

Spring 2015 Course Offerings
Africana Studies
Director James Peterson



Major and minor declaration forms are available in the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, Maginnes 490

THTR 035-10 Every Tongue Confess (performance) CRN 10397 2 credits (HU)

Professor Williams M-F; 5:00 - 11:00 p.m.

AAS, PHIL, REL 095-10 Is God Dead?: Past, Present Future CRN 18439 4 credits (HU)

Is God dead? Some people think so. Do you? Come decide for yourself. This course looks at the philosophical and theological death of god movement(s) with particular attention to its origins, its popularity in certain historical moments, and future prospects and directions of this movement, with particular attention to the changing shape of the movement in light of area studies and contemporary identity politics. Posed as an ongoing question—is god dead?—the course is for anyone interested in the idea of god past, present, and future. **Professor Driscoll** M,W; 11:10 - 12:25 p.m.

AAS, THTR 096-10 West African Dance CRN 18619 2 credits (HU) Course fee applies (\$170)

This course will explore the dance movement and rhythms of West Africa. Students will learn African- based dance technique, characteristics, and the fundamental connection between the drums and the dance. Although some videos will be viewed, this is primarily a studio course; students should come prepared to move. **Professor Carlson** T,TR; 9:20 - 10:35 a.m.

AAS, SSP 103- Race and Ethnicity in the Contemporary US CRN 19428 4 credits (SS) BUD attribute

Examines race and ethnicity from a sociological perspective. Focus on the role of the major racial and ethnic communities in modern American society. Explores the roles of race and ethnicity in identity, social relations, and social inequality. Topics include racial and ethnic communities, minority/majority groups, assimilation, prejudice/discrimination, identity and the social construction of the concept of “race.” **Professor Johnson** T,TR; 1:10 - 2:25 p.m.

AAS, ENG 121-10 Voices of Freedom: Contemporary Reflections on the Civil Rights Movement CRN 18491 4 credits (HU) BUD attribute

This course examines contemporary literature, new media, and multimedia texts that critically engage the Civil Rights Movement. As we continue the national commemoration of several Civil Rights milestones (The Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Brown vs. Board of Education, The March on Washington, etc.) the literature, film, and music of this course challenges students to consider the social justice issues that continue to (re)present themselves in our society, particularly the discriminatory issues that relate to race, gender, and social class. The course is open to all undergraduates and will meet weekly in the Umoja House. Students who take the course at the advanced (300) level will be required to make in-class presentations and write a research paper for their final project. Course texts include Hampton and Fayer’s *Voices of Freedom*, Michael Eric Dyson’s *Making Malcolm*, Imani Perry’s *More Beautiful More Terrible*, as well as several graphic novels. Documentary films include: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*, *Dark Girls*, *Soul Food*, and *The Black Power Mixtape*. **Professor Peterson** M; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

AAS, THTR 132-10 Hip Hop Theatre: Act Like You Know CRN 18892 4 credits (HU) BUD attribute

Introduction to the creation and performance of Hip Hop Theatre. Exploration of the history and culture of Hip Hop through original written material, live performance, music, film, video and web based content. Public Performances. Prerequisite: Audition. Consent given by instructor.

Professor Johnson T,TR; 19:20 - 10:35 a.m.

AAS, WGSS, GS, HIST 195-10 Women, Gender, Sexuality and Race in African Societies CRN 19429 4 credits (HU) GCP, BUD attribute

This course explore the various ways in which womanhood, gender, sexuality and race is defined, constructed and articulated in African societies. The interdisciplinary course draw from historical writings, novels, biography, anthropology, political science, health and others to examine diverse activities and contributions of African women from the pre-colonial period. **Professor Essien** T,TR; 9:20 - 10:35 a.m.

