



African Studies Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

African Curriculum
Summer 2025 Course List
Last Edited: 04/09/2025

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

202 (001) Gangster Movies (3 credits)

*Violent actions, looks, and lifestyle characterize what we may call the African gangster film genre. They are action films that present a reimagination of life with much of the boring parts cut out. As part of the course, we will watch African gangster films weekly, exploring the context and implications of gang presence and action on African screen media. African gangster movies proliferated in the early 2000s with the success of *Isakaba* (2001). There has been a resurgence and boom of this genre within the last decade. Attending to the historic and more contemporary movies in this genre, this course asks questions about how gangsterism is constructed and what its reception has been from scholars and the public. In this course, we will pay attention to the complexities of violence and conflict on the African screen by considering the relationship between gangster culture on one hand, and city life, politics, and the construction of history on the other hand. We will also consider the gendered orientation of violence in African movies as well as the rise of female gangster characters. Lastly, and on an intertextual premise, we will examine how continental African Gangster movies compare to Gangster movies in the African Diaspora.*

Instructor: Opeyemi Salami

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

202 (002) African and African Diaspora Animation and Comics (3 credits)

This course explores themes in African studies, inviting students to interpret and contextualize African and Black visual cultural productions like animation and comics. It asks students to reflect on how animators and illustrators use the mediums to comment on culture, race, gender, disability, and politics. The course draws a line of continuity from African and Black oral storytelling traditions to the digitally mediated formats of drawn and illustrated storytelling. Historical storytellers like the griot draw on real and fantastic events and cultural resources to create tales, myths, and epics passed down across generations. Contemporary storytellers like animators and comic artists reterritorialize oral narratives and strategies and deploy imaging technologies to craft visual stories that explore historical and modern experiences, as well as visions for the future. Students will be able to answer the following questions: What are the connections between African oral traditions and contemporary visual narratives and what are the limits of this parallel? How are African and Black visual artists reappropriating elements of traditional cultures to produce trendy stories? In addition to exploring thematic issues of politics, history, and culture, how do these works reflect a distinctly African and Black aesthetic? Texts and case studies are drawn from the United States and different parts of the African continent, including South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Instructor: Michael Oshindoro

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

203 Feminisms in African Film & Literature (3 credits)

Instructor: Rosemary Popoola

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

210 The African Storyteller (3 credits) (Cross-listed: FOLKLORE 210)

This course introduces students to both the oral and written traditions of African literature. Students will study several oral stories from across the continent, and a few classic African novels, as well as theories for interpreting them.

Instructor: Oluwadamilola Ogunmuko

Nneoma Onwuegbuchi

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey (4 credits) (Cross-listed: AFRICAN 277, ANTHRO 277, GEOG 277, HISTORY 277, POLI SCI 277, SOC 277)

The course explores 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: Meyerson Samuel Ethan

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

333 Third Semester Swahili (4 credits)

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

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

334 Fourth Semester Swahili (4 credits)

Four-skills approach (speaking, listening, writing, reading) centered around authentic texts, recordings, and images. Grammar review, concerted vocabulary expansion, and intensive practice.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

339 First Semester Summer Arabic (4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

340 Second Semester Summer Arabic (4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

341 Third Semester Summer Arabic (4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

342 Fourth Semester Summer Arabic (4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

343 Fifth Semester Summer Arabic (4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In-Person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

344 Sixth Semester Summer Arabic (4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

372 Second Semester Yoruba (5 credits)

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

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: Online

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

373 Third Semester Yoruba (4 credits)

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

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

672 Intensive Summer Multilanguage Seminar (8 credits)

A theoretical and practical exploration of second language acquisition (SLA) and self-instructional methods. 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).

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

242 Introduction to Afro-American Art (3 credits) (Cross listed: ART HIST 242)

This survey course is an introduction to the history of African American art and visual culture from the colonial era to our current time, with a particular focus on twentieth century art. With attention to various art historical perspectives and methods, and to the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality that impact the lives and work of African American artists and their audiences, we will investigate various art forms including painting, sculpture, photography, folk art, conceptual and performance art, and art as social practice. As we consider art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, we will examine works of art that manifest the theories and politics of movements such as Black Liberation, Feminism, and Postmodernism. Our goal is to understand how African American art acted, and continues to act, as a form of self-expression and collective empowerment and as a means of resistance against various forms of marginalization.

Instructor: Black Anthony Devon

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

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

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: TBA

Mode of Instruction: Online

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AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

350 World Hunger and Malnutrition
(3 credits) (Cross listed: AGRONOMY 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: Jeremy Foltz, Taiya Bach

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

474 Economic problems of developing Areas (3 credits)

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.

Instructors: Paul Dower

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

104 Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity (3 credits)

Introduction to cultural anthropology. Comparative cross-cultural consideration of social organization, economics, politics, language, religion, ecology, gender, and cultural change. Includes a primary focus on U.S. ethnic and racial minorities.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey (4 credits) (Cross-listed: AFRICA 277, SOC 277, GEOG 277, POLI SCI 277, HIST 277)

The course explores 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: Samuel Meyerson

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

ART HISTORY

303 Heroes and Villains (3 credits)

Surveys the arts or visual culture of varying geographical regions, time periods, or cultures depending on selected topic.

Instructor: Mateusz Ferens

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

DANCE

110 Workshop in Dance Activities (1 credit)

Explores the creative and expressive aspects of dance movement. Develops technical skills and creative ability through whole body work on flexibility, strength, alignment, endurance, movement and improvisation. Develops appreciation of dance as an art form.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: In person

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DANCE

318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas

(Cross listed: AFROAMER 318, MUSIC 318)

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: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

240 Comparative Education (3 credits)

Examines the socio-cultural, political and economic forces that shape education around the world, including in the U.S. Explores a series of essential questions about the means and ends of education, including: 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: Max Yakubovskiy

Extended Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

335 Globalization and Education (3 credits)

Discuss the ways education is inextricably linked to global political, economic, and social contexts. Reflect on both scholarly research and popular conceptions of market, society and schools in different geographic and cultural contexts. Approach globalization from a context-sensitive, place-based approach, rather than abstract, predictive method through interdisciplinary analysis. Explore the concept of globalization across disciplinary frameworks including anthropology, geography, and history. Provides critical analysis to understand the challenges facing education in a globalization era, to build stronger commitment to helping address those challenges, and a set of skills for researching and writing about them. Examine the following "problem-spaces": globalization and migration; globalization and race; global testing and assessment; marketization of education; global city development and higher education; youth culture and globalization.

Instructor: Jennifer Otting

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

GAYLORD NELSON INSTITUTE

975 Environmental Conservative Leadership Seminar (1 credit)

Introduction to important aspects of communication, negotiation, and cross-cultural professional practice as they relate to Environmental Conservation.

Instructor: Beatrice Robert B.

Mode of Instruction: In-person

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FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

360 Extinction of Species (1 credit)

(Cross-listed: ENVIR ST 360, ZOOLOGY 360)

A comprehensive treatment of the ecology, causes, and consequences of species extinction. Ecology and problems of individual species, habitat alteration and degradation, socio-economic pressures and conservation techniques and strategies.

Instructor: Karie Cherwin Lynn

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

GENDER AND WOMEN'S 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: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

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: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

HISTORY

201 The Historian (3 credits)

Conduct original historical research and convey the results to others. Through engagement with archival materials, become historical detectives; practice defining important historical questions, collecting and analyzing evidence, presenting original conclusions, and contributing to ongoing discussions. Confer individually with and receive feedback from instructors to improve skills of historical analysis and communication in both written and spoken formats. May not be repeated for credit.

Instructor:

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

HISTORY

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey (4 credits)

(Cross-listed: AFRICA 277, ANTHRO 277, GEOG 277, POLI SCI 277, SOC 277)

The course explores 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: Meyerson Samuel Ethan

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

365 International Study Trip (1 credit)

A course for the exploration of subject areas possibly to be introduced into the business curriculum.

Instructor: Robert Misey

Mode of Instruction: Online

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

434 The Politics of Human Rights (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. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 317 prior to fall 2017

Instructor: Howsam Jess

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

SOCIOLOGY

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey (4 credits)

(Cross-listed: AFRICA 277, ANTHRO 277, GEOG277, POLI SCI 277, HIST 277)

The course explores 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: Samuel Meyerson

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

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