



African Curriculum Spring 2021 Course List

Updated January 8, 2021

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

100 Introduction to African Cultural Expression (3 credits)

What is African cultural studies? This course introduces undergraduates to the study of African and African-diaspora cultural expression as it is practiced in the Department of African Cultural Studies. The course will feature lectures by ACS faculty and advanced graduate students, who will present introductory portraits of their respective research areas and the subdisciplines to which they are attached. Topics will range from literary analysis to the study of African languages and discourse; contemporary media (e.g., film, cartoons, journalism, web-based forms) to performance genres (music, sports, theater). Through an introduction to these many areas of inquiry, students will gain a new understanding of Africa and the African diaspora as cultural fields, together with an appreciation of the many theories and theoretical concepts—cultural circulation, colonialism, neoliberalism, religion, aesthetics, race, indigeneity—employed to analyze them.

Instructor: Vlad Dima

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

201 Introduction to African Literature (3 credits)

Survey of African literary traditions and introduction to literary analysis.

Instructor: Samuel England

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

202 Representations of Africans in the Diaspora (3 credits)

In this course, you will consider representations of people of African descent within and beyond Africa. You will discuss and write about identity and identification, race and ethnicity, mobility and access, home and away, as well as current issues such as migration and xenophobia. The overall purpose of this course is to explore plural and diverse portrayals of diasporic Africans; consider how scholars in various disciplines (e.g. literature, anthropology, history) make sense of these accounts and represent people of African descent; and to think about how the issues these writers take up relate to your own lives (e.g. your personal experiences, issues in your own society, etc.).

Instructor: Kathryn Mara

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

204 Language, Mobility, and Globalization:

African Migrants' Experience (3 credits)

African migrants' experience is not only reflected in the history of their movement across diverse spaces on the globe, it is also shaped by language, an important component of their identities. This course invites you to explore language as a symbolic and mobile resource with which Africans engage, and construct their movements, identities, and interactions across global spaces. We will explore scholarly works on language, mobility, and globalization and connect the narratives as depicted by these scholars with selected works of 21st-century African writers. We will also examine the theme of travel and return, and the process by which African migrants use language as a tool to construct their experiences of migration, globalization, diaspora, linguistic imperialism, sociolinguistic and cultural identifications. Building on your understanding of the course content, you will develop a research project through effective use of library resources, oral presentation of your work, and writing multiple drafts of your paper following the academic writing conventions in the humanities.

Instructor: Adeola Agoke

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

210 The African Storyteller (3 credits)

(Cross listed: FOLKLORE 210)

The oral tradition and the written word; the composition of stories, relationship between performer and audience, and transmission of tradition in various African societies.

Instructors: Unifier Dyer, Sarah Gamalinda, Rebecca Ajulu-Bushell, Nneoma Onwuegbuchi, Scott Stillar

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

277 An Introductory Survey (4 credits)

(Cross listed: AFROAMER 277, ANTHRO 277, GEOG 277, HISTORY 277, POLI SCI 277, SOC 277)

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.

Instructor: Matthew Brown

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

302 Arabic Literature And Cinema (3 credits)

(Cross listed: INTL ST 302)

An introduction of the most significant topics of contemporary Arabic literature and cinema: the legacy of colonialism, repressive nature of post-independence regimes, discourses on nationalism, religion v. secularization, gender relations, representation of cultural otherness, and the Arab Springs. Course materials will be drawn from a variety of cultural forms including literature, film, music, and performance; and scholarship, exploring the social, cultural, political, and economic contexts in which texts and films are written and exhibited. 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

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

322 Second Semester Arabic (5 credits)

For beginning learners of Modern Standard Arabic; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructors: Jibril Gabid, Salah Algabli

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

324 Fourth Semester Arabic (4 credits)

For intermediate learners of Modern Standard Arabic. Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: Mustafa Mustafa

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

330 Sixth Semester Arabic (3 credits)

For advanced learners of Modern Standard Arabic; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: Mustafa Mustafa

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

332 Second Semester Swahili (5 credits)

For beginning learners of Swahili; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: Safiya Jama

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

334 Fourth Semester Swahili (4 credits)

Continuation of AFRICAN 333.

Instructor: Kimathi Muthee

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

372 Second Semester Yoruba (5 credits)

Continuation of AFRICAN 371. For beginning learners of standard Yoruba; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: Omotola Okunlola

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

374 Fourth Semester Yoruba (4 credits)

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.

Instructor: Moses Oluwanifise

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

392 Second Semester Wolof (4-5 credits)

Continuation of AFRICAN 391. (4 cr for Grads, 5 cr for Undergrads.)

Instructor: Yaya Diatta

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

405 Islam in Africa & the Diaspora (3 credits)

(Cross listed: RELIG ST 400)

In New Muslim Cool, African American Muslim anthropologist Su'ad Abdul Khabeer argues that Africa is rarely understood "as an archive for Islamic authenticity and authority." This course asks how our understanding of Islam might change by exploring that under-examined archive. Focused on close readings of ethnographies, fiction, films, and other forms of cultural expression, we will examine the practice of Islam and representation of Muslims in Africa and the Diaspora. By pairing primary and secondary sources, we will explore themes of not just authenticity and authority but also related issues of representation, positionality, difference, otherness, essentialism, normativity, and queerness. Ultimately, you will come away with a deeper understanding of the diversity and complexity of Islam and Muslims.

Instructor: Katrina Daly Thompson

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

436 Sixth Semester Swahili (3 credits)

For advanced learners of standard Swahili; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: Kipsang Shadrack

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

671 Multilanguage Seminar (4 credits)

Monitored self-instruction of a less commonly taught language. 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.

Instructor: Adeola Agoke

Mode of Instruction: Online Only

(Asynchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

804 Critical Applied Linguistics Working Group (3 credits)

Collaborative exploration and discussion of current research and literature on critical approaches to applied linguistics (CALx), including critical discourse analysis (CDA), mostly in African contexts. Participants will develop a large-scale research project (QP or doctoral dissertation), conduct a review of current research, and present work in progress to receive critical feedback from other class participants.

Instructor: Katrina Daly Thompson

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

905 Rethinking Development: Capitalism, Pan Africanism and the Plantationocene (3 credits)

Development, a policy word used by radical reformers and economists alike, is fraught with contradictions. What role does technology play in accounting for it? Since the inception of the World Bank, Africa's nations have languished at the bottom ranks of its human and economic metrics. Sixty years into the independence era, who is to blame? More importantly, what can be done? How can Africa's successes with COVID19 serve as a model? This course attempts to assess approaches to improved African livelihoods through the concept of "human development" as it used in African Studies, international aid policy, anthropological, and practitioner literature. Since the early 2000s, the acronym ICT4D has fascinated development scholars and NGO-workers, with the premise that the broad adoption of information and communication technologies (ICT) could allow Africa to "leapfrog" past the Industrial Era into the Age of Techne. China has also emerged as counter-veiling force to Europe in Africa's development politics. But whether through gold, socialism, Christianity, or coltan, Africa has struggled to formulate a development agenda on its own terms. In this graduate seminar, participants will take up the task of defining and assessing notions of "development" through a range of academic literature, creative work, and practitioner discourse. Coursework involves classroom presentations, development of annotated bibliographies, and a final publication-ready paper.

Instructor: Reginold Royston

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

983 The Question of Agency (3 credits)

(Cross listed: ANTHROPOLOGY 983, ECONOMICS 983, GEOGRAPHY 983, HISTORY 983, POLITICAL SCIENCE 983)

This graduate seminar provides a setting for participants to consider Africa – as an idea, a field of study, a place in the world, a subject for teaching – from a multi-disciplinary perspective. This semester, the course will focus on the concept of “agency” in order to consider not just what to think about the history, cultures, and politics of Africa but also how to think and teach about this part of the world in a politically, ethically-, and theoretically-informed way. While some “Africanist” scholarship has emphasized the structural conditions that limit the choices of African people—wherever they find themselves in the world—other scholarship has emphasized the choices that people have made in spite of, or within, various structural conditions. Some scholarship claims to recover or restore the agency of Africans within academic discourse. Yet still other scholarship assumes the agency of all people and focuses on the scope and scale of their choices in various times and places. Students in this seminar will read and discuss several key texts that have tackled the question of agency in order to refine their own understanding of the question and apply it to their own research and teaching. The semester will culminate in the composition and presentation of student research papers in which various answers to the question of agency are explored.

Instructor: Matthew Brown

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)
Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

231 Introduction to Afro-American History (3 credits)

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

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)
Extended Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

242 Introduction to Afro-American Art (3 credits)

(Cross listed: ART HIST 242)

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: Melanie Anne Herzog

Mode of Instruction: Online (Synchronous)
Extended Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas (3 credits)

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

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)
Extended Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

350 World Hunger & Malnutrition (3 credits)

(Cross listed: AGRONOMY 350, INTER-AG 350, NUTR SCI 350)

Hunger and poverty in developing countries and the United States. Topics include: nutrition and health, population, food production and availability, and income distribution and employment.

Instructors: Osaretin Olurotimi, Mizuhiro

Suzuki, Artak Meloyan

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

474 Economic Problems of Developing Areas

(3 credits)

(Cross listed: ECON 474)

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.

Considers implications of aggregate and micro analysis for national and international economic policy.

Instructor: Paul Dower

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

104 Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity (3 credits)

Introduction to cultural anthropology for non-majors; comparative cross-cultural consideration of social organization, economics, politics, language, religion, ecology, gender, and cultural change. Includes 25% coverage of U.S. ethnic and racial minorities.

Instructor: Jerome Camal

Mode of Instruction: LEC: Online Only (Asynchronous); DIS: Hybrid (In-person & Online) and Online Only sections available

Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

310 Archaeological Approaches to Egypt and The Near East (3 credits)

This course investigates the complex relationships between the ancient civilizations of Western Asia, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. The course begins with a brief introduction to the historical and archaeological records of Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Eastern Mediterranean/Aegean, and Syro-Palestine. Each region will then be examined in more detail using a series of case studies in contemporary approaches to interregional interaction. Students will explore the ways in which archaeologists study past cultural contact, with special attention to trade, ethnicity/immigration, and religious identity. Specific topics include: trade between early South Asia, the Near East, and Aegean; migration and ethnicities of the Hyksos, early Israelites, and Philistines; foreign relations in Biblical Judah and Israel; the Greek and Roman army in the Near East/Egypt; Jewish religious identities in the 1st century CE; Early Christian identity and liturgy; and Islamic pilgrimage.

Instructor: Geoffrey Ludvik

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

925 Socio-Economic Change in Underdeveloped Areas (3 credits)

(Cross listed: ECON 925, C&E SOC 925, SOC 925)
Social and economic factors relating to stability, growth, and change in the non-Western areas of the contemporary world.

Instructor: Gay Seidman

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

ART HISTORY

563 Material Culture(S) of Slavery (3 credits) (863 for graduate students)

This material culture seminar examines and interprets objects related to slavery in the British Atlantic. Museums and archaeological collections contain remarkable evidence of the lives of people whose unfree and unjust labor made things, as well as the abolitionists who acted for their freedom, and the men and women who enslaved them. Together, these artifacts helped constitute a global trade that commodified and killed Blacks, destroyed natural ecologies, and transformed European taste and sociability.

Instructor: Ann Smith Martin

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

540 Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability (3 credits)

(Cross listed: ENVIR ST 540, SOC 540)

Sociological analysis of relationships among economic growth, environmental sustainability and social justice in the developing world. Considers frameworks for understanding poverty, hunger, educational and technological inequality, and the impact of globalization on prospects for socially and ecologically sustainable development.

Instructor: Samer Alatout

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

630 Sociology of Developing Societies

(3 credits)

(Cross listed: SOC 630)

Review of problems and prospects of so-called "developing societies." Includes theory of economic/social development, political economic organizations of "developing" societies, history of colonialism/imperialism, attempts to industrialize and results of those attempts.

Instructor: Gay Seidman

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

DANCE

115 Hip-Hop Dance Technique and Theory

(1-2 credits)

Provides an introduction to foundational movement technical knowledge necessary to perform Hip-Hop dance safely with form and skill. Introduces the theory, practice, aesthetics, and historical foundations of hip-hop dance. Hip-Hop dance is an artistic manifestation of Hip-Hop culture with dances and movement activities related to histories and philosophies as well as improvisatory states of expression. Engage with the history, theory and philosophy surrounding the dance vocabulary, which directly impacts the physical intelligence of the dancer. Explore the roots of funk and Hip-Hop dance in the social fabric of African, Caribbean, and Afro-Latin cultures while examining reinventions of ragtime, swing, and rock n' roll throughout the 20th and 21st centuries in America.

Instructor: Duane Holland

Mode of Instruction: In-Person

Extended Core Course

DANCE

118 African Dance (1 credit)

Technique and practice of several basic African dance forms with study of their musical, historical and cultural contexts.

Instructor: Maya Kadakia

Mode of Instruction: Hybrid (In-Person & Online)

Core Course

DANCE

318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas (3 credits)

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

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

150 Climate Change, Sustainability, and Education (3 credits)

Examines a variety of topics related to educational policies, practices, and issues in social, cultural, historical, and political economic contexts in the U.S. and around the world.

