

AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES
Course Listings for Fall 2023

AADS 1110 Introduction to African Diaspora Studies

T TH 10:30-11:45

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 course will focus on indigenous traditions of Africa, like those of the Akan, Yoruba, Ndebele, and Fon, as well as related traditions of the Americas like Candomble, Lukumi, and Haitian Vodou with attention to the movement of these traditions through the slave trade and, more recently, through voluntary migration and digital travel. This course will explore topics including: concepts of God and cosmology, ways of knowing, spirit possession, ritual, ceremony, divination, and art, within a religious studies framework that employs phenomenology, anthropology of religion, and other approaches.

Michelle McElwaine

AADS 113701 Managing Diversity

T 4:30-6:50

AADS 113702 Managing Diversity

W 4:30-6:50

Cross Listed with MGMT 213701, MGMT 213702

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor, MGMT1021, MGMT1031

Satisfies Core Requirement: 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

AADS 1139 African World Perspectives

T TH 12:00-1:15

Cross-listed with SOCY 1039

Satisfies Core Requirement: Social Science & Cultural Diversity

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

AADS Black Atlantic Course

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

AADS 1155 Introduction to African-American Society

T TH 3:00-4:15

Cross-listed with SOCY 1043

Satisfies Core Requirement: Social Science and Cultural Diversity

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

To get Sociology credit for the major or minor (or social science core credit), you must register for SOCY1043 rather than a cross-listed course.

In 1896, distinguished scholar W.E.B. DuBois became convinced that the experience of Africans in the Americas was so distinctive that it was imperative to study Black people in order to understand power dynamics at all levels of society. This course will study those power dynamics. While paying particular attention to the many ways that racial power dynamics have impacted all people of African descent in the United States, this course does not assume a uniform Black experience. We shall see that gender, class, and sexuality greatly shape the differing experiences of African-Americans.

C. Shawn McGuffey

AADS1770 Gospel Music 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 are 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 comprising 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 2162 Muslim Africa

T TH 10:30-11:45

Cross Listed with HIST2162

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

AADS Black Atlantic Course

Fulfills the LAMA Requirement for the History Major and Minor.

The world watched in wonder at the Moroccan soccer team's improbable run during the 2022 World Cup, not fully understanding how one country inspired African, Arab, and Amazigh (indigenous North African) communities alike. Trade networks, cultural exchange, racial ideologies, European colonialism, gendered practices, and recent Islamist political movements have been part of historical processes of religious change touching the entire African continent. Historical sources including eyewitness accounts, memoir, fiction, film, and works by African scholars and artists show how the history of Islam is one part of Africa's long global history.

Lorelle Semley

AADS 2182 Black Popular Culture

M W F 10-10:50

Cross Listed with COMM2182

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

This course may be used to satisfy the Communication major Critical Issues requirement or to satisfy 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

AADS2199 Introduction to Caribbean Writers

T TH 3:00-4:15

Cross Listed with ENGL2199

Satisfies Core Requirement: Cultural Diversity AADS Black Atlantic Course

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

The Caribbean, merely viewed through the lens of colonial history, often does not reflect the diversity and complexity of the region. From a colonial perspective, therefore, the Caribbean is both "known" and "unknown." Our work for this course compares and contrasts versions of the region by examining colonial histories and current literary traditions. We will pay particular attention to the ways oppositional cultures and identities manifest in Caribbean literature. Themes of this course include: colonialism, History/histories, gender, geography, nation, sexuality, class, and culture. Varied texts and media will assist in our interpretations of the Caribbean and its diaspora.

Rhonda Frederick

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 musicians and their artistic endeavors towards the path of social justice, education and awareness, with a special focus on African American musicians and their contribution to the world of entertainment. Emphasis will also 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 climates surrounding these artistic ventures. The conclusive expectation of this class is that students understand the significant impact of music on a global scale and be mindful that it is a powerful tool that can be utilized to educate, inspire, create awareness and unite humanity.

Shannon Jacob Dorman

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, Arts

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 2265 Women in Blues

M 6:00-8:20

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

This course explores women in music from Vaudeville blues of the late 1800's, blues queens of the 1920's through contemporary blues artists such as Shamekia Copeland, Adele, Beyoncé and Nicki Minaj. We will have mindful and empathetic conversations based on culture, race and perspective. The outcome of this class is that students have a thorough understanding of the legacy of blues music, the women who were at the forefront of the genre and the impact of blues on a worldwide audience.

