



**AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES**  
**Course Listings for Fall 2022**



**AADS1108 Intro to African Diaspora Literatures**

**T TH 10:30-11:45**

*Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

By studying creative writing by African writers and writers of African descent, this course examines how diasporic Africans created viable lives for themselves in the "New World." We will identify commonalities as well as discontinuities that define the experiences of African and African descended peoples in Nigeria, Canada, the US, and the Caribbean. Acknowledging that African Diaspora writers share a common set of experiences (cultural traditions, domination and resistance), we will also examine experiences that are unique to each time and place. This two-part critical process will result in a complex view of literature that derives from it.

*Rhonda Frederick*

**AADS 1110 Introduction to African Diaspora Studies**

**T TH 12:00-1:15**

*Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity and Social Science*

*AADS Major and Minor Requirement*

A survey of the African continent and the Diaspora that would include geography, history, politics, economics and literature. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to specific historical, cultural, social and political topics related to Africa and the African Diaspora. Because the scope of the course is so vast, we will explore important issues and themes to give students a desire to further pursue more specific classes in African and African Diaspora Studies. Boston College faculty members will be invited to lecture in their area of expertise specific to Africa and the Diaspora throughout the semester.

*C. Shawn McGuffey*

**AADS 1114 When Gods Begin Again: Intro. to African & African Diaspora Religions**

**T 4:30-6:50**

*Cross Listed with THEO 2114*

*Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

This introductory course examines African Christianity, Islam, and indigenous religions, as well as African Diaspora religions of Haitian Vodou, Cuban Santería, and Black American conjure/roots work. Employing a comparative religion approach, we explore Black Atlantic religious themes such as: God(s) and ancestor veneration, divination and sacred space, initiation and sacred arts, healing and the environment, gender and power, the impact of slavery on conversion/continuity, migration and diaspora. Ultimately, this course encourages students to reevaluate their understanding of African religions, recognize diverse cultural philosophies and ritual knowledge systems, and engage with written and visual materials that underscore the values of these traditions.

*Michelle McElwaine*

**AADS 1137 Managing Diversity**

**T 4:30-6:50**

*Cross Listed with MGMT 2137*

*Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Politics and Social Inquiry (PSI)*

Students in this course will learn about contemporary empirical and theoretical research on the dynamics of international culture, gender, race, and other special differences in the workplace. They can also increase skills in diagnosing and solving diversity-related conflicts and dilemmas, and develop a capacity to distinguish a monolithic organization from one that treats diversity as a competitive advantage.

*Angela Clark*

**AADS1139 African World Perspectives**

**T TH 12:00-1:15**

*Cross-listed with SOCY 1039*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

*Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity and Social Science*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Politics and Social Inquiry (PSI)*

The aim of this course is to provide a broad overview of how Africa has impacted the world and how the world has impacted upon Africa. The course is divided into six basic topic of "units." Each unit deals with a major area of debate in the field of African studies.

*Zine Magubane*

**AADS1770 Gospel Workshop**

**T TH 6:00-7:50**

*Cross-listed as MUSP 1770 (1-credit course)*

*Lecture Component: 6:00pm-6:50pm on Tuesday.*

*Practicum Component (Voices of Imani Gospel Choir): 7:00pm-8:00pm on Tuesday and 6:30pm-8:00pm on Thursday*

This class will examine Black gospel music with an emphasis on choral music and oral traditions that capture the Black experience in America from a historical, socio-political and multicultural standpoint. The syllabus and repertoire is reflective of the great faith tradition that is an integral part of black culture; in that it includes the breadth of musical expression in the Black worship experience. Students will analyze the importance of Black gospel music and its vital role in shaping global music trends. Spirituals, traditional gospel, contemporary gospel, as well as religious music of the European tradition will be reviewed closely from a historical and musical standpoint. The class will comprise of equal parts lecture and practicum (Voices of Imani Gospel Choir). The latter half compromising of the practicum (VOI) will help students engage in practical learning of songs explored in the lecture, consequently accomplishing the age-old institution of oral tradition in Black history.

