



AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES
Course Listings for Fall 2017



AADS 1104 African-American History I

M W F 1

Cross Listed with HIST 2481

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

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 1110 Introduction to African Diaspora Studies

T TH 12*

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 1139 African World Perspectives

T TH 9*

Cross-listed with SOCY1039

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity and Social Science

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

AADS 2194 Reading Race at the Millennium

T TH 4:30

Cross-listed with COMM 2194

Hipster racism, hashtag activism, and Columbusing are just some of the new ideas used to talk about race in this post-Millennial moment. This course will explore the new vocabulary of race emerging in this purportedly post-racial moment through study of cases drawn from popular culture, politics, and increasingly important digital space. We will focus on reading and writing about race in this moment through case studies such as Wes Anderson's films, Black Twitter, racially appropriative Halloween costumes, Asian food trucks, and the Obama presidency in order to understand how race, racialization, and racism continue to evolve.

Anjali Vats

AADS 2204 Music and Peace

T TH 4:30*

No formal music background is required in order to take this course.

This course examines influential African American musicians and their musical endeavors towards the path to world peace, education and awareness. Each class will feature one musician and one significant piece of music written/performed by her or him. The class will look at the historical, musical and educational aspects of both the musician and the music. There will also be an analytical aspect applied to the music, where students will be encouraged to look at lyrics, song form and harmony.

Shannon Jacob

AADS 2253 The Modern Black Freedom Movement

M 4:30-6:50

Satisfies Core Requirement for Cultural Diversity

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

AADS 2290 Gospel Workshop

T TH 6:30-8:30

Performance Course – Zero Credit

Cross Listed with MUSP 1770

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.

Shannon Jacob

AADS 2470 Black and Popular: Spec Fictions by Black Writers

T TH 9

Cross-listed with ENGL 2470

Satisfies Core Requirement for Cultural Diversity

This course asks: what do discussions of contemporary social issues look like when depicted in popular literatures written by writers of African descent? What is the benefit of fictionalizing these issues in genre literatures? Students address the questions by examining the forms of “speculative fictions” (specifically thriller, science fiction/fantasy, and mystery/detective) as well as urban romance to determine how each represents concerns of 20th/21st century black peoples in the US, Canada, Jamaica, and Martinique. Our focus on these genres’ explorations of race, class, culture, incest, social engineering, and intimate relationships is complemented by socio-historical studies of these issues and countries.

Rhonda Frederick

AADS 3000 Black Church Black Protest

T TH 3:00-4:15

“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

M W F 2-2:50

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 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 332201 Haiti Cherie: Haitian Literature and Culture

W 3-5:20

Cross-listed with FREN4473

This course will focus on the formation of a Haitian literary tradition, along with the historic and cultural factors have influenced them. 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 was Haitian literature developed over the years? How have socioeconomic, historical, and political factors been represented? How have Haitian writers taken on the questions 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 Jean-Charles

AADS 3340 Gender & Sexuality in African American History

MW 3*

Cross-listed with HIST 4484

Satisfies Core Requirement for Cultural Diversity, History

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

AADS 3357 Haiti and Globalization

T TH 10:30

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).

Regine Jean-Charles

AADS 447201 Race, Law, and Media

T TH 1:30-2:45

AADS 447202 Race, Law, and Media

T TH 3-4:15

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

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 4482 Ghana/U.S. Historical & Cultural Connections

MW 3- 4:15

Cross-listed with HIST 4482

Satisfies Core requirement for Cultural Diversity

Course examines selected historical and cultural intersections between Ghana, West Africa and the United States. We explore "African" and "American" components of African American identity through course readings, film and lectures that focus on four connected areas: slavery/slave trade, civil rights/independence movements, emigration/immigration, and identity/cultural exchange. Ghana is uniquely situated for such comparative study because of its recurring presence in the unfolding of African American history, including its roles as inspiration to Martin Luther King, home to scholar WEB DuBois, haven to African American emigrants, and producer of the kente cloth many wear

Karen Miller



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