Instructor: Yaa Ampofo

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

ENGLISH

829 Migration in the Black Diaspora (3 credits)

Study of a topic in migration diaspora as they relate to literature.

Instructor: Laila Amine

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

600 Capstone – Air Quality, Equity, and an African City (3 credits)

This course explores the air quality challenges facing citizens, policy makers, civil servants, and business leaders in Kampala, Uganda. Students will work directly with air quality and public health experts based in Kampala to understand the root causes and impacts of transportation-related air pollution, household air pollution, waste-associated air pollution, and industrial air pollution. The course will explore how a newly proposed air quality framework could lead to a clean, sustainable future for the city.

Instructor: Aleia Ingulli McCord

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

FRENCH

568 Materiality & Immateriality in Sub-Saharan Africa (3 credits)

*This course explores representations of cultural artifacts (such as football jerseys), of immaterial beings (such as ghosts), and of philosophical ideas (such as Mbembe's *Afrique-qui-vient* or "black reason") across a variety of genres and mediums. The aim is to better understand the current state of African Subjectivity within the Global South, as well as within the North-South context. We will watch a number of contemporary films, read 21st century novels, engage with philosophy, theory, music, paintings, photography, and various diegetic objects.*

Instructor: Vlad Dima

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

GENDER & WOMENS STUDIES

535 Women's Global Health and Human Rights (3 credits)

(Cross listed: INTL ST 535)

A human rights approach to global women's health to provide an overview of health issues within the context of a woman's life cycle. It will pay special attention to the socio-cultural and economic factors that play a role in determining women's access to quality basic health care

Instructor: Araceli Alonso

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

GEOGRAPHY

340 World Regions in Global Context (3 credits)

Survey of development and change within each of the world's regions (e.g., Africa, Southeast Asia). Attention devoted to environment and society; history, economy, and demographic change; culture and politics; future challenges; key actors.

Instructor: Kris Olds

Mode of Instruction: Online Only

(Asynchronous)

Extended Core Course

HISTORY

600 Gandhi, King, Mandela: Non-Violence in the World (3 credits)

This course is a historical introduction to the idea and practice of non-violence as a method of civil resistance and political protest.

Instructor: Mou Banerjee

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

HISTORY

861 Seminar – The History of Africa

(1-3 credits)

This graduate seminar will examine the historical and anthropological literature on health, medicine, and healing in Africa. We will explore the creative and shifting ways in which Africans have sought to compose healthy communities through the expansion of therapeutic repertoires, the adaptation of deeply rooted ideas and practices, and the adoption and transformation of new technologies. We will also examine the ways in which different historical perspectives inform and transform our understanding of more contemporary developments, such as the emergence of medical humanitarianism and the flourishing of health-related non-governmental organizations in the Global South. Finally, we will consider the possibilities and potential pitfalls of deeper engagement by scholars working in Africa with those working on medicine, science, and related topics in other parts of the world.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE

320 Governments and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa (3-4 credits)

An introduction to the most pertinent themes to the study of politics and governance in the Middle East. Main topics to be covered: political economy of the region; link between Islam, culture and democracy; the politics of authoritarianism; and political Islam.

Instructor: Marwa Shalaby

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE

434 The Politics of Human Rights (3-4 credits) (Cross listed: INTL ST 434)

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

Mode of Instruction: Online Only

(Asynchronous & Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE

948 Racial & Ethnic Diversity: Causes & Effects (3 credits)

This class will focus on the causes and effects of racial and ethnic diversity in cross national perspectives. We will begin by focusing on how ethnic and racial diversity is measured in different arenas. Next, we will analyze readings that focus on the causes of diversity at the national-state, local, and organization or firm levels, which includes voluntary and forced actions including migration, segregation, and affirmative action type policies. In the third part of the course we will consider the political and economic effects of diversity again at the national-state, local, and firm/organizational levels. Readings will include cases studies from different countries and focus on a range of different racial and ethnic groups around the world.

Instructor: Yoshiko Herrera

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course

SOCIOLOGY

170 Population Problems (3 credits)

Social, economic, and political problems affected by birth and death rates, population size and distribution, voluntary and forced migration. World ecology, limits to growth, economic development, international conflict, environmental quality, metropolitan expansion, segregation by age, race, and wealth. Policies affecting reproduction, nuptiality, morbidity, mortality, migration.

Instructor: Monica Grant

Mode of Instruction: Online Only (Synchronous)

Extended Core Course