African Studies Curriculum  
Spring 2018 Course List

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE  
201 Introduction to African Literature  
Survey of African literary traditions and introduction to literary analysis.  
Instructor: Matthew Brown  
Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE  
210 The African Storyteller  
The oral tradition and the written word; the composition of stories, relationship between performer and audience, and transmission of tradition in various African societies. Open to Freshmen.  
Instructor: Online Course  
Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE  
233 Global Hip-Hop and Social Justice  
Can HipHop culture help produce a more just world? If so, what theory and praxis best advance this aim? These are the questions that drive this conceptual course. Our critical interrogation of the relationship between HipHop and social justice considers the culture from its U.S. Black Power era underpinnings to its disparate contemporary "glocal" manifestations. We begin by asking what is "HipHop," what is "social justice," and what is their relationship, and proceed to consider how HipHop can be an effective force for social justice and what obstacles mitigate against this potential. These discussions will develop familiarity with important concepts in Black studies and social theory such as race and colonialism, imperialism and hegemony, structure and agency, identity and strategic essentialism. Weekly readings will typically pair writings specifically on HipHop with theory from across the humanities and social sciences including philosophy, sociology, cultural studies, and political economy. We will endeavor to consider the race/class/gender dimensions of our weekly topics. Students will acquire a broader familiarity with HipHop activism, and develop new conceptual tools and critical thinking skills.  
Instructor: Damon Burchell  
Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE  
277 Africa: Introductory Survey  
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure. Open to Freshmen.  
Instructor: Jo Ellen Fair  
Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE  
297 African and African American Linkages  
Analysis of retention of African elements in African-American oral, written, and material culture. Social, cultural, and political issues regarding race, self-definition, and self-determination in both Africa and North America will be examined.  
Instructor: Teju Olaniyan  
Core Course
300 African Literature in Translation:
Contemporary Arabic Literature and Cinema
This course is a survey of the most significant
topics of contemporary Arabic literature and
cinema: Arabs and the West, colonialism and
postcolonialism, Discourses on nationalism,
religion v. secularization, gender relations,
representation of cultural otherness, and the
Arab Springs. The course offers you an
opportunity to enhance your understanding of
global culture by exploring a diverse array of
culturally expressive artifacts novels, short
stories, poems, and films produced by Arab and
Muslim writers and directors from the Arab
world. That said, I would be cautious about
understanding this course as a comprehensive
"survey of Arabic literature and cinema": it is
more accurately a sampling. And because these
books and films, and their cultures are fairly
unfamiliar, we will move slowly through them,
taking time to reflect on our own process of
reading.
Instructor: Nevine El-Nossery

Extended Core

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
300 African Literature in Translation: Arabic
Fiction and Falsehood
If pulling off a great prank is a challenge, then
profiting from it is an art. Literature, comics,
films, and television love to showcase the
challenge and the art itself that's the topic of
African 300. We'll work with sources ranging
from caliphates of the Middle East, to North
African drama, to 21st-century animation from
Africa and the Diaspora. This course asks how
people conspire, beg, steal, and fool each other
with creative language. How do we know who's
believable? Are we as critical readers also
complicit at times, despite all our analytical
efforts? How do characters and literary
institutions get people to believe them? What
positions do we assume when reading fictional
negotiations? When a scam works, or falls
apart, who's responsible -- the perpetrators, the
dupes, authorities, religion, society?
Instructor: Samuel England

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
322 Second Semester Arabic
Continuation of AFRICAN 321.

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
324 Fourth Semester Arabic
Continuation of AFRICA 323.

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
325 Colloquial Arabic: Algerian Arabic

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
332 Second Semester Swahili
Continuation of AFRICAN 331.

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
334 Fourth Semester Swahili
Continuation of AFRICAN 333.

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
372 Second Semester Yoruba
For beginning
learners of standard Yoruba; emphasis on
proficiency through speaking, listening, reading,
and writing, and on communication in cultural
context.

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
374 Fourth Semester Yoruba
Continuation of AFRICAN 373. Intended to continue to develop and refine competence and performance in linguistic skills that were developed in the first three semesters of Yoruba courses.

