3326

From Henry Box Brown's cargo dramatics to Ellen Craft's incredible performance as a feeble white male traveling with his black servant to Brer Rabbit's feigned fear of the briar patch, artifice and performance repeatedly serve as the necessary means, if not the conditions of possibility for, fugitive departure and black life. This course asks how masks, masquerades, con-acts, and acting enable resistance and escape. We will explore how the radical work of historical black performances continue in contemporary black performances like Danny Glover's *Childish Gambino*; Beyoncé's *Sasha Fierce*; Ru Paul's *Drag Race*; and the increasingly popular interest in black speculative and afro futurism (i.e. *Random Acts of Flyness* and *Get Out*).

Allison Curseen

AADS 3375 African American Theater and Drama

M W F 12-12:50

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

Cross-Listed with THTR338501

This course examines how African American playwrights have combined historical narrative, personal recollection, spirituality and religion, popular music, and folk art to create a unique form of American drama that reflects the traumas and triumphs of African Americans. Plays to be studied range from William Wells Brown's autobiographical *Escape*; or, *A Leap for Freedom* (1858) to Lorraine Hansbury's inspirational *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) to Lydia Diamond's contemporary comedy *Stick Fly* (2006).

John Houchin

AADS 3500 From Black Talent to AADS: Fifty Years of Black Studies at Boston College

M W 3-4:15

The academic year 2019-2020 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of Boston College's African and African Diaspora Studies Program. This course will explore the historical origins and evolution of AADS. It examines the program's roots in the efforts to recruit black students to Boston College and its development within the larger black studies movement. In addition to lectures and readings, students will learn about AADS's history by conducting archival research and interviews of alumni, faculty, and staff. Final group projects include a collective oral history of AADS and a poster exhibit that will coincide with AADS's fiftieth anniversary celebration.

Martin Summers

AADS 447201 Race, Law, and Media

T TH 10:30-11:45

Satisfies one of two writing intensive courses required within the Communication major

Cross Listed with COMM4472

This writing intensive course focuses on the relationship between race, law, and media. We will read seminal texts in critical race theory and cultural studies in order to theorize how concepts such as race, criminality, deviance, property, and originality are articulated in legal contexts, often in ways which make whiteness appear to be natural and right. Then, by way of case studies such as the Scottsboro Boys, the Central Park Five, Korematsu versus United States, Prosecutor versus Charles Taylor, and State versus Zimmerman, we will explore how the media represents race and law.

Anjali Vats

AADS 4485 History of Medicine & Public Health/African Diaspora

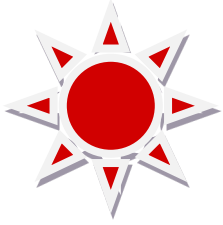
M W F 11-11:50

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

Cross-Listed with HIST448501

This course is a comparative study of the complex historical interplay of medicine, ideas of racial difference, and relationships of power in the African diaspora. Through an examination of slavery in the Americas, colonialism in Africa, and race relations in postemancipation United States and Caribbean, this course explores the ways in which racial difference has acquired a particular truth through the production of biomedical knowledge and its deployment in therapeutic practice and public health policy. The course will also examine how people of African descent have used medical knowledge and healing practices to contest their subordinate position in racist societies.

Martin Summers



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