*Shannon Jacob Dorman*

**AADS 2182 Black Popular Culture**

**MWF 10**

*Cross Listed with COMM 2182*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

*Satisfies the Communication major Critical Issues requirement or satisfies one of three electives required for the Communication major.*

In this class, we will critically examine the development of black popular culture from blackface minstrelsy in the 1800s to present day. While we will primarily focus on black popular culture in the United States, we will also consider the work of diasporic authors and artists and the international implications of American media. Readings will draw upon theories and concepts in media studies, cultural studies, and rhetoric to center our discussion of black popular cultural texts such as television shows, films, music, poetry, and fashion.

*Kalemba Kizito*

**AADS 2204 Music and Social Justice**

**T TH 4:30-5:45**

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

This course examines influential African American musicians and their artistic endeavors towards the path of social justice, education and awareness. Focus will be on social movements, activism, industry commodity and the direct correlation between music and society. Students will be encouraged to analyze music through lyrics, and song form; while understanding the historical, political and social climate surrounding these artistic ventures. Genres such as Gospel, Blues, Pop, Hip-hop and Jazz will be highlighted in its journey towards contemporary music development that is shaped by the economic and technological advancements of the 21st century

*Shannon Jacob Dorman*

**AADS2241 Black Feminisms 101: From Harriet Tubman to Beyoncé**

**T 3:00-5:20**

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

Black feminists have long explored the question of race versus gender in their politics, theories, and writing. This class takes a closer look at the intersection of race and gender by using Black feminist thought as a lens to examine literature and popular culture. We will read writers and theorists from Africa and the diaspora to provide definitions of Black feminism. We consider how race and gender have been thought about over time.

*DEPT*

**AADS2250 Intro to African Arts and Visual Culture**

**T TH 12:00-1:15**

*Cross-listed with ARTH 2250*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

*Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

Survey that takes a critical look at centuries of arts from Africa in their cultural and political contexts.

*Stephen Hamilton*

**AADS 2334 Hip Hop in American Culture**

**M W 3:00-4:15**

*Cross Listed with MUSA 2334*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

This course is an historical and ethnomusicological review of hip hop. We will examine the roots of hip hop in African expressive culture, the emergence of the hip hop genre in the United States, and hip hop's impact in other places around the globe. The course requires active listening, readings, and use of multimedia.

*Timothy Mangin*

**AADS 2400 Ifá: an Indigenous African Literary & Divinatory System**

**M 4:30-6:50**

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

This course dives into the sacred oral literature of an Indigenous West African thought system known as Ifá. We will explore the structure of the verses and the divinities who feature there. An in-depth reading of several stories will provide cultural context for major themes such as the concepts of personhood and character, predestination, the role of women, and respect for nature. We will also discuss four divination systems that arise out of Ifá.

*Michelle McElwaine*

**AADS 2442 African Politics**

**T TH 1:30-2:45**

*Cross Listed with POLI 2442*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Politics and Social Inquiry (PSI)*

This course examines key questions and debates in the study of politics in Africa. Why and when is ethnicity salient in elections? If state boundaries in Africa are largely colonial creations, why are they so resilient? Why are some countries more prone to civil war? What is the relationship between elections and democracy? How do historical legacies impact contemporary politics? The goal of this course is to provide students with analytical tools to understand a number of questions that are of interest to contemporary politics in Africa. Using the methodologies of comparative politics, we will examine both broad cross-national patterns and focused case studies in this class.

*Lauren Honig*

**AADS2800 From Slave Patrol to the War on Crime: Policing Blacks Across American History**  
**M W 3:00-4:15**

*Cross-Listed with HIST 2800*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Politics and Social Inquiry (PSI)*

During the "racial reckoning" in the summer of 2020, Americans engaged in a lot of discussions about race and the criminal justice system - and especially policing and its historical connections to slavery. While containing some truth, this particular framing of policing obscures a more complex history. This course will explore the larger history of policing Black Americans, from slavery to the early twenty-first century. Topics will include: race and policing in the antebellum period; legal and extralegal forms of policing Blacks in the Jim Crow era; mass incarceration in the late-twentieth century; and activism against the carceral state.