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE

403 Theories of African Cultural Studies
This course is a study of the many ways of understanding the entire spectrum of culture and cultural production, circulation, consumption, and meaning making in Africa. It foregrounds material and imaginative cultural forms and practices-their origins, languages, contents, forms, functions, genres, audiences-as well as how these have been conceived and theorized by practitioners and scholars in the context of Africa and the world. The course will also examine the uses to which particular meanings of culture and its forms are put, by whom, and to what purpose, and how meanings are fought over, reshaped, and reconstituted, and under what conditions these are or can be possible. This is what "theory of African cultural studies" means in its most robust and imaginative senses. We will survey the entrenched modes of both conceptual and critical apprehension of the cultural forms and practices (from Negritude to postcolonialism and postmodernism), explore their methods of reading, raise the issue of their linkages to sources in Euro-America, and assess the extent to which the unique concerns of the biography of culture in Africa (expressed by its creators and scholars) have tried to tame and refashion what are now globally shared critical tools of cultural reading.
Instructor: Ronald Radano

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

405 The Problem of Whiteness
Have you ever wondered what it really means to be white? If you're like most people, the answer is probably "no. But here is your chance! In Frantz Fanon's famous Black Skin, White Masks (1952), his chapter "Look, a Negro! interrogated the meaning and experience of coming to know oneself as Black under the constant scrutiny of the white gaze. It is an experience concomitant with W.E.B. Du Bois's observation that under systemic racism, even well-meaning whites are constantly asking, in one way or another, "what is it like to be a problem?" But, like Richard Wright's quote above, philosopher George Yancy's book, Look, a White! (2010), turns the question around, and rightly returns "the problem of whiteness to white people. After all, since white supremacy was created by white people, is it not white folks who have the greatest responsibility to eradicate it? Our class begins here. We will come together with our socially ascribed identities of Black, white, mixed and other and, with the problem properly in its place we will ask ourselves and our allies, what are we going to do with it? Critical Whiteness Studies aims to understand how whiteness is socially constructed and experienced in order to help dismantle white supremacy. Our class will break away from the standard US-centric frame, and consider how whiteness is constructed globally, with particular attention to paradigmatic cases like South Africa. Whereas disciplines such as Latino/a, African, and Asian American studies focus on race as experienced by non-whites, whiteness studies considers how race is experienced by white people. It explores how they consciously and unconsciously perpetuate institutional racism and how this not only devastates communities of color but also perpetuates the oppression of most white folks along the lines of class and gender. In this class,
we will ask what an ethical white identity entails, what it means to be #woke, and consider the journal Race Traitor's motto, "treason to whiteness is loyalty to humanity.

Instructor: Damon Burchell

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
407 Topics in African Languages: Language, Gender, and Sexuality in African Contexts
How are gender and sexuality constrained, constructed, performed, and resisted in and through language? We will address these issues through readings and discussion of theories of language and gender, queer linguistics, and feminist discourse analysis, alongside case studies in sociocultural linguistics and linguistic anthropology from Africa, including Nigeria, South Africa, and the Swahili Coast. As a final project, students will write a funding proposal to conduct fieldwork on a topic of their choice. Students interested in language, gender, and sexuality outside of Africa are also welcome and may write the final paper in relation to any linguistic context.

Instructor: Katrina Thopmson

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
409 Global Jazz and Blues Authenticities
This course will introduce students to the phenomenon of "musical blackness" as a US-based, transnational cultural form and practice. In each class (topics will vary), students will learn about how US-based, racially specified black musical forms, together with global forms also identified as "black," were constituted as part of the legacies of European colonial encounter and US imperial expansion; the categories of "traditional" music and popular style took shape and have been experienced as something part and parcel of this historical process. By giving close consideration to genre, style, and performance practice, the course will help students to understand the many ways in which musical sound and social/political ideas are inextricably linked.

Instructor: Ronald Radano

Extended Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
436 Advanced Studies in Swahili Language – Readings
Reading, conversation and composition beyond the fourth semester level with emphasis on the literary tradition of the language and concentration on texts appropriate to the level of the student.

