AFRICANA (AFR)

AFR 100 Introduction to Africana (1 Credit)
This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the discipline and examines the literature, history, arts, material culture, as well as sociological, political, economic, and philosophical perspectives of the experiences of people of African descent in the Americas. The course sheds light on the relationship between the past and the present in shaping Black world making, especially in the Americas. Four themes guide the direction of the course: fragmentation, exclusion, resistance, and community.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C008, C037, C057, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 105 Africa: Special Topics in African History, 1500-1900 (1 Credit)
For many observers, the history of Africa begins with European colonization. What about the period prior to colonization? This introductory survey of African history from 1500 to 1900 covers the social, political, cultural, and economic life of sub-Saharan peoples. Topics include African kingdoms, the transatlantic and the Indian ocean slave trades, the expansion of European power after the abolition of the slave trade, Islamic reforms, and the spread of Christianity. The course not only introduces students to a range of historical events in the continent, but also highlights how some of these events shaped other parts of the world.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C096
Department/Program Attribute(s): (History: Africa), (History: Early Modern), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST 105
Instructor: Patrick Otim
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 114 Introduction to African American Literature I: 1600-1910 (1 Credit)
This introductory course traces the development of a distinct African American literary tradition from the Atlantic Slave Trade to 1910. Students examine music, orations, letters, poems, essays, slave narratives, autobiographies, fiction, and plays by Americans of African descent. The essential questions that shape this course include: What is the role of African American literature in the cultural identity and collective struggle of Black people? What themes, tropes, and forms connect these texts, authors, and movements into a coherent living tradition?

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 114
Instructor: Theri Pickens
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 115 Introduction to African American Literature II: 1910-Present (1 Credit)
This introductory course traces the development of a distinct African American literary tradition from 1910 to the present. Students examine music, orations, letters, poems, essays, autobiographies, fiction, and plays by Americans of African descent. The essential questions that shape this course include: What is the role of African American literature in the cultural identity and collective struggle of Black people? What themes, tropes, and forms connect these texts, authors, and movements into a coherent living tradition? This course is a continuation of African American Literature I, which considers literary production before 1910.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 115
Instructor: Theri Pickens
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 119 Cultural Politics (1 Credit)
This course examines the relationship of culture to politics. It introduces the study of struggles to acquire, maintain, or resist power and gives particular attention to the role culture plays in reproducing and contesting social divisions of class, race, gender, and sexuality. Lectures and discussion incorporate film, music, and fiction in order to evaluate the connection between cultural practices and politics.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C013, C037, C038, C061, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 119
Instructor: Myron Beasley
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 121 "I, Too, Sing America": Poetry of this Moment/Movement (1 Credit)
In the tradition of Walt Whitman and Langston Hughes, American poets who explicitly wrote of the political and social anxieties of their country's moment, this course analyzes the work of contemporary poets responding to the current social and political moment in the United States. Students closely examine poetry that speaks from small-town America, environmental wreckage, #BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo, the Standing Rock Dakota Pipeline movement as well as poetry that addresses our current political leadership. Readings include Claudia Rankine, Terrance Hayes, and Layli Long Soldier. Students engage these discussions through the production of critical examinations of the texts and through their own creative writing.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [CP]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (English: Post-1800)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 119
Instructor: Myronn Hardy
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 134 Harlem to Berlin: Black Global Influence (1 Credit)
Muhammad Ali in New York. James Baldwin in Paris. Josephine Baker in Berlin. This course explores how iconic Black American athletes, writers, and performers shaped cultures, challenged norms, and inspired audiences at home and abroad. Students will study letters, diaries, speeches, performances, and films—from the 20th century to the present—to see how these figures used their talents and public presence to drive diasporic social change. Through hands-on exercises, projects, and small-group discussions, students will examine how these trailblazers engaged societies and pushed boundaries, and in doing so, will develop their own skills in communication, critical thinking, and leadership. The course combines history and migration with opportunities to build cross-cultural awareness and public engagement. Not open to students with credit for FYS 601.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C086, C096
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 134, ENG 134, EUS 134
Instructor: Temitope Noah
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 162 White Redemption: Cinema and the Co-optation of African American History (1 Credit)
Since its origins in the early twentieth century, film has debated how to represent black suffering. This course examines one aspect of that debate: the persistent themes of white goodness, innocence, and blamelessness in films that are allegedly about black history and culture. Historical and cultural topics examined in film include the enslavement of Africans, Reconstruction, and the civil rights movement.

Modes of Inquiry: [CP], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C019, C037, C057, C061, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): RFSS 162
Instructor: Charles Nero
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 171 Black Gods & Black Magic: African American Religious Traditions (1 Credit)
What does it mean to create not just religious practices, but conceptions of the ultimate or the divine within the context of one's involuntary presence in America? This question is at the core of this class, and within it lies the history of how Black people in America have sought to make sense of themselves and the world through the multifaceted lens of religion. This course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from sociology, philosophy, politics, history, literary studies, and ethnomusicology to address its core question and convey that Black Religions Matter. This course will teach students how to interpret and analyze Black uses of religion in American history from 1619 to today, to build communities, critique structures of racial hierarchy, cultivate aesthetic traditions, maintain cultural memories of Africa, practice ecological care, and form and critique intraracial conceptions of class, gender, and sexuality.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C001, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 171, REL 171
Instructor: Anderson Moss
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 201 Race, Ethnicity, and Feminist Thought (1 Credit)
This course focuses on race, ethnicity, and national power at their intersections with gender. Acknowledging the realities of white supremacy and patriarchy, students develop their understanding of these systemic and interlocking oppressions, while exploring the resistance to such oppressions that continues to give rise to critical feminist theory. Using a range of transdisciplinary perspectives, students examine the work of BIPOC feminist scholars and activists and encounter modes of critical and liberatory theorizing that productively challenge notions of what constitutes theory. Additionally, students practice ongoing self-reflection, or awareness of their own positionality and the ways it affects their journey through the course.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C038, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): GSS 201
Instructor: Ian-Khara Ellasante
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 202 Coming of Age While Black (1 Credit)
This course proceeds from the premise that coming of age while Black is fraught with the dangers created by a system of anti-black surveillance. Students examine "coming-of-age" memoirs and films that began during the era of the U.S. civil rights movement in the 1950s. Typically, the films and memoirs in this sub-genre feature a young Black protagonist, often a teen, navigating, sometimes successfully but not always, a world defined by intersecting oppressions created by race, class, gender, sexuality, and/or colonial identity.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C019, C037, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Gender), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): RFSS 202
Instructor: Charles Nero
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 210 Technology in U.S. History (1 Credit)
Surveys the development, distribution, and use of technology in the United States, drawing on primary and secondary source material. Subjects treated include racialized and gendered divisions of labor, legal regulation of new tools and systems, and the ecological consequences of technological change.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 210, GSS 210, HIST 210
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 219 African Women as History Makers: from the Archive to the Zinkpo (1 Credit)
African women have been instrumental in "making history," as female scribes in ancient Egypt recording and generating exegetical thought to producing legislation and leading movements as modern day leaders of state in Liberia and Rwanda. Yet, the lives of African women have, until only recently, been flattened with the historiography largely focusing on their roles in the domestic space rather than their contributions in preserving the cultural past as well as change makers and leaders. This class examines the roles of women in pre-colonial African society into the 21st century by considering how African women confronted, challenged, and shifted societal expectations, both locally and imported.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): (History: Africa), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST 219
Instructor: Janice Levi
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 221 Sociology of Immigration (1 Credit)
Since the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Amendments of 1965, the United States has received millions of immigrants from virtually every part of the world. The magnitude of these recent immigrant flows has reshaped the demography of the nation. But the magnitude of the flows is only part of the story. Today's immigrants are extremely diverse, ethnically, culturally, and racially. Students explore sociological approaches to immigration as they discuss, debate, analyze, and critique academic, political, and mainstream articulations of immigration processes in the United States.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): SOC 221
Instructor: Marcelle Medford
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 223 Survey of Literatures of the Caribbean (1 Credit)
This course examines the literatures of the African diaspora in the Caribbean and the Caribbean diaspora in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. Some texts are drawn from Anglophone authors such as Lamming, Anthony, Walcott, Brodber, Danticat, Lovelace, Brathwaite, NourBese (Philip), Hopkinson, and Dionne Brand; others, from Francophone and Hispanophone writers, including Guillen, Carpentier, Condé, Chamoiseau, Depestre, Ferré, Santos-Febres, and Morejón. The course places each work in its historical, political, and anthropological contexts, and introduces students to a number of critical theories and methodologies with which to analyze the works, including poststructural, Marxist, Pan-African, postcolonial, and feminist. Recommended background: AFR 100 or one 100-level English course.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C038, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 223
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 225 The Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World (1 Credit)
The Haitian Revolution is widely regarded as one of the most dramatic and significant events in history and is the only slave revolt in the Americas to successfully result in the abolition of slavery. It began with a massive slave insurrection in 1791 in the French colony of Saint-Domingue, and in 1804 it culminated in independence from France and the creation of the free, Black nation of Haiti. The revolution was shaped by people and ideas from Africa, Europe, and the Americas, and in turn had a profound impact on people from enslaved laborers and rebels to politicians and merchants. This course examines the events of the Haitian Revolution and explores how it changed the history of the broader world in which it took place.

Modes of Inquiry: [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037
Department/Program Attribute(s): (History: Latin America), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST 225, LALS 225
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 227 #BlackLivesMatter (1 Credit)
This course examines the history of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. It examines invisibility and spectacle in black death, voyeurism, and the destruction of the black body in the new public square. Is it true that black lives are more easily taken and black bodies destroyed with less legal consequence than others? What are the ways in which black lives do not matter? This course analyzes media coverage and debates on social media about black death. Students place these discussions in conversation with the critique of race and racialized violence offered in literature, music, film and social theory.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C008, C013, C037, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 227
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 231 Race, Sport, and Politics (1 Credit)
This course explores the nuanced and controversial relationship between race, sports, and politics. More specifically, it explores the relationship between antiblackness, white supremacy, capitalism, and black politics/resistance within sporting worlds. Topics include social justice and rebellion; political economy; mass media and popular culture; and punishment.

Modes of Inquiry: [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 232 This is not a Drake Story: (Mis)Characterizations and (Mis)Caricaturizations of Black Judaism (1 Credit)
During the 20th century, Jewish racial identity has increasingly moved towards notions of whiteness with the perceptions of “Black Jews” being fictional and farcical. By the end of the 20th century and into the 21st, Black communities and cultural icons were identifying as Jewish. Ethiopian Jews were admitted to Israel under the Law of Return and musicians such as Lenny Kravitz, Drake, as well as comedian Tiffany Haddish publicly asserted a Jewish identity. Global perceptions influenced by racial science criminalized Blackness, and Judaism participated in racial thinking and hierarchies as well while also being subjected to them. In this global history of Black Judaism (1800-present), students will learn about the historiographical and current debates regarding race and ethnicity in Judaism, discuss the increasing diversity of global Judaism, and push beyond the history of Blacks and Jews as an allied history to an intersected history.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C001
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (History: Africa), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST 232, REL 232
Instructor: Janice Levi
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 234 New York City: Land of Poets (1 Credit)
What poet does New York City make? Why has New York City been "the" place for poets to be, live, and converge? This course explores poems and poets emerging from the experience of either being a native New Yorker or influenced or inspired by this metropolis. Students examine poets including those from the New York School, a group of poets of the 1950s and 1960s allied with and interested in visual art and artists, urban wit, and casual address including Frank O’Hara, Barbara Guest, and John Ashbery. Students also examine Langston Hughes, Audre Lorde, Eileen Myles, Hettie Jones, Allen Ginsberg, and Federico Garcia Lorca, the lauded Spanish poet who lived in New York City for nine months, among others. The course includes creative work.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [CP]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C086
Department/Program Attribute(s): (English: Post-1800)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 233
Instructor: Myronn Hardy
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 236 Race Matters: Tobacco in North America (1 Credit)
This course explores race and the history of tobacco in North America. With a primary focus on the intersection of tobacco capitalism and African American history and settler colonialism the course introduces students to the impact of tobacco on the formation of racial ideologies and lived experiences through a consideration of economic, cultural, political, and epidemiological history. Recommended background: at least one course on the study of race, settler colonialism, US history, capitalism, and/or gender and sexuality.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C065
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 236, GSS 236, HIST 236
Instructor: Melinda Plastas
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 240 African American Women's History: The United States at 250 (1 Credit)
What new perspectives emerge when Black women are placed at the center of U.S. history rather than at its margins? This course examines African American women's history from slavery to the present day and considers how Black women's lives have been enduring sites of contested citizenship, labor, and belonging. It begins in the waters off the West African coast, tracing enslaved women's struggles and strategies for survival and freedom in colonial America, and considers slavery and Reconstruction through the lens of sexuality, motherhood, and resistance. In the 20th and 21st centuries, we examine the contributions of club women, revolutionaries, literary icons, visual artists, and political leaders.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): GSS 240, HIST 240
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 242 Passing/Trespassing (1 Credit)
This course examines the rhetoric of containing black bodies in cinematic and literary narratives. In passing narratives light-skinned people move across racial lines supposedly fixed by biology, custom, and law. In trespassing narratives black persons enter spaces denoted as white by law or custom. This course calls attention to fear, fantasy, punishment, and resistance as ongoing dimensions of race and white supremacy. Recommended background: at least one course with race as a central topic.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C019, C037, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): RFSS 242
Instructor: Charles Nero
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 243 Race and the Great Outdoors: Past and Present (1 Credit)
This course explores Black people's relationship with nature and outdoor recreation, as well as the public imagination and perception of Black people in outdoor spaces hunting, fishing, foraging, hiking, and more. It is guided by the following questions: what is the relationship between Blackness and the outdoors? How is Blackness articulated through the production of race and the outdoors? And, what are the counter-recreational spaces of Black life in the US and beyond? When possible, this course engages the Greater Lewiston area as a situated location from which to learn, develop, and apply Black critiques, questions, and ways of knowing.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 249 African American Popular Music (1 Credit)
The history of the twentieth century can be understood in terms of the increasing African-Americanization of music in the West. The rapid emergence and dissemination of African American music made possible through recording technologies has helped to bring about radical cultural change: it has subverted received wisdoms about race, gender, and sexuality, and has fundamentally altered our relationship to time, to our bodies, to our most basic cultural priorities. This course explores some crucial moments in the history of this African-Americanization of popular music and helps students develop an understanding of the relationship between musical sound and cultural practice.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C061, C080, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): MUS 249
Instructor: Dale Chapman
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 250 Interdisciplinary Studies: Methods and Modes of Inquiry (1 Credit)
Interdisciplinarity involves more than a meeting of disciplines. Academic practitioners stretch methodological norms and reach across disciplinary boundaries. Through examination of a single topic, this course introduces students to interdisciplinary methods of analysis. Students examine what practitioners actually do and work to become contributing practitioners themselves. Prerequisite(s): AFR 100, AMST 200, or GSS 100, and one other course in Africana, American studies, or gender and sexuality studies.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 250, GSS 250
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 252 Contemporary Issues in Dance (1 Credit)
This course focuses on contemporary dance performance and practices that center, celebrate, and problematize theories of race, gender, sexuality, art, and politics. Course readings, discussions, and creative assignments center Black performance theories and methodologies, including dance, theater, poetry, music, and visual art. Students will also encounter concepts of transnational feminisms and queer fabulation across a variety of dance styles and practices. Course assignments develop students' abilities in understanding and demonstrating their own positionality, as well as writing and researching across lines of cultural difference. Open to first-year students.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): C061, C094, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): DANC 252
Instructor: Tristan Koepke
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 253 The African American Novel (1 Credit)
Examining the tradition of African American novels, this course introduces students to the particular concerns of the novel form as it is shaped and as it shapes the depiction of Blackness in the United States. Depending on the year, the course may take an historical view or be focused on a specific topic. Prerequisite(s): one 100-level English course.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 253
Instructor: Theri Pickens
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 255 Black Poetry (1 Credit)
How does the African American poetic tradition specifically contribute to the literary canon of African American literature and larger conceptions of American and global literature? This course is both an introduction to Black poetics and a deep exploration. The course considers so-called basic questions (e.g., What are Black poetics?) and more sophisticated questions (e.g., How do Black poetics transform the literary and cultural landscape?). Students read a variety of authors who maneuver between intra- and inter-racial politics, including such canonical authors as Langston Hughes and Nikki Giovanni, and less well-known authors such as Jayne Cortez and LL Cool J.

Modes of Inquiry: [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C005, C037, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 255
Instructor: Theri Pickens
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 258 Captive and Cosmopolitans: The Black Atlantic World (1 Credit)
From the 15th century onward, captive Africans and their descendants created new cultures, communities, intellectual traditions, and strategies of freedom-seeking in the face of enslavement and oppression. In turn, the formation of the African Diaspora fundamentally shaped the development of the modern world. This course introduces students to the key historical and conceptual themes in the study of this Black Atlantic, focusing in particular on relationships between the African Diaspora and the maritime world. Beginning with early African-European interactions and ending with the Black transnationalism of the early 20th century, this course engages with histories of the transatlantic slave trade and enslavement in the Americas to explore the emergence of the African Diaspora, resistance to enslavement, emancipation, Black transnationalism, and the development of new political and theoretical approaches to Black life in the Atlantic world.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (History: Early Modern), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST 258
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 259 Contemporary African American Literature (1 Credit)
This course introduces students to contemporary African American literature. They explore literature written after 1975, considering a range of patterns and literary techniques as well as consistent themes and motifs. Students read a mix of canonical and less well-known authors. This course requires a nuanced, complicated discussion about what encompasses the contemporary African American literary tradition. Recommended background: course work in American studies, Africana, or English.

Modes of Inquiry: [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 259, ENG 259
Instructor: Theri Pickens
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 265 The Writings of Toni Morrison (1 Credit)
This course surveys the writing of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. Texts are selected from her novels, essays, children's literature, and drama; they also include criticism written about her work. Recommended background: one 100-level English course or AFR 100.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C086
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Gender), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 265
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 267 Blood, Genes, and American Culture (1 Credit)
Places recent popular and scientific discussions of human heredity and genetics in broader social, political, and historical context, focusing on shifting definitions of personhood. Topics include the commodification of human bodies and body parts and the emergence of new forms of biological citizenship and belonging.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C027, C037, C065, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 267, GSS 267, HIST 267
Instructor: Rebecca Herzig
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 269 Narrating Slavery (1 Credit)
This course examines selected autobiographical writings of ex-slaves; biographical accounts of the lives of former slaves written by abolitionists, relatives, or friends; the oral histories of ex-slaves collected in the early to mid-twentieth century; and the fiction, poems, and dramas about slaves and slavery (neo-slave narratives) of the last hundred years. Students consider these works as interventions in the discourses of freedom-religious, political, legal, and psychological-and as examples of a genre foundational to many literary works by descendants of Africans in diaspora. The course surveys early works written by slaves themselves, such as broadsides and books by Jupiter Hammond, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Jacobs; dictated biographies such as those by Esteban Montejo, Mary Prince, and Sor Teresa Chicaba; and fictional works inspired by the narratives, such as texts by Toni Morrison, Gayl Jones, Charles Johnson, Michelle Cliff, Sherley Ann Williams, and Colson Whitehead. Recommended background: one 100-level English course or AFR 100.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C008, C037, C038, C086
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Historical Persp.), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 269
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 271 Black Germans: Literature and Film (1 Credit)
This course dives into evocative literature and film on Black Germans, featuring works by Black creators and others who bring these stories to life. Through novels, memoirs, poetry, essays, and films, students will grapple with nuanced themes of identity, race, and belonging within German cultural landscapes. Spotlighting artistic innovation and narrative craft, the course reveals how these works use storytelling, aesthetics, and creative expression to challenge, disrupt, and redefine mainstream visions of Black German worlds. Students will have the opportunity to take part in live virtual conversations with several of the authors and filmmakers featured in this course.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C071, C096
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): EUS 271, GER 271
Instructor: Temitope Noah
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 279 Saints & Gangsters: Hip-Hop, Black Religion, and Realness (1 Credit)
What does it mean to embody the role of the saint and the gangster? Or what does it mean to hold ultimate commitments to conflicting senses of reality? This seminar is dedicated to the history, analysis, and interpretation of these conflicts in secular and sacred music in the context of African American religious life, with a focus on hip-hop/rap. This course is, in part, a history of this conflict. Engaging with primary and secondary sources, students will become conversant in historical debates on the relationship between Black identity, African American religion, and sacred & secular music. Students will also engage in philosophical explorations of Black existentialism and Black poetics, learning how to interpret rap lyrics as sources for Black theology and religious thought. This class then takes seriously the “real” in the hip-hop expression “realness" and argues that rappers from Lauryn Hill to Kendrick Lamar have genuine epistemological claims to that very Black real.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C001, C037, C080
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (REL: Religion in America)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): MUS 279, REL 279
Instructor: Anderson Moss
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 280 Health and Healing in Africa (1 Credit)
A perception that Africa is a "diseased continent" has long persisted in the West, but this image, born of colonialism, ignores how Africans have sought to create and maintain healthy communities over time. This course begins by exploring how Africans have diagnosed and treated ailments in the precolonial era. It then examines the impact of colonial conquest and policies on the spread of diseases, and the emergence of missionary and colonial medicines. The course concludes by examining how state building, international development, and transnational capitalism have shaped healing practices.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C065, C096
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Historical Persp.), (History: Africa), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST 280
Instructor: Patrick Otim
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 290 Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa (1 Credit)
This course delves into key historical and contemporary issues in sub-Saharan Africa, including but not limited to colonization, state formation, democracy, and civil society. Despite the large number of countries with different histories and cultures comprising the region, sub-Saharan Africa is often simplified and/or generalized as a place of civil wars, ethnic violence, corruption, and poverty. The narrow selection of topics covered by the media and our general lack of interest therefore neglect the variety of landscapes, political systems, economic growth, and social relationships, among others. Students analyze the debates surrounding the region to better understand its complexities, and explore unfolding patterns of change witnessed at the opening of the twenty-first century and ways that younger and older Africans shape their own political and economic situations. Recommended background: PLTC 122, 123, or 171.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C096
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): PLTC 290
Instructor: Seulgie Lim
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 291 Decolonizing Nature: Race, Conservation, and the Future of the Wilds (1 Credit)
This interdisciplinary course interrogates the colonial and racial foundations of modern conservation. From the invention of "wilderness" to the dispossession of Indigenous lands in the name of environmental and wildlife protection, we examine how conservation ideals have been weaponized to serve imperial and racial logics. Students will analyze case studies from North America and Africa, critically assessing dominant narratives of conservation, their social and political legacies, and the ecological consequences of systemic racism. Readings from Du Bois, Marable, Mullings, and Taylor, among others will guide discussions on the transnational construction of conservation's racist roots while creating space to imagine decolonial futures for land, people, and more-than-human life. Prerequisite(s): AFR 100, AFR/HIST 105, or BIO 195.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): BIO 291
Instructor: Eric LeFlore
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 301K Policing and Carceral Culture in U.S. History, 1740-1880 (1 Credit)
This course examines the roots of American ideas about crime, punishment, and carceral culture from the colonial period to the late 19th century. In current discourses about policing and prison abolition, the roots of the modern carceral system are often traced back to the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865 and the development of mass incarceration in the 1970s. By tracing the history of policing and prisons back to the 1740s, this course places these developments in a much longer history. In this seminar, we will examine how Americans defined crime, conceived of punishment, and resisted incarceration in the period before modern carceral culture. We will read texts that focus on themes of policing race and gender; the development of the prison; policing slavery and freedom; and the development of new ideas of crime and punishment in the early Republic.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (History: Early Modern), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST 301K
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 302 Black Feminist Activist and Intellectual Traditions (1 Credit)
This seminar examines the intersections of gender with Black racial and ethnic identities as they have been and are constructed, expressed, and lived throughout the anglophone and francophone African/Black diaspora. The course not only pays special attention to U.S. women and the movements where they lead or participate; but it also devotes substantial consideration to African, Caribbean, Canadian, European, and Australian women of African descent. The course combines approaches and methodologies employed in the humanities, social sciences, and arts to structure interdisciplinary analyses. Using Black feminist (womanist), critical-race, and queer theories, students examine Black women's histories; activism; resistance; and cultural, intellectual, and theoretical productions, as well as digital literacy. Prerequisite(s): one course in Africana, American studies, or gender and sexuality studies.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Gender), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 302, GSS 302
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 303 Birthing while Black (1 Credit)
This course explores the complex and intense history of Black reproduction in the United States and abroad. Students examine the social value of Black life both during and after enslavement. They mine contentious topics such as welfare caps, compulsory sterilization, abortion access, and the disparate experiences of Black mothers in the U.S. healthcare system that have led to maternal death rates twice the national average. The course considers both the ordinary experiences of Black women birthing as well as the sensationalized experiences of mothers such as activist Erica Garner, athlete Serena Williams, and pop icon Beyoncé.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C065, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): GSS 303
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 306 Reimagining Africana (1 Credit)
This course examines the debates among authors, politicians, religious leaders, social scientists, and artists in Africa, the African Americas, and Afro-Europe about non-normative sexualities, throughout the diaspora. While the course analyzes histories of sexualities, legal documents, manifestos by dissident organizations, and anthropological and sociological treatises, it focuses primarily on textual and cinematic representations, and proposes methods of reading cultural productions at the intersection of sexualities, race, ethnicities, and gender. Recommended background: at least one course offered by the Program in Africana, the Program in gender and sexuality studies, or one course in literary analysis.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C086, C094
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Gender), (Africana: Historical Persp.), (English: JR-SR Seminar), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 306, GSS 306, RFSS 306
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 308 Black Resistance from the Civil War to Civil Rights (1 Credit)
From antebellum slavery through twentieth-century struggles for civil rights, black Americans have resisted political violence, economic marginalization, and second-class citizenship using strategies ranging from respectability to radicalism. Engaging with both historical and modern scholarship, literary sources, and other primary documents, this course explores the diverse tactics and ideologies of these resistance movements. By considering the complexities and contradictions of black resistance in American history and conducting source-based research, students develop a deep understanding of the black freedom struggle and reflect on the ways that these legacies continue to shape present-day struggles for racial justice.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): C037, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.), (History: Modern)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 308, HIST 301G
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 309 Freedom in the Iberian Black Atlantic (1 Credit)
The early formation of a Black consciousness was the reaction to enslavement after 1492 in the lands dominated by Spain and Portugal. Palenques of cimarrones–settlements of self-liberated lacks–dismantled slavery and helped Blacks build the modern concept of freedom. Students will analyze historical texts in which Black men and women seek redress against white supremacy. Blacks are represented in painting and in literary works by Cervantes, Lope de Vega, and Sor Juana. Inés de la Cruz. Latin American film brings into view the erased representation of Black history in the Spanish-speaking world. This course will be taught in Spanish.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037, C038, C096, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): HISP 309, LALS 309
Instructor: Baltasar Fra-Molinero
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 311 African Migrants and European Borders (1 Credit)
This course explores African experiences living in and migrating to Europe. More specifically, it explores the dynamics of migration across the Mediterranean Sea, citizenship, humanitarianism, migrant labor, cinematic representation, monuments/memorials, and more. This course will be at once historical and theoretical; that is working from the historical studies of African migration to socio-political theory.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 317 African American Political Thought (1 Credit)
This course explores the contours of political theory written by and about the Black U.S. political experience. The course asks: What have the effects of white supremacy been on Black Americans? How have Black U.S. political thinkers theorized racial consciousness? How have Black Americans resisted slavery and racial subjugation? What have been the different utopian political visions in the African American intellectual tradition? What are these thinkers' hopes for and qualms about democracy? Assignments focus on critical inquiry into interpretation of coherent themes across the Black U.S. intellectual tradition, the idea of the canon and the limits of the written archive, and the applicability of historical political thought to contemporary politics. Theorists studied may include Phillis Wheatley, David Walker, Martin Delany, Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Audre Lore, and Angela Davis. Prerequisite(s): PLTC 121, PLTC 191, or any course in Africana (AFR).

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): PLTC 317
Instructor: Lucy Britt
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 320 Immigrant Racialization (1 Credit)
The racialization of immigrants is intimately tied to the construction of race for all groups in U.S. society. In this seminar students engage the intersecting literatures of race, ethnicity, and immigration to explore implicit and explicit discussions of racial hierarchies, and how immigrants fit into and challenge existing accounts of assimilation and incorporation. They deconstruct the racialization of citizenship status with particular attention to how blackness is integral to the immigrant racialization project. Recommended background: SOC 204. Prerequisite(s): AFR/AMST/GSS 250 or SOC 205.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): C037, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): SOC 320
Instructor: Marcelle Medford
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 325 Black Feminist Literary Theory and Practice (1 Credit)
This seminar examines literary theories that address the representation and construction of race, gender, and sexuality, particularly, but not exclusively, theories formulated and articulated by Afra-diasporic women such as Spillers, Ogunyemi, Carby, Christian, Cobham, Valerie Smith, Busia, Lubiano, and Davies. Students not only analyze theoretical essays but also use the theories as lenses through which to explore literary productions of women writers of Africa and the African diaspora in Europe and in the Americas, including Philip, Dangarembga, Morrison, Gayl Jones, Head, Condé, Brodber, Brand, Evariston, Zadie Smith and Harriet Wilson. Cross-listed in Africana, English, and gender and sexuality studies. Strongly recommended: at least one literature course.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C038, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Gender), (English: JR-SR Seminar), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 325, GSS 325
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 326 Maine MILL Oral Histories (1 Credit)
This seminar is a collaboration with the Maine MILL (Museum of Innovation Learning and Labor) to document the lives of Black and immigrant Mainers through building its archive of oral histories. The course examines how dominant racial narratives of place obscure the knowledges of marginalized communities, perpetuate Indigenous erasure, and undermine belonging. Students address topics of coded racial language, epistemic violence, settler colonialism, migration, racialization, and intra-ethnic tensions. The goal of the course is for students to engage with critical theories and qualitative methodologies. Students will work on site at the MILL, gathering and analyzing data in collaboration with community members to contribute to its public archive. Recommended background: AFR 100, AFR 250, SOC 205, SOC/AFR 221, or SOC 236.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): SOC 326
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 330 Latina/o/xs in NYC Hip-Hop Culture (1 Credit)
This course introduces students to the historical contributions of Latina/o/xs in the emergence of Hip-Hop culture in New York City. To do so, students will be engaging with a contextual approach that depicts migration processes and settlements of Latinx communities within the five boroughs, particularly Uptown and the Bronx where Hip-Hop culture erupted during the 1970s. This course will show how Latina/o/xs have empowered themselves through artistic performances and expressions in the midst of social struggle and industrial decline. In addition, the course critically addresses how Latina/o/xs Hip-Hop artists constantly navigate the ethno-racial politics of Blackness and Latinidad that are crucial within discourses on Hip-Hop legitimacy and pioneerism. A wide variety of sources will be used to analyze Latina/o/xs' involvements in the different elements of Hip-Hop culture (Mcing/Rap, Djing, Graffiti, Breaking, Beatboxing) in order to understand racial, ethnic and gender dynamics. Recommended background: prior coursework on race and ethnicity.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C008, C037, C080
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST 330, LALS 330
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 339 International Politics and Foreign Policy in Africa (1 Credit)
Africa has often been ignored by the International Relations subfield of political science, only analyzed from a comparative politics lens. Yet, with 54 states, Africa has much to teach us about International Relations, not just in terms of theories of IR but also in practice. This class will therefore examine the international relations of African states, including relations between African states, African states and the major powers outside of the continent, African states and regional institutions such as the African Union, among others. We will especially view colonialism as an IR phenomenon and therefore a lens through which to understand and explain how IR has shaped Africa and how Africa has shaped IR in return. We will do this by exploring Africa through issues on conflict, China's growing role, human security, climate change, Islamist militancy, and international political economy. Recommended background: PLTC 171, 122, 123, or 290.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): PLTC 339
Instructor: Seulgie Lim
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 341 The Africana Novel As Theory (1 Credit)
The Africana writer maintains a unique relationship to fiction. Despite its conceptually imposed distance from fact, fiction, the novel in particular, acts as an avenue for truth for the Africana writer. Buried beneath the fiction of global epistemologies that privilege the dominant narrative, the Africana novelist often employs fiction to address what the larger narrative obscures or precludes entirely. The Africana writer demonstrates a perceptive and insightful understanding of the world at large and emerges as a theorist of the human experience within the pages of their literary contribution. So, in addition to challenging the perception of Africana people and culture through the Africana author, this course details a nuanced portrait of the humanities. Recommended background: AFR 100; prior work in research, writing, and critical theory.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [CP]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): C086
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (English: JR-SR Seminar), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 341
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 360 Independent Study (1 Credit)
Students, in consultation with a faculty advisor, individually design and plan a course of study or research not offered in the curriculum. Course work includes a reflective component, evaluation, and completion of an agreed-upon product. Sponsorship by a faculty member in the program/department, a course prospectus, and permission of the chair are required. Students may register for no more than one independent study per semester.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 381 Black Geographies: Space, Place, and Ecologies of Power (1 Credit)
This reading-intensive seminar explores Black Geographies, an interdisciplinary field at the intersections of Environmental Studies, Africana Studies, and Geography. The course examines how Black communities have shaped and been shaped by their environments, from the agricultural practices of enslaved women to contemporary struggles over land and liberation. We will investigate how spatial arrangements of earth, sea, and sky have been central to structures of power, and how Black communities have forged alternative ecologies and relationships with the natural world. Adopting a collaborative, reading-intensive seminar model, students will engage with scholarship that centers Black spatial and ecological knowledge, revealing how human-environment relationships are fundamental to the histories and futures of the African diaspora. Prerequisite(s): AFR 100, ENVR 204, or ENVR 205.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): ENVR 381
Instructor: Robin McDowell
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 391L Screening Slavery: A Transnational Approach (1 Credit)
This course takes a transnational approach to films about the four hundred years of the enterprise in trans-Atlantic slavery. A transnational approach emphasizes the creation of a global audience, and sometimes one that is specifically Black or Pan-African, for films about slavery and its aftermath. These films challenge and question the stereotypes about slavery and enslaved people that were the foundation for anti-Blackness in United States and other Western national cinemas. The filmmakers considered in this course are most often members of the African diaspora in the Americas, especially, from the United States, Cuba, Martinique, and Brazil. Prerequisite(s): AF/RF 162 or a course in Africana.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora), (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): RFSS 391L
Instructor: Charles Nero
Instructor Permission Required: Yes

AFR 395T African American Literary Criticism (1 Credit)
This seminar takes as its premise that black literature engages with and reflects parts of the world in which it is produced. In this course, students sort through the various conversations authors and critics have with each other. They read canonical authors and less well-known figures in an effort to tease out the nuance present in this body of work. Each text is paired with another in a form of dialogue. These exchanges are not set, so it is up to students to understand how the texts speak to each other. Literary criticism requires us to think through privilege, citizenship, capitalism, intraracial dynamics, gender and sexual dynamics, and political movements. The course theme may vary from year to year (e.g., disability, literature of the left, black queer studies).

Modes of Inquiry: [HS]
Writing Credit: [W2]
Concentration(s): C019, C037, C086, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (English: JR-SR Seminar), (English: Post-1800), (English: R, E, DL)
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year students
Cross-listed Course(s): ENG 395T
Instructor: Theri Pickens
Instructor Permission Required: Yes

AFR 457 Senior Thesis (1 Credit)
The research and writing of an extended essay or report, or the completion of a creative project, under the supervision of a faculty member. Students register for AAS 457 in the fall semester. Majors writing an honors thesis register for both AAS 457 and 458.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: [W3]
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year, Sophomore, or Junior students
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR 458 Senior Thesis (1 Credit)
The research and writing of an extended essay or report, or the completion of a creative project, under the supervision of a faculty member. Students register for AAS 458 in the winter semester. Majors writing an honors thesis register for both AAS 457 and 458.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: [W3]
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: Not open to: First Year, Sophomore, or Junior students
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR S13 Future Physicians' Training: Race, Medicine, and Narrative (0.5 Credits)
Physicians tend to be revered as the ultimate arbiters of truth vis-a-vis patients and medicine. How did this occur in the United States? What does this phenomenon indicate about power dynamics between physicians and patients? Further, how does this phenomenon function with regard to race? This course is designed for students who are considering the medical field and plan to work with patients. This course explores Black histories of medicine, disability cultures, and contemporary cultural stories about the physician-patient relationship.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C027, C037, C065, C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): AMST S13
Instructor: Theri Pickens
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR S15 Queer and Trans Reproductive Justice (0.5 Credits)
This course engages the conceptual framework of reproductive justice, as defined by Black feminists, and its principles: the right to parent, the right not to parent, the right to parent in healthy and safe communities, and the right to bodily sovereignty, which includes the right to sexual autonomy and gender self-determination. Students in this course investigate notable convergences between reproductive justice movements and a range of queer and trans rights movements to mark the makings of dynamic coalitions. Topics also include the origins and evolutions of reproductive justice, queer and transgender history in the United States, LGBTQ+ family formation, reproductive healthcare, and trans fertility. Recommended background: one course on the study of gender, sexuality, queer studies, and/or trans studies.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C037
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Gender)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): GSS S15
Instructor: Ian-Khara Ellasante
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR S19 MLK's I Have a Dream: Power & Persuasion (0.5 Credits)
Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" was as much a feat of political strategy as a moment of inspiration. This course goes behind the scenes of 1963 to explore the people, power relations, and rhetorical craft that shaped this landmark moment. Students analyze King's strategic choices within the high-stakes climate of the Civil Rights Movement to witness persuasive leadership. The course culminates in a collaborative, supportive workshop where students work in pairs or triads to craft and deliver their own speech addressing a contemporary challenge that matters most to them. It's a space to build confidence and develop your own voice. Open to all students; no prior experience required.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C098
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Historical Persp.)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor: Temitope Noah
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR S21 La casa de Bernarda Alba en España y Nueva Orleáns (0.5 Credits)
Federico García Lorca's La casa de Bernarda Alba was the last play he wrote before his assassination in August 1936 at the onset of the Spanish Civil War, the play tells the story of the fatal effects of patriarchy on women even when men are dead or not physically present. This course studies stagings and film versions of La casa de Bernarda Alba to analyze the intersection of gender, class, and sexuality under an oppressive power that results in feminine rebellion. Loosely based on Lorca's play, Marcus Gardley's The House That Will Not Stand (2014) is a comedy about free women of color in antebellum New Orleans, where the matriarch is the mistress of a powerful white man under the social custom of plaçage, a system of concubinage between free women of color and white men. Race, gender, power, wealth, class, and freedom in these two related plays become the object of a deconstructive analysis. The course will be taught in Spanish. Prerequisite(s): HISP 205 or above.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C096
Department/Program Attribute(s): (Africana: Diaspora)
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HISP S21
Instructor: Baltasar Fra-Molinero
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR S23 Mobile Histories: Transmitting the Past in Africa and the African Diaspora (0.5 Credits)
How do people remember their pasts when forced into exile? When do archives move with them and how so? This class historically foregrounds examples of African communities under duress due to climate change, political oppression, and religious persecution in Africa and its diaspora from the seventeenth century to present day. Students examine, observe, and engage with a variety of written, oral, and ritual sources, including landscape, music, ceremony, and food. Students also work with the Harward Center for Community Partnerships and learn from the African Diasporic communities in Lewiston.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): HIST S23
Instructor: Janice Levi
Instructor Permission Required: No

AFR S24 Rural Education in Zambia (0.5 Credits)
This Short Term extra-cost course will explore aspects of education in Zambia, focusing on Kaoma in Western Province. In partnership with the nonprofit WISE-Zambia, students will engage directly with children and youth through Community Engaged Learning experiences. students will collaborate with secondary students in Zambia to develop materials and activities for an education center and engage in literacy activities with primary children in outlying villages. Students will learn about Zambian history and culture, particularly in relation to education. Topics of exploration include colonial and post-colonial impact on the region and country; political, economic, and historical understandings; and participation in cultural norms and activities, including a visit to Livingstone, Mosi-oa-Tunya (Victoria) Falls, and a day-safari. Recommended background: Students will benefit from previous coursework in Education and/or the sciences.

Modes of Inquiry: [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): C030
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): EDUC S24
Instructor: Anita Charles
Instructor Permission Required: Yes

AFR S29 People Watching (0.5 Credits)
This course examines the art, science, and politics of people watching through a sociological lens. Taking a critical perspective, we explore how dynamics of race, class, gender, ableism, and power pattern social interactions in public space. Students will move beyond people watching as a casual pastime and develop qualitative literacy skills by systematically collecting and analyzing observational data. The course emphasizes theoretical engagement with the ethics of surveillance, the politics of interpretation, and the reproduction of inequality, while encouraging students to reflect on their positionality as observers. Students will produce a community ethnography. Recommended background: prior engagement with the Lewiston community.

Modes of Inquiry: [AC], [HS]
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): SOC S29
Instructor: Marcelle Medford
Instructor Permission Required: Yes

AFR S50 Independent Study (0.5 Credits)
Students, in consultation with a faculty advisor, individually design and plan a course of study or research not offered in the curriculum. Course work includes a reflective component, evaluation, and completion of an agreed-upon product. Sponsorship by a faculty member in the program/department, a course prospectus, and permission of the chair are required. Students may register for no more than one independent study during a Short Term.

Modes of Inquiry: None
Writing Credit: None
Concentration(s): None
Department/Program Attribute(s): None
Class Restriction: None
Cross-listed Course(s): None
Instructor Permission Required: No