

# AFRICANA STUDIES (AFRS-GA)

## AFRS-GA 2000 Proseminar in Africana Studies (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall*

Offering a topical exploration of key research themes and topics, the course is an introduction to contemporary historical, ethnographic, cultural and political discourses in Africana studies. The course frames Africana studies within an Atlantic prism as well as exploring other 'hemispheric' approaches to examining Africa and its diasporas by examining the various intersecting modernities within which Africana is constructed and contested.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## AFRS-GA 2303 Seminar: (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

This seminar explores how the trope of 'blackness' is mediated over a range of ideas, images, and expressions of social difference in cinema. Screenings and readings examine how popular cinema, ranging from black independence to the commercial 'mainstream,' deals not only with issues of race and color, but how these issues intersect, and interact, with other social categories of difference(s) mainly related to class, sexual orientation, and gender but including many others. The course explores such issues as seeing beyond the 'black-white binary' model of race relations; gendered perspectives on 'blackness' and black women's filmmaking; the cultural and political dynamic between blackness and gayness on the screen; and issues of class, caste, and 'colorism' in cinema. The course also examines a number of ideas and theories related to the material, including passing, double consciousness, unmarked difference, and creolization.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

## AFRS-GA 2600 Colloq in Women's Hist: Race & Reproduction (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

From the policies, priorities, and perversions of slave owners to the pronatalist campaigns of colonial Africa, to the family planning programs that are a hallmark of liberalism and development in the postcolonial world, and, most recently, to the promotion of assisted reproduction technologies among western elites, race and reproduction have always been among the primary axes on which large-scale political, economic, cultural, social, and intellectual processes are configured. Because reproduction connects the intimate experiences of individuals to larger historical structures and forces and because reproduction is such a fundamental (if varied) biological and social experience, this topic in particular lends itself to comparative work. This course explores issues in the history of race and reproduction, focusing primarily (though not exclusively) on American and African contexts. This cross-cultural breadth helps students to consider the relationship between biological experiences (which are often portrayed as universal) and sociocultural context. Through readings, students consider how different disciplinary orientations (social history, medical anthropology, feminist theory, art history, etc.) approach women's history both methodologically, theoretically, and in terms of narrative and analytic strategies.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## AFRS-GA 2610 Exodus: The Politics of Black Liberation (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Seminar on the struggle for cultural and political autonomy in the United States among African Americans, primarily in the urban North, who rejected the church-based nonviolent Civil Rights Movement. Focuses on the 'Negro' or African side of what W. E. B. DuBois called Afro-American 'double-consciousness.'

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## AFRS-GA 2612 To The Mountaintop: The Movement for Civil Rights (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Seminar on the struggle to end racial segregation and discrimination in the former slave societies of the United States. Focuses on the 'American' side of what W. E. B. DuBois called the Afro-American 'double-consciousness.'

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## AFRS-GA 2614 Steal Away: African Atlantic Relig Culture (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

This seminar is a comparative study of African Atlantic religious celebration, primarily in the context of Afro-Christianity, but touching on Islam, 'Voodoo,' Santería, and Candomblé. Although designed for graduate students, this seminar is also open to seniors with a GPA of 3.65 or better, who may choose to take the seminar on a pass-fail basis.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## AFRS-GA 2645 Topics Postcoloniality: (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Explores and interrogates the notion of the 'postcolonial' in relation to certain key aspects of contemporary African and/or Caribbean societies, cultures, and histories. Individual areas of investigation include theories of Africa and Africans, Caribbean literary theory, modern postcolonial theory and its applicability and relevance to recent developments in the African continent and its diaspora, new identity formations, African and Caribbean cultural studies, nationalism and the nation-state, creolization, and theories of resistance.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

## AFRS-GA 2652 Haiti in The Caribbean Context (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

Francophone communities in the Caribbean are as different from each other as they are different from their Anglophone and Hispanophone neighbors. This course concentrates on the representation of Haiti, arguably the most distinctive Caribbean country in the region and the second independent republic in the hemisphere, in the imagination of Caribbean writers. It is as much an introduction to key issues in Haitian politics, history, and culture as an investigation of the impact of Haiti on the rest of the hemisphere. The latter aspect of the course is examined through a number of texts that react to Haiti and are drawn from literature for the most part but also from history and anthropology in the 20th century.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**AFRS-GA 2654 Resiting Resistance: Writ Nat/Diasp in Carib (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

In the islands of the Caribbean archipelago, plantation slavery and later schemes of indentureship left in their wake diverse groups of people who were cut off from their communities of origin. Ethnic and cultural heterogeneity was further intensified by prolonged periods of colonization making Caribbean societies some of the oldest colonies in the West which because of their unusual hybrid genesis, could neither be seen as ?western? or could they be considered ?native?, that is distinctly ? other?. This course looks at the Caribbean archipelago in terms of its fragmented island spaces, the dominance of the sea and the influence of the Atlantic world. Theorizing Caribbean identity will be treated not in terms of an inherent wholeness or cultural unity in the region but of open-ended cultural interaction. Caribbean literary theories manifest a connectedness and cross-cultural relocation that mark all the major literary movements. Some of the central paradigms to be addressed will be nationalism, cosmopolitanism, creolization and relationality

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**AFRS-GA 2802 Afro-Latino Culture and History (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Latinos are now called ?the nation?s largest minority,? outpacing African Americans and thereby signaling a benchmark in the changing meaning of what it means to be American. In public accounts of this dramatic shift, Latinos are commonly counterposed against African Americans in mutually exclusionary terms: either you are Hispanic or you are black. Little if any attention goes to the huge though uncounted black Latino population, the group that fLatinos are now called ?the nation?s largest minority,? outpacing African Americans and thereby signaling a benchmark in the changing meaning of what it means to be American. In public accounts of this dramatic shift, Latinos are commonly counterposed against African Americans in mutually exclusionary terms: either you are Hispanic or you are black. Little if any attention goes to the huge though uncounted black Latino population, the group that fits neatly in neither the Hispanic nor the black category and yet may play a decisive role in the emerging cultural configurations and political alignments of our times. This course examines the profound sociological and cultural implications of the growing Afro-Latino presence in light of recent theorizing on race and diasporas. After an overview of the historical background of African-descendant peoples in the Spanish-speaking Americas, the course then traces the longstanding social experience of black Latinos in the United States. Along with a discussion of migration patterns and community formations, there is a focus on narrative accounts of Afro-Latino life and on the traditions of cultural expression; special attention goes to Afro-Latino poetry and to the rich history of Afro-Latino music through the generations, from rumba, mambo, and Cubop to salsa, Latin soul, and hip-hop. Finally, the course turns to the possible theoretical and political consequences of this increasingly self-conscious transnational identity formation.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**AFRS-GA 2901 Topics: (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Topics course in Africana Studies offered by core faculty member.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**AFRS-GA 3210 Readings in Africana Studies (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Independent study.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**AFRS-GA 3211 Readings in Africana Studies (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Independent study.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**AFRS-GA 3213 Topics: (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Topics course in Africana Studies offered by core faculty member.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**AFRS-GA 3310 Internship (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Students participate in an internship for 2-4 credits.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**AFRS-GA 3311 Internship (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Students participate in an internship for 2-4 credits.

**Grading:** GSAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes