

AAS 2013 Fall Course Offerings

AAS, HIST 005-10 African Civilization, CRN 47180 (4 credits) (SS) M/W, 2:35 - 3:50 p.m.

Sub-Saharan Africa through the millennia of the ancient world to the present. Human origins, state and non-state systems, the external slave trade; colonialism, resistance to European rule; independence movements; neocolonialism. *Professor Carpenter*

REL, AAS 090-10 Introduction to Black Religions and Hip Hop, CRN 48927 (4 credits) (HU) T/TH, 1:10 - 2:25 p.m. *Dean Permission Required, open only to first year students*

Longtime rapper KRS ONE, aka, "The Teacha" once stated that, "Rap is something you do and Hip-Hop is something you live." Traditionally seen as a response to racism, poverty, and urban social decay, hip hop culture is now considered a global, local, and trans-cultural phenomenon. Similarly, religions of the "oppressed" – that is, those that arise from within and among communities seen as "marginal" – are often viewed as responses to similar social problems. But is that the end of the story? Who has ownership over cultural products like hip hop or religion? Who decides hip hop's 'fate,' and does it even have one? Taking a sociological lens of analysis, this course introduces students to the critical study of religion through close study of various expressions of black religion and hip hop, interrogations of the traditional theories of each, and an ongoing focus on social structures, the weight of history, and the changing face of religion in culture. We will consider themes of resistance, constraint, power, the body, deviance, morality, and pressing social concerns related to race, class, gender, and sexuality from a range of sources in and among a wide variety of hip hop cultural practices. *Professor Miller*

AAS, THTR 096-10 Contemporary African American Theater 1990-Present, CRN 49034 (4 credits) (HU) M/W, 9:20 – 10:35 a.m.

Exploration of the theory and practice of Contemporary African American Theatre using dramatic literature, live performance and literary criticism as central resources. Students will engage in class discussions and group exercises that draw from African American plays written and produced over the past two decades. Special consideration will be given to the social, political and cultural impact of African American Theatre during this particular era with a keen emphasis on its most representative plays, playwrights, personalities, and events. *Professor Williams* **COURSE MEETS CBE DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT**

AAS, ART 195-10 Colonial to Contemporary: Arts of Africa from 1950 – present, CRN 47726 (4 credits) (HU) M/W, 8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

This class explores art movements on the African continent and beyond, following artists of African descent as they exhibit and work around the world. The material will also be a spring board for discussing the impact of the colonial period on artists, how contemporary African art is received and perceived in the Euro-American museum, and how African art critics and artists are influencing the politics of global art production. Artists covered include Yinka Shonibare, William Kentridge, El Anatsui, Ndary Lo, Wangeshi Mutu, Aimé Mpane and emerging artists from Senegal, the Republic of Congo, Cameroon and many others. Theorists and critics include Sidney Kasfir, Okwui Enwezor, Sylvester Ogbechie, Hal Foster, Johannes Fabian, Kobena Mercer and more. *Professor Kart* **COURSE MEETS CBE GLOBAL REQUIREMENT**

AAS, JOUR 297 Race Representations and News Media CRN (4 credits) (SS)

This course will examine the representation of racial and ethnic minorities in news media. To this end it will begin with a comparative analysis of majority/minority representations. It will further analyze the impact of such portrayals upon public opinion, public policy, and interpersonal life. Class discussions and assignments will address the role of print, broadcast and online media in shaping the contemporary dominant understanding of various groups. Students will gain insights into the relationship between news media and the social constructions of reality. *Professor El-Burki* **COURSE MEETS CBE DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT**

AAS, ENG 318-10 Topics in African-American Literature and Culture: Imagining Freedom, CRN 48755 (4 credits) (HU) T/TH, 1:10 - 2:25 p.m.

This course will provide an interdisciplinary survey of African-American literature and politics from the 1820s to the turn of the twentieth century. We will read diverse texts, including autobiographical slave-narratives, novels and poems, protests against slavery and lynching, demands for political equality, calls for slave rebellion and appeals for inter-racial cooperation. We will read some of the most famous writings in the African-American tradition, including works by Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois. By listening to spirituals and work-songs, we will also attempt to hear the aspirations of those who endured the experience of slavery and its aftermath, as they have been handed down through vernacular musical traditions. Throughout the term, we will focus on the diverse efforts of African Americans to imagine the possibility -- and the content -- of freedom, in the face of slavery, political disenfranchisement,

economic exploitation, and racial discrimination. These imaginings of freedom are among the richest cultural legacies of the American people, and they are a necessary part of any effort to understand the contradictory history of the United States. No prior study of African American history or culture will be required, but a willingness to engage in interdisciplinary inquiry will be expected. *Professor Moglen*

AAS, ENG 318-11 Topics in African-American Literature and Culture: Black Prison Narratives, CRN 48564 (4 credits) (HU)

M/W, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. This course situates Black prison narratives within the context of the literatures of Social Justice – those novels, poems, lyrics, films, and other texts that directly engage social justice issues. In this course, the emergence of the Prison Industrial Complex and its unchecked, biased interventions into the lives of families and communities of color will serve as subject matter for a range of literary approaches. Course texts include excerpts from Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, Alex Haley and Malcolm X's *Autobiography of Malcolm X*, the PBS documentary, *Slavery by Another Name*, Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* and other texts, films and poems that reflect the experience of being black and incarcerated in the United States. Students will be expected to engage the course materials rigorously. There will be regular quizzes, short response papers, a midterm exam, and a final research paper. *Professor Peterson*

AAS 371-10 Independent Study, CRN 48219 (1-3 credits) (ND)

Independent study in advanced areas of Africana Studies. Independent research with an individual faculty member in the Africana Studies program. Consent of director, *Professor Peterson*

AAS 372-10 Independent Study, CRN 48221 (2-3 credits) (ND)

Independent study in advanced areas of Africana Studies. Independent research with an individual faculty member in the Africana Studies program. Consent of director, *Professor Peterson*