

Africana Studies Fall 2012 Courses

AAS 5 (HIST 5) African Civilization (4 credits) (SS) CRN 47180 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: Kwame Essien

Tuesday/Thursday 9:20 a.m.-10:35 a.m. – XS 203

AAS 097 Black Popular Culture in the 21st Century (4 credits) (HU) CRN 48439

What does it mean to be African American and/or Black in an era that has been defined as post-racial? What does it mean to be post-Black? How do we talk about race and racism in a context in which American society has elected its first “Black” president? This course is an interdisciplinary investigation of the relationships between Black American life and contemporary Black popular cultural expression in fiction, film, music, television etc. More specifically, lectures, readings and class discussions will question the cultural and social construction of Blackness in an effort to uncover the ways that the definition of race more broadly and Blackness more narrowly influences and shapes Black Americans’ present social status and struggles for social justice. Over the course of the semester we will closely examine and discuss recent Black cultural phenomena such as Tyler Perry’s films, “Basketball Wives” “urban fiction” (“street lit.”) and hip hop music. Together we will attempt to locate these cultural projects in a history of Black cultural expression to help shed light on modern meanings of Blackness.

Professor: Kim Gallon

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:10 a.m. – 9:00a.m. MG 111

AAS 195 (ENG 195 & WGSS 195) E(race)ing the Marriage Plot in 18th Century Literature (4 credits) (HU) CRN 47726

This course will trace the 18th-century marriage plot as a popular literary convention. But it focuses mainly on texts from the period that frustrate or completely eschew the traditional marriage plot using African, West Indian, Native American, Jewish, same sex, interracial, adulterous and even incestuous scenarios. In these outrageous texts, writers e(raced) the marriage plot—that is, they incorporated categories of difference that challenge the appeal of the institution of marriage by privileging the problems alongside the pleasures of married life.

Professor: Lyndon Dominique

Tuesday/Thursday 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - MG 110

AAS 198 (HIST 198) History and Cultures of Ghana (4 credits) (HU) CRN 48329

Overview of Ghana’s history and cultures from the fifteenth century, examining diversity among various ethnic groups and covering such themes as religion, literature, art, music/dance, gender, family and anti-colonial movements. The course will also explore how slave castles/forts contributed to the transatlantic slave trade, Pan-Africanism and global tourism.

Professor: Kwame Essien

Tuesday/Thursday 1:10 p.m.-2:25 p.m. – MG 483

AAS 313 (SSP 313) Social Movements (4 credits) (SS) CRN 48197

Emergence of the modern self through a comparative study of textual as well as visual representations of postcolonial subjects by male and female writers and film makers. Study of the way the sociopolitical context of countries such as Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia informs the constitution of subjectivity within a multicultural and multilingual community. Issues such as patriarchy, nationalism, colonialism, post colonialism, identity, gender, and Islam in North African literature and film from Franco-Arab traditions.

Professor: Ziad Munson

Monday/Wednesday 2:35 p.m.-3:50 p.m. - LI 300

AAS 324 (GS 324 & ANTH 324) Globalization & Development in Africa (4 credits) (SS) CRN 48203 Writing Intensive

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: Bruce Whitehouse

Monday/Wednesday 11:10 a.m.-12:25 p.m. - CU317

AAS 331 (HIST 331) United States and Africa (SS) CRN 48209

Reciprocal relationships between North America and the African continent from the slave trade in the seventeenth century to the twentieth century Afrocentric movement; impact of Americans on shaping of modern Africa, Pan-African relations; influence of African Americans on U.S. policies toward Africa.

Professor: William Scott

Wednesday 1:10 p.m.-4:00 p.m. - WH451

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

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

AAS 372 Independent Study (1-3 credits) CRN 48221

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

AAS 379 (SSP 379) Race and Class in America (4 credits) CRN 48224

The ways in which race and class intersect in the social, economic, and political structures of American society. Through sociological literature, fiction, nonfiction, film, and other media we will explore the place of race and class in American society. We will examine how race and class operate on a personal, "micro" level, while at the same time operating on a large-scale,

“macro” level.

Professor: Heather Johnson

Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Sayre Lodge Classroom

**AAS 395 (POLS 395) Music & Politics in Contemporary Society (4 credits) (SS) CRN 46695
(undergraduate students only)**

Can radical music remain authentic when it is popularized? Does message content change when radical music becomes mass accepted? This class uses one form of “protest culture” to discuss the phenomenon of co-option. Class examples from hip-hop literature trace the shift from hip-hop to rap. But one version of the story, examples from other protest music will be explored: black Rock and Soul, New Wave, Punk, modern Rock, and Country.

Professor: Herbert Pope

Tuesday/Thursday 2:35 p.m.-3:50 p.m. – CO 105

**AMST/ENG 497 Concepts of the Underground in Black Literature and Culture (HU) CRNs
47705/47830**

This course is designed to explore the concept of the underground through various examples of underground literature and ‘mainstream’ literature or other texts that configure the underground symbolically or literally with its main characters, settings, plots and themes. An “underground” text can be about the Underground Railroad (e.g. Lorene Cary’s *Price of a Child*), the psychological descent into madness (Dostoyevsky’s *Notes from Underground*), or the surreal effects of racism in America (Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*). One of the goals of this course is to develop a working definition of the underground as a social concept and/or social construct. We will also be concerned with establishing a theoretical link across various ways in which the underground is deployed throughout literary history. The chronological range of this course roughly extends from the 19th Century (slavery and the Underground Railroad) into the 21st Century (including underground moments in black literature, film and culture). The subject of the ‘underground’ is the consistent theme/thread throughout the course. Whether it appears in literature, film, music, philosophy, or cultural theory, the underground signals one of the most complex formulations of human identity.

Department permission required

Professor: James Peterson

Monday 4:10p.m.–7:00 p.m. – DR 102A