

AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES
Course Listings for Spring 2019

AADS 1105 African-American History II

M W F 11:00-11:50

Cross Listed with HIST 2482

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

AADS 1114 When Gods Begin Again: Intro. to African & African Diaspora Religions

M W 3:00-4:15

Cross Listed with THEO 2114

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

This introductory course examines African Christianity, Islam, and indigenous religions, as well as African Diaspora religions of Haitian Vodou, Cuban Santería, and Black American conjure/roots work. Employing a comparative religion approach, we explore Black Atlantic religious themes such as: God(s) and ancestor veneration, divination and sacred space, initiation and sacred arts, healing and the environment, gender and power, the impact of slavery on conversion/continuity, migration and diaspora. Ultimately, this course encourages students to reevaluate their understanding of Africana religions, recognize diverse cultural philosophies and ritual knowledge systems, and engage with written and visual materials that underscore the values of these traditions.

Kyrah M. Daniels

AADS 2182 Black Popular Culture

TH 3:00-5:20

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 2249 Advanced Community Service Research Seminar II **T TH 10:30- 11:45**

Cross Listed with SOCY 2255 and UNAS 2255

Department Permission Required

CRP is a two-semester program (SOCY2254 and SOCY2255) offering leadership, research, and public policy training for students interested in working with Latino, Asian American and/or African Diaspora communities. In fall, students in SOCY2254 learn the process of community-based research and its methodologies, and begin to design a proposal for an independent study for spring. In spring, students sign up for SOCY2255 in conjunction with a Readings and Research to conduct their projects. The Spring seminar complements the R&R serving as a forum for students to discuss their research and continue to develop their oral presentation skills.

Marla Derosa

AADS 2306 Musics of Africa **M W F 1:00-1:50**

Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity

Cross Listed with MUSA 2306

This course is a survey of the musical diversity and cosmopolitanism of one of the world's most populous continents. Drawing from ethnographic studies of African music, we will explore some of the political, economic, and historical circumstances out of which certain genres and styles of music emerge and at the ways in which these genres and styles circulate in global music and performance markets.

Timothy Mangin

AADS 2334 Hip Hop in American Culture **M W 3:00-4:15**

Cross Listed with MUSA 2334

This course is an historical and ethnomusicological review of hip hop. We will examine the roots of hip hop in African expressive culture, the emergence of the hip hop genre in the United States, and hip hop's impact in other places around the globe. The course requires active listening, readings, and use of multimedia.

Timothy Mangin

AADS 2442 African Politics **M W 3:00-4:15**

Cross Listed with POLI 2442

This course provides an introduction to contemporary African politics. The course engages important debates related to the state, economic development, democracy, natural resources, political institutions, identity politics, and conflict. We will examine this dynamic and diverse region from a comparative perspective, focusing on both comparison of states within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world.

Lauren Honig

AADS 2482 Introduction to African American Literature **T TH 12:00-1:15**

Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity

Cross Listed with ENGL 2482

This course surveys African American literature from its early-American beginnings to its present. While different semesters may organize around different motifs, the course endeavors to introduce students to major periods (e.g. The Harlem Renaissance); key players (e.g. W.E.B. DuBois); and recurring tropes (e.g. the trickster) conventions (e.g. call-and-response), and themes (e.g. movement-and-constraint) in Black literature. Examining both a range of literary genres and a range of artistic, political, and popular texts, the course emphasizes African American literature as interdisciplinary and inseparable from the history and culture of both a dynamic black diaspora and a diverse and complicated America.

Allison Carseen

AADS 3000 Black Church Black Protest **T TH 12:00-1:15**

Cross Listed with THEO 3000

"This ain't yo mama's civil rights movement." Then whose is it, what fuels it, and why? Taking the urgency of the #blacklivesmatter movement as a point of departure, this course considers the theological premise and political role of the "Black Church" in US social movements for liberation. From the slave rebellions of the antebellum South to the religious icons of the Civil Rights Movement, this course focuses on reading and writing that centers African American religious experience - as well as understandings of morality, power, intersectional identity, and leadership - to contextualize the moral investments along the continuum of movements for black lives.

Amey Victoria Adkins

AADS 3002 Black Nature: Race and Ecology **T TH 10:30-11:45**

Cross Listed with ENGL 4017

With a history that includes being drowned in the ocean during the trans-Atlantic slave trade or strung from trees in the American South, African Americans are entangled in nature in incredibly complex and precarious ways. This course is an opportunity to explore African American literary engagements with the natural world, through our readings of slave narratives, fiction, and poetry. Together we will ask: What stories do we tell about nature? How are the stories we are able to tell about nature informed by race? And how do these stories shape our understanding of what it means to be human?