Shannon Jacob Dorman

AADS 2306 Musics of Africa

M W 3:00-4:15

Cross Listed with MUSA 2306

Satisfies Core Requirement for: Cultural Diversity

AADS Black Atlantic Course

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

This course is a survey of the musical diversity and cosmopolitanism of one of the world's most populous continents. Drawing from ethnographic studies of African musics, we will explore some of the political, economic, and historical circumstances out of which certain genres and styles of music emerge and at the ways in which these genres and styles circulate in global music and performance markets.

Timothy Mangin

AADS 2332 History of Jazz

M W F 1-1:50

Cross Listed with MUSA 2332

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

A history of America's music from its origins in African traditions through the contemporary scene. The course will explore its African roots; its consolidation in New Orleans and its spread into the cultural mainstream in the Jazz Age; its transformation into bebop, cool, third stream, funk, and avant-garde trends; and the return to traditionalism. Key figures covered will be Armstrong, Ellington, Parker, and Marsalis, among others.

Timothy Mangin

AADS 2444 African Politics

M W 3:00-4:15

Cross Listed with POLI 1244

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

AADS Black Atlantic Course

The course on African politics is designed to introduce the study of contemporary African politics and government. It addresses some critical stages in African politics, including the legacies of colonial rule, reasons for state weakness in post-independence, and the causes of political violence in several countries. It investigates reasons for political reform, democratic consolidation, and peace development. It examines the failures and successes of African countries in achieving sustainable economic development and the influence of international forces in African politics. It surveys social and political factors such as nationalism, ideology, identity politics, and state and non-state actors in African politics.

Mesfin Woldegebriel

AADS 2800 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

AADS 3254 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.

Thomas Abowd

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 3350 Black Futures

T TH 1:30-2:45

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

AADS Black Atlantic Course

Alicia Wormsley's billboard installation declared "There are Black people in the future." This course considers the ways visions of futurity have fueled the resistance of communities of the African diaspora against racial exclusion and oppression, and have sustained these communities through the present by imagining what Ashon Crawley calls "otherwise possibilities." This course will explore the ongoing significance of Afrofuturism (and what is often considered her counterpart, Afropessimism) through theoretical texts in Black studies, speculative literature, art, television, film, technology, and music, to consider the conditions of possibility for Black life beyond the circumstance of anti-Blackness.

Amey Adkins-Jones

AADS3400 Food Justice Across the African Diaspora

T TH 9:00-10:15

Cross-listed with SOCY3400

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

AADS Black Atlantic Course

This course is designed to introduce students to the social, political and cultural meanings of food across the African Diaspora. We will cover not only the meaning of food but also the importance of race in key aspects of global food systems, from food production and processing to the distribution and consumption of food. This course will also explore food access and security and the ways in which intersecting identities make meaning, experience, and respond to such issues. By the end of this course, students will be able to apply relevant frameworks, namely environmental justice, to food-related dilemmas globally.

Latrica Best

AADS4466 Surveillance, Media and Contemporary Society

M W F 11:00–11:50

Cross-listed with COMM4466

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

Satisfies one of two writing intensive courses required within the Communication Major

Restricted to juniors and seniors

What is surveillance and how are surveillance technologies altering contemporary life? This course will explore this question by mapping the complex ways that media and digital technologies are used to acculturate us and generate acquiescence/ resistance to surveillance in society. We will use film, television, and Internet media along with assigned readings to develop critical perspectives on surveillance and surveillance practices. The class is designed to give you freedom to develop and express your own ideas on the costs and potential benefits of surveillance-based societies.

Kalemba Kizito

AADS 4485 History of Medicine and Public Health/Afr. Am Diaspora

M W F 11:00-11:50

Cross-listed with HIST4485

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

AADS Black Atlantic Course

This course is a comparative study of the complex historical interplay of medicine, ideas of racial difference, and relationships of power in the African diaspora. Through an examination of slavery in the Americas, colonialism in Africa, and race relations in postemancipation United States and Caribbean, this course explores the ways in which racial difference has acquired a particular truth through the production of biomedical knowledge and its deployment in therapeutic practice and public health policy. The course will also examine how people of African descent have used medical knowledge and healing practices to contest their subordinate position in racist societies.