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
445 Readings in Advanced Arabic Texts: Politics in Arabic Literature and Film
This Arabic seminar explores creative techniques for understanding politics. Most readings and discussions will be in Arabic, and will deal with the relationship between cultural status (e.g., education level, social grouping, and literacy) and political power. Our focus will be on late modernity, although many of the sources we study will deal with "Classical" Arabic ideals such as turath (cultural heritage), kalam (speculative theology), and fiqh (jurisprudence). This course is open to students who have completed three years of Arabic study, pending instructor’s approval. Instructor: Samuel England

Core Course

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
605 Advanced Topics in African Cultural Studies: Sound & Afro-Modernity: Digitizing Body/Soul/Nation
This course will introduce students to foundational texts in the study of modern Africa and the social, political, and economic contexts of the continent's cultural production and productivity. We will organize our conceptual explorations around such interesting issues as the African encounter with Europe, anti-colonialism, race, racialism, and subjectivity, African and European languages and epistemology, transformations in gendered structures, and the environment, and the circulation and consumption of cultural forms and practices. This course will encourage students to think about the long histories and theories of cultural production and practices in Africa, the local/global provenance of forms and styles, and the contexts of their local, national, and global circulation and consumption. The course will promote critical thinking by challenging students to put like and unlike texts together and pay attention to rhetoric and implied meanings, all in the context of Africa's interactive history with the world in the modern era.

Instructor: Reginold Royston

**Core Course**

AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
671 Multilanguage Seminar
Through weekly meetings, students discuss their use of self-instructional methods to learn a less commonly taught language (LCTL), get feedback on individualized syllabi and assessment plans, and present progress reports orally and in writing. Homework includes continuous self-instruction in the chosen LCTL including reading, writing, oral, and listening skills; work with a conversation partner; and cultural knowledge.

**Core Course**

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
231 Introduction to Afro-American History
Survey from the African beginnings to the present day. Focus on slave trade and slavery; major black figures of the past; social, economic, and political trends within the black community.
Instructor: Christy Clark-Pujara

**Extended Core Course**

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
242 Introduction to Afro-American Art
Historical survey of Afro-American art. Beginning with the African heritage and concluding with creativity of the 1970's, it examines the evolution of Afro-American art. Attention to the aesthetic sensibilities of diverse styles as well as the social significance of Black art within the art arena.
Instructor: Anthony Devon Black

**Extended Core Course**

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
277 Africa: Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure. Open to Freshmen.
Instructor: Jo Ellen Fair

**Core Course**

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
297 African and African American Linkages
Analysis of retention of African elements in African-American oral, written, and material culture. Social, cultural, and political issues regarding race, self-definition, and self-determination in both Africa and North America will be examined.
Instructor: Teju Olaniyan

**Core Course**
AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
The influence of traditional West African dance/music heritage in historical, artistic, social contexts in the development of new hybrid forms of music/dance created by cross-pollination of cultures of Africans, Europeans and indigenous peoples in the New World.
Instructor: Christopher Walker
Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
367 Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa
This course focuses on the art and visual culture by/or pertaining to women throughout the African Diaspora and Africa. Though the focus is on 10th century art by black women, it will go into visual culture (art objects, photographs, images, dress, and culturally-coded representation) concerning black women historically.
Instructor: Johanna Almiron
Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
679 Visual Culture, Gender and Critical Race Theory
Examines tensions between visual and verbal representations that variably construct and negotiate power relations in racialized human experience.
Instructor: Johanna Almiron
Extended Core Course

ART HISTORY
242 Introduction to Afro-American Art
Historical survey of Afro-American art. Beginning with the African heritage and concluding with creativity of the 1970's, it examines the evolution of Afro-American art. Attention to the aesthetic sensibilities of diverse styles as well as the social significance of Black art within the art arena.
Instructor: Anthony Devon Black
Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY
277 Africa: Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure. Open to Freshmen.
Instructor: Jo Ellen Fair
Core Course

DANCE
118 African Dance
Technique and practice of several basic African dance forms with study of their musical, historical and cultural contexts.
Instructor: Maya Kadakia
Core Course

DANCE
318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
The influence of traditional West African dance/music heritage in historical, artistic, social contexts in the development of new hybrid forms of music/dance created by cross-
pollination of cultures of Africans, Europeans and indigenous peoples in the New World.
Instructor: Christopher Walker

Core Course

ECONOMICS

474 Economic Problems of Developing Areas
*Analyzes aggregate growth, income distribution and poverty in lower income economies. Uses microeconomics of imperfect labor, capital and insurance markets to explore why some individuals advance economically as their economies grow and others fall behind.*
Instructor: Paul Dower

Extended Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY

806 Gender Issues in International Educational Policy
*Exploration and analysis of recent debates related to gender issues in international educational policy, including the intersection of education and demographic processes, the play of history and culture, and the social construction of gender.*
Instructor: Nancy Kendall