*Martin Summers*

**AADS3250 Black Movements**  
**T TH 1:30-2:45**

*Cross Listed with ENGL 3250*

*AADS Black Atlantic Course*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

This course explores the relationship between black political movements and black attention to bodies, material relations, and the matter of everyday life. We will examine instances of black freedom movements from 1800s onward with an attention to the role and articulation of black physical movement, including the cramped cargo-movement of Henry Box Brown's escape; freedom workshops on falling for Civil Rights marches to the important matter of bodies in the street for "Black Lives Matter" demonstrations. We will focus on how the embodied nature of black political movements serves both as a way of fighting for political inclusion and as an alternative way of relating and living that renders the desirability of inclusion into the exclusive structures of American society altogether questionable.

*Allison Curseen*

**AADS3255 Community Advocacy and Research Engagement**  
**T TH 10:30-11:45**

*Cross-listed with SOCY3255*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Politics and Social Inquiry (PSI)*

CARE is a two-semester course (SOCY 3254/3255) that offers leadership, research, and public policy training for students interested in working with Latino, Asian American and/or African Diaspora communities. In fall, students in SOCY3254 learn the process of community-based research and its methodologies, and begin to design a proposal for an independent study for spring. In the Spring, students sign up for SOCY3255 in conjunction with a Readings and Research to conduct their projects. The Spring seminar complements the R&R serving as a forum for students to discuss their research and continue to develop their oral presentation skills.

*Dept*

**AADS 3310 Studies of Race, Law, and Resistance**

**W 6:00-8:25**

*Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Politics and Social Inquiry (PSI)*

This course will examine and analyze protest movements for racial and economic justice from 1896 to 1968 and how these struggles contributed to sweeping reforms in U.S. law and public policy during and beyond this period. This course will examine violence and other resistance, focusing on the legal and extra-legal strategies by disadvantaged ethnic minorities challenging de jure and de facto discrimination based on race, color, national origin, and/or ancestry. This course will be of special interest to students interested in social justice and those considering post-graduate legal studies.

*Juan Concepcion*

**AADS 3652 Trauma, Culture & Coping**

**W 9:00-12:00**

Cross Listed with SOCY 3652

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Politics and Social Inquiry (PSI)*

This seminar will introduce students to various approaches to trauma and traumatic impact. The course is designed for students who seek a scholarly understanding of trauma, as well as those who plan to provide direct services (e.g., therapists, social service workers, etc.) and/or to inform policy. We will examine the sociological, psychological, and service oriented and policy implications of these approaches. Multiple types of trauma will be conceptualized and investigated. Larger socio-cultural forces will be examined in analyzing both the exposure to and recovery from traumatic events. The seminar will be highly attuned to differences based on race, class, and gender.

*C. Shawn McGuffey*

**AADS5509 Black Theology**

**W 2:00-4:20**

*Cross-listed with THEO 3510*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

Interrogates some of the ways in which biblical teaching and religious doctrine interact with race, simultaneously to impede and to facilitate cultural, social, and existential liberation.

*Andrew Prevot*

**AADS6036 Seminar: Black Memoir Matters**

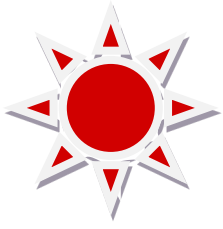
**T 2:00-4:25**

*Cross Listed with ENG 6036*

*Satisfies AADS Major Track Requirement: Intellectual Traditions and Cultural Productions (ITCP)*

This course explores what an engagement with life writing by black Americans teaches us about the United States and its quest for democracy. We will situate contemporary writers within a larger literary tradition, beginning with James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*, a quintessential civil rights movement text, followed by *Between the World & Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, whom Nobel laureate Toni Morrison called the Baldwin of the Black Lives Matter era. We will also consider how various forms of memoir--as open letter (Imani Perry's *Breathe* and Kiese Laymon's *Heavy*), as interconnected essays (Emily Bernard's *Black Is the Body*), as literary criticism (Farah Jasmine Griffin's *Read Until You Understand*) meditate upon fundamental questions of citizenship, truth-telling, and fullest human blossoming.

*Angela Ards*



NOTES

