



African Curriculum Fall 2019 Course List

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

100 Introduction to African Cultural Expression
An introduction to current research in African cultural studies, ranging from various literary genres and uses of discourse; to diverse media including screen media, music, cartoons, and journalism; and to other forms of popular expression like soccer and drama. Through an introduction to these forms, students will also gain an overview of the diverse methods used by scholars in this field, such as textual analysis, film criticism, ethnomusicology, discourse analysis, and ethnography; and to the cultural diversity of Africa and its diasporic cultures.

Instructor: Vlad Dima

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

202 Introductory Topics in African Cultural Studies
An introductory discussion-based course on various topics in African cultural studies and African expressive cultures. Topics will include cultural and/or political themes that cut across multiple media and genres, including two or more of the following: literature, film, media, music, performance, language use, etc.

Instructor: Tejumola Olaniyan

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

204 Introductory Topics in African Languages
Special topics related to African languages and/or linguistics at the introductory level. Introduction to the diversity of African languages, superdiverse multilingual African societies, and the relationships between language and other societal issues.

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

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. All coursework is online. There are no meetings or official office hours. Students read stories and introductory hypertext, watch lectures featuring Harold Schueb, complete quizzes, participate in discussion forums, and compose weekly practice essays. Coursework is synchronous, meaning that, while there is a great deal of flexibility, students must meet weekly deadlines. Major assessments include a midterm essay and a final research essay.

Instructor: Matthew Brown

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

212 Introduction to African Popular Culture

This course will use aspects of popular culture (such as popular literature, music, television, news media, movies, etc.) to introduce students to the African continent and its cultures, people, and languages. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts from different regions on the continent, learning about differences and similarities across the continent at the level of aesthetics and context.

Instructor: Jacquelyn Mougoue

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

220 HipHop, Youth Culture, and Politics in Senegal

This course explores how HipHop, a quintessential manifestation of African American culture, is adopted and adapted by African youth to fight for social justice and democracy in their local contexts, while at the same time constructing a diasporic African sensibility and “cultural citizenship” that transcends borders and oceans. Students will develop a familiarity with youth culture and politics in Senegal and study the ongoing process of cross-cultural flows and hybridity. While scholars and journalists commonly lament the decline of overtly political rap in the U.S., African HipHop—from South Africa to Tunisia, and Kenya to Senegal—is associated with political protest, democratic movements, and the toppling of regimes. This course explores the history, politics, and political economy of HipHop in Africa with particular attention to its Wolof language variant in Senegal. We will engage debates concerning globalization and democracy, international political economy, culture industries, and transnational cultural studies. This is a FIG course.

Instructor: Damon Chandru Sajjani Burchell

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

277 Africa: An 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

300 African Literature in Translation: Tales of Love and War from Portuguese-speaking Africa

The texts we'll be studying this semester arise from a creative will to bring a new community into being. They are fueled, at the same time, by a desire to undo the destructive legacy of racism and oppression bequeathed by centuries of Portuguese colonial domination. Since, in several instances, this desire led to a protracted armed struggle against the colonial order, these creative expressions are in a sense born out of violence and war. In the case of Angola and Mozambique, the bloodshed, in the form of brutal and devastating civil wars, lasted well into the post-independence period. Thus, by the end of the millennium, the lofty dream of a free, equitable and more just society lay in shambles. Throughout it all, cultural and literary expressions endured as a mode of bearing witness to often unspeakable pain and destruction. In the words of a Mozambican novelist, they remain also as a stubborn reminder that despite the violence, people tenaciously maintained their will to re-invent themselves, to convert the days of blood and horror into the stuff of hope and tenderness, endeavoring to produce order where chaos had entrenched itself, life and beauty where death had spread its mantle of agony and sorrow. Our cultural area of focus will be Portuguese-speaking Africa, but we'll also expand our linguistic and geographic horizons to include selected films and texts from Latin America (Cuba and Brazil) as well as Europe.

Instructor: Luis Madureira

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

321 First Semester Arabic

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

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

323 Third Semester Arabic

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

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

331 First Semester Swahili

For beginning learners of Standard Swahili; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context. This course will be two sections: one online and one in-person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

333 Third Semester Swahili

Continuation of AFRICAN 332. Four skills approach (speaking, listening, writing, and reading) centered on authentic texts, recordings, and images. Grammar review, concerted vocabulary expansion, and intensive practice.

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

335 First Semester Language of South Africa: Zulu

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

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

361 First Semester Hausa

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

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

370 Islam: Religion and Culture

The emergence and development of Islam; schism; theology; asceticism; speculative and popular mysticism; literatures in diverse Islamic languages.

Instructor: Anna Gade

Extended Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

371 First 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 CULTURAL STUDIES

373 Third Semester Yoruba

Advanced grammar and conversational practice. Reading contemporary Yoruba literature and other writings.

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

391 First Semester Language of West Africa: Wolof

Speaking knowledge, description, structure, drills.

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

405 Topics in African Cultural Studies: Gender and Sexuality in Afro-Futurism

Through the lens of gender and sexuality, this course will show that Afrofuturism not only addresses concerns of those in the African diaspora, but also very much of those on the continent.

Instructor: Jacqueline Mougoue

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

435 African Studies in Swahili Language-Grammar
*Reading, conversation and composition beyond
the fourth semester level with emphasis on
linguistic structure and the grammatical analysis
of texts appropriate to the level of the student.*

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

475 Fifth Semester Yoruba
*Advanced linguistic structures, literature and
poetry. Introduction to Yoruba cultures in the
works of Wole Soyinka.*

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

606 Advanced Topics in African Literature: African
Historical Fiction

*We begin with the following question: what is at
stake, aesthetically, ethically and politically, in
African appropriations of the historical drama and
novel? How are we to understand these works'
claims to referential truth? Does African historical
drama and fiction reflect a desire to assert the
authority and therefore political significance of an
African perspective on the colonial and precolonial
eras? If so, is there an inevitable contradiction in
advancing such historical claims through fiction?
What are the entanglements inherent to the
adoption of a classical (late eighteenth- and early
nineteenth-century) European genre that is
buttressed by notions of cultural difference,
gendered subjectivity and teleological time that
postcolonial reinterpretations of the past would
seek at least to interrogate, if not undo? What is
the status of their "provisional" interpretations of
real or historical phenomena? To coin Harry E.
Shaw's formulation of the central problem of the
historical novel, how can fictional characters
signify the contexts and situations they are meant
to exemplify? Exploring several critical approaches
to historical drama and fiction's referential claims,
we will try to address these questions as
thoughtfully and painstakingly as we can.*

Instructor: Luis Madureira

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

670 Theories and Methods of Learning a Less Commonly Taught Language

This course is both theoretical and practical. Through reading, discussion, and research, students will explore theories of second language acquisition (SLA) and relate them to self-instructional methods. Each student will test and/or modify one or more theories/methods by putting these self-instructional methods into practice in order to learn a less commonly taught language (LCTL). Students will share their findings in writing and during class discussions, and write a final paper assessing their learning outcomes. This course is intended for those with prior experience in the study of African languages, or advanced study of other foreign languages.

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

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

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

700 Reading and Writing African Cultural Studies

This is a course on academic writing, designed to guide graduate students toward a full understanding of the craft of marshaling evidence to support an argument in the humanities, particularly African cultural studies. It covers the norms and expectations that inhere in academic writing as well as the mechanics of producing original scholarship.

Instructor: Ronald Radano

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

905 Seminar in African Cultural Studies: Cinematic Bodies

*This seminar explores the narrative use of cinematic sound and diegetic bodies by francophone filmmakers beginning in 1966 with Ousmane Sembène's *Black Girl* and all the way up to Jean-Pierre Bekolo's *Naked Reality* (2016). The course follows historical, theoretical, and aesthetic approaches to studying both African sound and African image. It first connects African sound(s) to African orality, European counter-cinema practices, and classical Hollywood. Second, it connects images of bodies to issues of sexuality, gender, and power. Ultimately, the seminar aims to reveal the possible bodies that emerge through cinema--aural, visual, and haptic--as a way to trace the socio-political impact of space(s) in the neocolonial context.*

Instructor: Vlad Dima

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

926 Literacy Ethnography

This graduate-level methods seminar is an intensive introduction to reading and writing “new ethnographies”—what H. L. Goodall calls an “emerging, alternative style of qualitative writing” that “combines the personal and the professional, ... work that may be rendered as a story ..., or an account that derives rhetorical force from blurring or blending of literary genres.” Taking a discourse-centered approach to culture and to writing as a form of qualitative analysis, we will explore theories and examples of autoethnographies, autobiographies, ethnographic fiction, poetry, and drama, and literary ethnographies. Our main examples will be writing by Africans and Africanists, but students working in other world areas are welcome. Important themes will include language, voice, dialogic research, transcription, and translation. The course will help students whose primary interests are in literature, languages, and second language acquisition to gain expertise in ethnographic research practices and evocative writing. Seminar meetings will involve both discussion of readings and workshopping participants’ writing.

Instructor: Katrina Thompson

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies

This 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. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

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

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

241 Introduction to African Art and Architecture

This course examines the rich heritage of African arts and architecture as they shape and have been shaped by the histories and cultural values (social, political, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic) of African peoples, both past and present, on the continent where humanity began. It includes an historical overview of selected artistic traditions from different parts of the continent from 26,000 BCE to the 21st century and thematic/cultural case studies: artists and aesthetics; textiles, decorative, and personal/body arts; architecture; and individual artists.

Instructor: Henry Drewal

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 Black

Extended Core

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

277 Africa: An 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa

Composition, organization, and techniques of agricultural production; economic change and development of agriculture, economic policies, special problems of developing African agriculture.

Instructor: Emilia Tjernstroem

Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

731 Frontiers in Development Economics 2

Theory and evidence on growth and development in emerging economies, with primary focus on globalization, trade, labor markets and human capital. We use open-economy general equilibrium models to examine welfare implications of global shocks and domestic economic policies.

Instructor: Ian Coxhead

Extended Core

ANTHROPOLOGY

277 Africa: An 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

321 The Emergence of Human Culture

This course provides a survey of the Paleolithic archaeological record in the Old World, beginning with faint traces of past human behavior over 2.5 million years old in Africa, continuing through the expansion of human populations into Eurasia more than 1.5 million years ago and into the New World before 12,000 years ago, and concluding with the end of the Pleistocene at 10,000 years ago.

Lectures present evidence of major developments in human evolution, including the transition from ape-like to more human-like behavior patterns, the discovery of techniques for making and using stone tools, the controlled use of fire, the development of a hunting and gathering lifestyle, the origins of language, and the appearance of stone age art. Lectures are usually illustrated with PowerPoint slides or videos. Some prior knowledge of basic principles of archaeology or a willingness to do some supplementary reading from introductory textbooks (on reserve) on the subject is assumed.

Instructor: Henry Bunn

Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies

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Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

ART HISTORY

241 Introduction to African Art and Architecture

This course examines the rich heritage of African arts and architecture as they shape and have been shaped by the histories and cultural values (social, political, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic) of African peoples, both past and present, on the continent where humanity began. It includes an historical overview of selected artistic traditions from different parts of the continent from 26,000 BCE to the 21st century and thematic/cultural case studies: artists and aesthetics; textiles, decorative, and personal/body arts; architecture; and individual artists.

Instructor: Henry Drewal

Core Course

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

630 Sociology of Developing Countries/Third World

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

Extended Core

DANCE

118 Africa Dance

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

Instructor: Maya Kadakia

Core Course

ECONOMICS

477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa

Composition, organization, and techniques of agricultural production; economic change and development of agriculture, economic policies, special problems of developing African agriculture.

Instructor: Emilia Tjernstroem

Core Course

ECONOMICS

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This 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. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

340 Comparative Education

Examines the socio-cultural, political and economic forces that shape education around the world, including in the U.S. Throughout the semester, we explore a series of essential questions about the means and ends of education. Topics include: the purposes of schooling in different locations; the role of schooling in producing inequality or supporting social change, particularly in relation to class, race, gender, migration, language, and abilities; global educational reform; global educational assessments; curriculum and pedagogy; and teacher education

Instructor: Lesley Bartlett

Extended Core

ENGLISH

491 Ethnic & Multicultural Literature: Black Women Dramatists

The course is an introduction to dramatic writings by African and African American women. We will study the content and style of our selected plays and explore their possible meanings. We will investigate if there are similarities and/or differences in the dramatists' thematic and stylistic orientations, and critically speculate on the reasons why—be the reasons dramaturgic, cultural, political, or ideological. Ultimately, we will explore the exciting possibility of constructing a cross-cultural and cross-continental black female dramatic tradition. Some of the playwrights we would study include Lorraine Hansberry, Ama Ata Aidoo, Ntozake Shange, Efua Sutherland, Suzan-Lori Parks, Malika Ndlovu, Lynn Nottage, and Sindiwe Magona.

Instructor: Tejumola Olaniyan

Extended Core

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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.

Extended Core

FRENCH

272 Representation of Muslim Societies in French Literature and Pop Culture

Through a large spectrum of literary works, movies, songs and popular culture (advertising, media, comics, etc.), we will examine how Islam and Islamic worlds are depicted in French artistic expressions. You will also read articles from the press in order to understand the place of Islam and the Muslim community in France today. Moreover, we will focus on contemporary debates related to migration, integration, and the secular values of the Republic. This course will enhance your “cross-cultural competence” in an interdisciplinary approach: learning about another culture will help you to appreciate other societies, challenging your own cultural assumptions, stereotypes and prejudice about the “Other”. No language prerequisite, course taught in English
Instructor: Nevine El Nossery
Extended Core

FOLKLORE

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. All coursework is online. There are no meetings or official office hours. Students read stories and introductory hypertext, watch lectures featuring Harold Schueb, complete quizzes, participate in discussion forums, and compose weekly practice essays. Coursework is synchronous, meaning that, while there is a great deal of flexibility, students must meet weekly deadlines. Major assessments include a midterm essay and a final research essay.

Instructor: Matthew Brown

Core Course

FOLKLORE

103 Introduction to Music Cultures of the World
An introductory ethnomusicology course providing a variety of ways to approach musics typically not covered in music history courses. Active engagement with these musics within their larger world contexts.

Instructor: Nadia Chana

Extended Core

GEOGRAPHY

277 Africa: An 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

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.

Extended Core

GEOGRAPHY

983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies
This 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. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

HISTORY

277 Africa: An 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

HISTORY

983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies
This 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. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

MUSIC

103 Introduction to Music Cultures of the World
An introductory ethnomusicology course providing a variety of ways to approach musics typically not covered in music history courses. Active engagement with these musics within their larger world contexts.

Instructor: Nadia Chana

Extended Core

POLITICAL SCIENCE

277 Africa: An 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE

983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies

This 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. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

Religious Studies

370 Islam: Religion and Culture

The emergence and development of Islam; schism; theology; asceticism; speculative and popular mysticism; literatures in diverse Islamic languages.

Instructor: Anna Gade

Extended Core Course

SOCIOLOGY

170 Population Problems

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: Jenna Nobles

Extended Core

SOCIOLOGY

277 Africa: An 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.

Instructor: Neil Kodesh

Core Course

SOCIOLOGY

630 Sociology of Developing Countries/Third World

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

Extended Core