AAS, SSP, REL 195-11 Religious Dimensions of Whiteness CRN 19421 4 credits (HU)

What does it mean to “be” a white American? How does whiteness relate to blackness, or brownness, redness, or yellowness? What’s behind America’s preoccupation with race? Will Americans ever get out of their own way when it comes to addressing past and contemporary racial disparities? This course tackles these questions by examining the sociological, philosophical, psychological theological and anthropological “religious” dimensions of the idea of whiteness. Working with various definitions of both “religion” and “whiteness” throughout the course, students will wrestle with perennial questions of race, religion, and identity. **Professor Driscoll** M; 1:10 - 4:00 p.m.

AAS, REL, HIST 196-10 Religion and Black Freedom Struggle CRN 18525 4 credits (HU) BUD attribute

Participants will examine key events, figures, religious dimensions, philosophies, tactics, and consequences of the African American freedom struggle. The period from 1949-1965 will receive special attention, but the roots of the struggle and the effect on recent American history will also be considered. Studying primary and secondary source documents, film, fiction, and music will facilitate understanding of perhaps the most effective mass protest movement in modern America. Emphasis will be placed on the centrality of religion for the social ethics of key participants. **Professor Wiley** T,TR; 10:45 - 12:00 p.m.

AAS, LAS, WGSS 197-10 "Plátanos and Collard Greens": Politics of Race and Gender in 20th Century Afro-Latino Literature and Culture CRN 18917 4 credits (HU) English attribute, GCP attribute

In this course, we will focus on the ways that race, gender, and sexuality have interceded into cultural lives of black Latinas and Latinos living in United States. We will use 3rd wave feminist theories as a framework to develop an interdisciplinary examination into politics of difference and intersectionality. Course texts include literature by writers such as Junot Díaz and Marta Morena Vega, poetry and slam performances that have come out of the Nuyorican Poetry Movement, as well as scripts and live performances of hip hop theatre, including David Lamb's "Plátanos y Collard Greens". The class will also dedicate time to studying other Afro-Latino popular culture forms. **Professor Phillips** OPEN to FY students M,W; 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

AAS, REL, WGSS, GS 198-10 Identity Wars and the Battle for Authenticity CRN 18655 4 credits (HU) GCP attribute

As identities proliferate so does the ongoing battle for recognition, power and authority. From race, religion, citizenship, sexuality, law, class, gender, etc., – much of society seems engaged in an endless struggle over and for authenticity, access, control, and influence in competing spheres of significance (i.e., popular culture, academic discourse, virtual reality). We'll explore what's at stake in ensuing culture wars and what strategies help construct and maintain identity claims/positions by applying various intellectual projects/approaches to popular cultural source material. **Professor Miller** W; 1:10 - 4:00 p.m.

POLS 230-10 Social Movements and Legacies of the 1960s CRN 17793 4 credits (SS) AAS attribute

The last time the United States experienced mass movements that brought about significant change was the long era of the 1960s (1954-1973). For years American popular culture has distorted the history and experiences of the 1960s social and political movements. This distortion is functionally related to the American turn away from the hopeful democratic awakening of the 60s era towards a neoliberal ideology and embrace of uninhibited capitalism. From this contemporary perspective, this course revisits the social and political movements of the Sixties. Through films, readings, music, and class discussion, students will experience and analyze the civil rights and black power movements, the Vietnam War and antiwar protest, the student New Left, the counter-culture, and the women's and ecology movements of the 60s & 70s. One purpose of this immersion is to enable students to view American politics and culture through the lenses of democratic activists, and to evaluate that culture and their place in it today. Classes are divided into a three-hour lecture/film/music session on Mondays, and a 1-1.5 hour mostly-discussion class on Wednesdays (the 1-3 time is blocked in case I split the class into two 1-hour discussion sections). Student written work includes two interview journals, two autobiography journals, weekly video journals, two hourly exams, and a final take-home essay. Readings include: Morgan, *The Sixties Experience: Hard Lessons about Modern America*; *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; Bloom and Breines' *Takin' it to the Streets: A Sixties Reader*; Young et al, *The Vietnam War in Documents*, Wilkerson, *Flying Close to the Sun*, and Zinn, *You Can't Stay Neutral on a Moving Train*. **Professor Morgan** M 1:10 -4:00; W 1:10 - 3:00

AAS, COMM 297-10 Media and Race CRN 19426 4 credits (SS)

Examines the representation of various races and ethnicities in news media as well as the impact of such portrayals upon public opinion, public policy and interpersonal life. Considers the role of print, broadcast focuses on making connections between information and entertainment media that perpetuate stereotypes and dominant understandings of various groups.