Extended Core Course

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - GAYLORD NELSON INSTITUTE

339 Environmental Conservation
*Examines major environmental conservation approaches in the U.S. and developing countries and how they are influenced by sociopolitical factors, cultural values and scientific understandings of nature. Historical and contemporary cases are explored with emphasis on biodiversity and climate change issues.*
Instructor:

Extended Core Course

FOLKLORE PROGRAM

103 Introduction to Music Cultures of the World
*Music in various parts of the non-Western world (Africa, Middle East, India, Southeast Asia, East Asia).*
Instructor: Matthew Richardson

Extended Core Course

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

320 Topics in Gender, Women, and Society: The Female Body in the World
*Investigation of some specific topic in gender and women's studies related to gender, women and society. Subject differs each semester.*
Instructor: Katherine Anne Phelps

Extended Core Course

GEOGRAPHY

277 Africa: Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.  
*Open to Freshmen.*
Instructor: Jo Ellen Fair

**Core Course**

**GEOGRAPHY**

339 Environmental Conservation
Examines major environmental conservation approaches in the U.S. and developing countries and how they are influenced by sociopolitical factors, cultural values and scientific understandings of nature. Historical and contemporary cases are explored with emphasis on biodiversity and climate change issues.
Instructor:

**Extended Core Course**

**HISTORY**

277 Africa: Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.  
*Open to Freshmen.*
Instructor: Jo Ellen Fair

**Core Course**

283 Intermediate Honors Seminar: Healing and Science in Africa
Instructor: Neil Kodesh

**Core Course**

297 African and African American Linkages

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

434 The Politics of Human Rights
Examines the origins and development of human rights in international politics. The course discusses what human rights are, international human rights movements, the international search for justice after mass crimes, and international humanitarian intervention.
Instructor: Scott Straus

**Extended Core Course**

**JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION**

620 International Communication
Historical, political, economic and cultural trends in global mass communication systems.
Instructor: Lindsay Palmer

**Extended Core Course**

**LANGUAGES AND CULTURES OF ASIA**

322 Second Semester Arabic
Continuation of AFRICAN 321.
Instructor: Katrina Thompson

**Core Course**

324 Fourth Semester Arabic
Continuation of AFRICA 323.
Instructors: Katrina Thompson and Mustafa Mustafa

**Core Course**

**LANGUAGES AND CULTURES OF ASIA**
445 Readings in Advanced Arabic Texts: Politics in Arabic Literature and Film
Selection from Qur'anic and post-Qur'anic Arabic texts to meet the needs of the students.
Instructor: Samuel England

Core Course

LITERATURE In TRANSLATION
226 Introduction to Luso-Afro-Brazilian Literature
Introduction to the cultural and literary practices of the Portuguese-speaking world.
Readings include novels, short stories, and poetry from Portugal, Brazil, and Lusophone Africa. All readings and lectures in English.
Instructor: Ellen W. Sapega

Extended Core Course

MUSIC
103 Introduction to Music Cultures of the World
Music in various parts of the non-Western world (Africa, Middle East, India, Southeast Asia, East Asia).
Instructor: Matthew Richardson

Extended Core Course

MUSIC
318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
The influence of traditional West African dance/music heritage in historical, artistic, social contexts in the development of new hybrid forms of music/dance created by cross-pollination of cultures of Africans, Europeans and indigenous peoples in the New World.
Instructor: Christopher Walker

Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE
277 Africa: Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Open to Freshmen.
Instructor: Jo Ellen Fair

Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE
297 African and African American Linkages
Analysis of retention of African elements in African-American oral, written, and material culture. Social, cultural, and political issues regarding race, self-definition, and self-determination in both Africa and North America will be examined.
Instructor: Teju Olaniyan

Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE
329 African Politics
Process of rapid political change in contemporary Africa with special emphasis on the emergence of new states.
Instructor: Aili Tripp

Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE
434 The Politics of Human Rights
Examines the origins and development of human rights in international politics. The course discusses what human rights are, international human rights movements, the international search for justice after mass crimes, and international humanitarian intervention.
Instructor: Scott Straus

Extended Core Course

PORTUGUESE (SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE)
226 Introduction to Luso-Afro-Brazilian Literature
Introduction to the cultural and literary practices of the Portuguese-speaking world. Readings include novels, short stories, and poetry from Portugal, Brazil, and Lusophone Africa. All readings and lectures in English. Instructor: Ellen W. Sapega

Extended Core Course

SOCIOLOGY
277 Africa: Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure. Open to Freshmen.
Instructor: Jo Ellen Fair

Core Course