Martin Summers

AADS 5426 From Nile to Niger: African Christian Fathers and Mothers of the Church

Cross-listed with THEO5426

M 3:00-5:20

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

AADS Black Atlantic Course

This course counts as an elective towards the interdisciplinary Minor in Ancient Civilization.

Introduction to the Fathers of the Church, with special emphasis on the period after the apostles to the Council of Nicea (A.D. 325). The lives, writings, and teachings of the Church Fathers will be studied through readings in English translation.

Margaret Schatkin

AADS6301 Seminar: Nineteenth-Century Afr. American Literature and Culture **W 4:30-6:50**

Cross-listed with ENGL 6301

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

ENGL Seminar: Nineteenth-Century African American Literature and Culture

This course will examine literary, art, performance, and other cultural texts from the long nineteenth century produced by, alongside, about, and/or significant to African American life and culture. The class will be organized around a critical topic which Black Studies, American Studies, and/or literary studies scholars have identified as significant to the discourse on this history and body of texts. In our examination of this topic we will engage a myriad of texts by diverse authors across different mediums and genres; explore a variety of nineteenth century US archives; and constantly interrogate the relationship between history and black literary and artistic production.

Allison Curseen

AADS6302 Seminar: Black Feminist Literature, Art, & Performance, 1970s-1990s **T 2:00-4:25**

Cross-listed with ENGL 6302

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

ENGL Seminar: Black Feminist Literature, Art, and Performance, 1970s-1990s

In this course, we will explore Black feminism and its emergence as a cultural field from the 1970s through the 90s. Black feminism began in the 1970s as a movement that centered the lived experiences, political visions, and intellectual ideas of Black women who didn't see themselves as fully accounted for in mainstream civil rights and women's rights movements. The Black feminist movement birthed a generation of writers and artists who foregrounded Black women's stories and audiences paid attention to their voices like never before. Authors and artists in this course may include The Combahee River Collective, Ntozake Shange, bell hooks, Toni Morrison, Faith Ringgold, Michele Wallace, Audre Lorde, Alice Walker, Kathleen Collins, Howardena Pindell, Julie Dash, Joan Morgan, and more. For English majors, the course satisfies the Seminar requirement and the Race, Blackness, and Language requirement.

Jovonna Jones

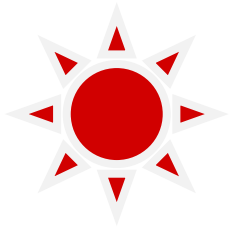
PHIL4040 Philosophical Hermeneutics on Race and Justice

T TH 3:00 – 4:15

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

Philosophical Hermeneutics on Race and Justice examines fundamental questions about the nature of justice, retribution, the relationship between justice and fairness, contemporary debates on issues of race, and how race is a factor in peoples experience of injustice, inequality, discrimination, prejudice, structural violence, and various theoretical and practical issues of law, ethics and public policy. Hermeneutics as a philosophical discipline deals with interpretation and understanding of different perspectives on reality and human affairs. For instance, the idea of race and justice in private and public life, its significance in politics and domestic and international affairs, and its contentiousness and changeability over time. As an instrument of human liberation, the discourse on race and justice is rich for intellectual study, especially in using the tools of philosophical hermeneutics to arrive at inner and higher meanings. Students will explore enduring questions of race and justice, as well as contemporary debates over moral and legal responsibility, punishment, civil disobedience and revenge and their relation to race and justice. As part of the semesters work students will analyze theories of justice, theories of race, race as a social construct, racial prejudice, examine specific case studies in relation to race and justice/injustice, research topics of individual interest, evaluate arguments, and defend positions of their own through the fusion of horizons. Emphasis will be placed throughout the course on readings some texts by Hans-Georg Gadamer, Martin Heidegger, Tsenay Serequeberhan, Paulo Freire, Frantz Fanon, and other scholars; on lively discussions, careful research and writing, the formulation of well-reasoned stances on various hermeneutical and philosophical issues, and clarity in reasoning and argument.

Stanley Anozie



NOTES