Professor El-Burki T,TR; 10:45 - 12:00 p.m.

AAS, ENG 318-10 Voices of Freedom: Contemporary Reflections on the Civil Rights Movement CRN 19264 4 credits (HU) BUD attribute

This course examines contemporary literature, new media, and multimedia texts that critically engage the Civil Rights Movement. As we continue the national commemoration of several Civil Rights milestones (The Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Brown vs. Board of Education, The March on Washington, etc.) the literature, film, and music of this course challenges students to consider the social justice issues that continue to (re)present themselves in our society, particularly the discriminatory issues that relate to race, gender, and social class. The course is open to all undergraduates and will meet weekly in the Umoja House. Students who take the course at the advanced (300) level will be required to make in-class presentations and write a research paper for their final project. Course texts include Hampton and Fayer's *Voices of Freedom*, Michael Eric Dyson's *Making Malcolm*, Imani Perry's *More Beautiful More Terrible*, as well as several graphic novels. Documentary films include: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*, *Dark Girls*, *Soul Food*, and *The Black Power Mixtape*. **Professor Peterson** M; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

AAS, ENG 318-12 Black British Literature CRN 19263 4 credits (HU) BUD attribute

Immediately after World War II, Britain began receiving large numbers of legal immigrants from its former African, East and West Indian colonies. This influx of colonial immigrants made the tension between black cultural identities and British national ones seem more evident and pronounced in Britain. But this tension was, in fact, not new. A sustained black presence in British literature dates back to 400 years before this influx, and over that time Britain's literature has been greatly informed by this tension in a myriad of ways. In this course, we will read novels, poetry and drama from the 16th to the 21st centuries that, together, trace the ways in which black presences established by canonical white writers (William Shakespeare, Aphra Behn) as well as those established by contemporary Asian, African and West Indian authors ((Hanif Kureishi, Diran Adebayo, Andrea Levy) give rise to a modern, comprehensive understanding and survey of black British literature as, at once, a cultural and a political genre dedicated to promoting the history of social justice for all people within British borders. **Professor Dominique** T,TR; 1:10 - 2:45 p.m.

AAS, GS, ANTH 324-10 Globalization and Development in Africa CRN 19434 4 credits (SS) (Writing Intensive) BUG attribute

This course examines the challenges Africa presents to expectations of modernization and development. It poses these questions: Have African societies been left behind by globalization, shut out from it, or do they merely reflect an unexpected side of globalization processes? What is Africa's place in the neo-liberal world order? What role does "African culture" play in generating or blocking social

change? And, how can anthropology illuminate prospects for change on what has long been regarded as the "dark continent"? **Professor Whitehouse** T,TR; 10:45 - 12:00 p.m.

AAS, HIST 330-10 Africans and the Atlantic World CRN 19439 4 credits (SS)

This course chronicles the history of Africans and the Atlantic world from the fifteenth century. It explores cross-cultural interactions and exchanges between Africans and Europeans and covers major themes including trade, religion, slavery, abolition, identity, colonialism, gender, the "Back-to-Africa" movements and impact of Africans on Atlantic world history. **Professor Essien** T,TR; 1:10 - 2:25 p.m.