Jonathan Howard

AADS 3015 Just Playin': Artifice & Performance in Black America **T TH 9:00-10:15**

Cross Listed with ENGL 3015

From Henry Brown's cargo-box dramatics to Ellen Craft's incredible performance as a feeble white man to Brer Rabbit's feigned fear of the brier patch, artifice and performance emerge in the literature, art and everyday-life of black people not just as useless pleasure but as necessary means for fugitive flight. This course traces a diversity of black acts across literary, visual, performative texts. In addition to considering their political contexts and stakes, we will examine what these black plays reveal about the peculiarly American relationships between performance and life; escapism and escape; fancy and flight; and fugitivity and freedom.

Allison Carseen

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 3343 Introduction to Black Philosophy **M W 12:00-1:15**

Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity

Cross Listed with PHIL 3343

This course introduces students to writings by and about persons of African descent. Readings will be drawn from works by G. Yancey, H. McGary, W. Lawson, W.E.B. DuBois, H.L. Gates, C. West, L. Outlaw, and B. Boxill.

Jorge Garcia

AADS 4481 History of Black Nationalism **M W 3:00-4:15**

Cross Listed with HIST 4481

This course examines the evolution and diversity of Black Nationalism and nationalist ideologies in the United States from the early nineteenth century through the present. Detailed study of several distinct nationalistic strategies, including emigrationist, separatist, cultural, and accommodationist, and their proponents will allow students to analyze and compare the forces influencing the evolution, proliferation, retrenchment, and resurgence of nationalist constructs at various points in African American history.

Karen Miller

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| AADS 5509 Black Theology <i>Cross Listed with THEO 3510</i> 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. <i>M. Shawn Copeland</i> | T 10:00- 12:00 |
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| AADS 5513 Capstone: Growing Up Ethnic in America <i>Cross Listed with UNCP 5514</i> In this seminar students will read writing that depicts 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 American. Some of the writers we will read include: Jhumpa Lahiri, Amy Tan, Louise Erdrich, Chang Rae-Lee, Sherman Alexie, Sandra Cisneros, Junot Diaz, Edwidge Danticat, Mat Johnson and Ta-Nehisi Coates. <i>Akua Sarr</i> | TH 4:30-6:50 |
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| AADS 5522 Rastafari Black Radical Thought This course introduces students to the theoretical frameworks, methods, and practice-based application of engaging with Rastafari philosophy. We will critically examine literature produced about Rastafari and the community-based activism of the movement in the context of Pan-African movements from the 1930s to the present. The approach of the class is interdisciplinary and thematic, drawing upon works from Africana studies, literature, history, music, and film. Students will engage with Rastafari guest speakers and read the most recent literature in Rastafari studies. Special emphasis will be placed on gendered anti-Black racism and Rastafari woman's community activism. <i>Shamara Alhassan</i> | M W 10:00-11:15 |
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| AADS 6600 Senior Seminar in Critical Race Theory <i>Department Permission Required</i> As civil rights gains were rolled back in the 1970s and 1980s, a group of scholars, beginning with Derrick Bell, sought to critique notions of formal equality and colorblindness that pervade American conceptions of equality under law. This course explores the body of theory he pioneered, now called Critical Race Theory (CRT), and some of its many interdisciplinary directions. <i>Anjali Vats</i> | T 3:00-5:20 |
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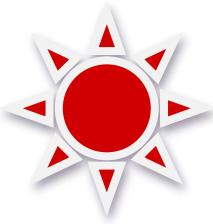
AADS 6610 Advanced Topic Seminar: Toni Morrison

T TH 9:00-10:15

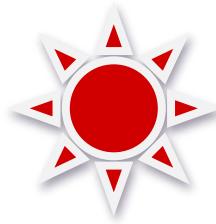
Cross Listed with ENGL 5007

Using a selection of Toni Morrison's creative and non-fiction writings, we will explore various United States' preoccupations as they are refracted through a black literary perspective. In other words, we will identify and explore thematic and artistic concerns that arise in Morrison's work and that dialogue with United States' historical realities. The following themes shape this course: dominant cultural mores and their impact (*The Bluest Eye*); legacies of slavery (*Beloved*); gender, race, and Americanness (*A Mercy*); culture as a sustaining force, masculinity (*Song of Solomon*); women's responses to patriarchy and constructions of femaleness (*Sula*); and race, belonging, citizenship (*Home*).

Rhonda Frederick



NOTES



This listing is updated as of October 30, 2018 and is subject to change. Please contact Richard Paul at paulri@bc.edu with any questions.