ART 356-10 Arts of the Black World 16th-20th Centuries CRN 19500 4 credits (HU) AAS attribute, GS attribute (Writing Intensive)

This course is an introduction to the artistic practices originating in Africa that subsequently influenced countless world cultures. Forced and voluntary migrations of populations out of their African homelands led to their adoption of new artistic and aesthetic styles, while their host cultures were frequently deeply changed by the arrival of African aesthetics. The course will touch upon arts of the enslaved populations in the AnteBellum South, early African American painting through the Harlem Renaissance, the religious arts of Haiti (Vodou) and Cuba (Santería), and contemporary production from Black Brazilian, American and European artists. Contemporary topics will rotate based on current events. Students should be prepared to attend Museum visits during the semester. **Professor Kart** W,F; 2:35 - 3:50 p.m.

AAS 371 Independent Study CRN 17598 (1-3 credits) (ND) Instructor Permission Required

AAS 372 Independent Study CRN 18893 (2-3 credits) (ND) Instructor Permission Required

POLS 395-10 Melville, Malcolm, and Morrison: Critiquing the American Dream CRN 19358 4 credits (SS) AAS attribute

This course explores the literary and political critiques of American life of three powerful figures in American history: Herman Melville, Malcolm X, and Toni Morrison. By engaging the writings, speeches, and lives of these figures, the course seeks to illuminate the trials and tragedies within American political development over the past 150 years. **Professor Ambar** T,TR; 2:35 - 3:50 p.m.

AAS, REL, WGSS, ENG 395-10 Black Queer Saints: Sex, Gender, Race, Class and the Quest for Liberation CRN 18895 4 credits (HU) AMST attribute This interdisciplinary seminar (drawing on fiction, biography, critical theory, film, essays, and memoirs) will explore how certain African American artists, activists, and religionists have resisted, represented, and reinterpreted sex, sexuality, and gender norms in the context of capitalist, white supremacist, male supremacist, and heteronormative cultures. Participants will examine the visions and lives of an exemplary cast, including but not limited to, Harriet Tubman, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, James Baldwin, Bayard Rustin, Peter Gomes, Alice Walker, and bell hooks. **Professor Wiley** T; 1:10 - 4:00 p.m.

AAS, GS 396-10 Global Media and Culture CRN 17142 4 credits (ND) (Writing Intensive)

As an interdisciplinary field, Cultural Studies investigates dominant understandings, issues of identity and experience, and social institutions. Our class will take a Cultural Studies approach to understanding representations of difference in global media. Class assignments and discussions will center upon the role of media in shaping the contemporary dominant understandings of various groups in a globalized world; students will be introduced to philosophies and theories that function as fundamental texts on the relationship between media, social life and human behavior and the ways in which media socially construct reality. **Professor El-Burki** Open to Africana Studies and Global Studies students without permission. M,W; 11:10- 12:25 p.m.

AAS, WGSS, SDEV 397-10 Women, Engineering and Sustainable Development in Africa CRN 17929 4 credits (SS) ES attribute, GCP attribute, BUD attribute

This course embraces multi-disciplinary approaches in Environmental Engineering and Africana Studies. The course will engage students on issues of sustainable development and explore various green energy and environmental initiatives in Africa. Students will learn and develop models for simple, culturally competent, and economically feasible technologies, either adopted or developed, that can enhance the communal, infrastructural and individual capacity for agricultural communities in rural Africa to alleviate poverty. Through research, situational/case study analysis and several discussion-based approaches, we will examine women's roles and various gendered issues and challenges that impede the economic advancement and environmental conservation that is vital to development in Africa. **Professor Dzidzor Darku** T,TR; 10:45 - 12:00 p.m.

AAS, COMM, WGSS 398-10 New Media, Race and Gender CRN 19445 4 credits (SS)

This class will take an exploratory approach to understanding the relationship between race, gender and new media. To this end, it will examine depictions of racial minorities and women online; how users access and use new media across race and gender (including a look at the digital divide); and differences in use of social media websites across race and gender. The goal of this course is for students to understand the ways in which existing racial and gender categorizations are/are not transmitted to the online community and do/do not become an extension of present social hierarchy. **Professor El-Burki** Open only to Africana Studies, Journalism and Wgss students by instructor permission. M,W; 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.