

# The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies

## WINTER 2024 Course Descriptions



### ABD 100: Introduction to African and Black Diaspora Studies \*\*

TTH 11:20 AM-12:50 PM (LPC)

Instructor: Dr. Julie Moody-Freeman

This interdisciplinary introductory course to the field of African and Black Diaspora Studies investigates the many ways in which African and diasporic peoples have created robust lives for themselves and contributed to the creation of the modern world.

Our investigation will pay special attention to how social, economic, and political institutions, geographical factors, and the cultural forces of modernity have influenced African contributions to the modern world.

### ABD 200: Africa: Peoples, Culture, Ideas, Movements\*\*

TTH 2:40 PM - 4:10 PM (LPC)

Instructor: Dr. Xorla Ocloo

This interdisciplinary course introduces Africa in all its beauty, diversity, and complexity. This course will offer an overview of the history, social, economic, political, environmental conditions of Africa. It will begin by exploring the creation of cultures and empires that emerged in Africa before European colonial invasion and how colonialism has affected those sociocultural forms. We will take a close look at contemporary African societies focusing on topics in economic development, natural resource extraction, political power, gender relations, urbanization, the physical geography, environmental sustainability, climate change, and food security. Lastly, we will focus on modern African culture, where we will explore popular music

(e.g., afrobeats to amapiano), the arts, and the belief systems in selected societies. Crosslisted with INT 383.

**di.as.po.ra [dī-as-per-uh]:** referring to a group that has been dispersed outside of its traditional homeland, especially involuntarily.

### ABD 229: Race, Science, and White Supremacy\*\*

MW 1:00PM - 2:30PM (LPC)

Instructor: Dr. Symone Johnson

This class explores the ways in which scientific thinking has shaped race and how racial thinking has shaped science. We will discuss how Black bodies in particular have been scrutinized by scientists and the ethical implications of, for example, using African Americans as medical test subjects. Topics include the scientific origins of the concept of race and the historical application of that concept in various “pseudo-sciences” such as Phrenology and Eugenics. Crosslisted with AMS 297.

**Only 6 courses to minor in ABD! Only 13 courses to major!**

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### ABD 232: Mixed Race American Identity\*\*

TTH 1:00 PM -2:30 PM (LPC)

Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce

The 1967 Supreme Court decision in the case of Loving vs. the State of Virginia overturned laws that prohibited individuals from different racial backgrounds from marrying. Since then, people from mixed racial and ethnic backgrounds have advocated for legal recognition of their status as members of more than one racial group. This course explores the transformation of these "interracial intimacies" from a cultural taboo to a source of personal identity. By placing their lives and experiences in the appropriate historical and cultural context, we will explore how people who identify as "mixed" negotiate the rigid boundaries of race in the United States. Crosslisted with AMS 297.

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### ABD 236: Black Freedom Movements\*\*

MW 2:40 PM - 4:10 PM (LPC)

Instructor: Dr. Taurean Webb

This course examines the movement for freedom by Black people in the US and throughout the African diaspora. Students will

\*\* = Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Inquiry Learning Domain credit available

analyze the struggle for liberation in cultural, historical, and political contexts through the study of as anti-slavery and abolition movements, the Civil Rights movement, anti-colonial struggles, the Black Power movement, Black Lives Matter/Movement for Black Lives and the work of activists and scholars throughout the diaspora.

**ABD 247: Ancient African Art**

TTH 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (LPC)  
Instructor: Dr. Mark DeLancey

This course surveys a selection of artistic traditions from across the African continent beginning with the earliest attempts by humanity to visually represent complex thought until the Portuguese began trading along the coast of West Africa in the mid-fifteenth century. Emphasis is placed on demonstrating connectedness with a larger cultural environment, while also suggesting connections to future artistic traditions. Crosslisted with HAA 201.

**ABD 257: African-American History, 1800-1900**

TTH 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (LPC)  
Instructor: Dr. Authens Oppong Wadie

The African experience in America beginning in the colonial era and lasting through the present day. This course will focus on a portion of that history that spanning the 19th century. The course is organized thematically, with an emphasis on topics such as resistance, the construction of race, slavery and the law, gender and slavery, the nature of antebellum free black life, abolition, the Civil War, Reconstruction. Cross-listed as HST 247.

**ABD 290: Special Topics - African American Art: 1800-Present**

ONLINE/ASYNCH  
Instructor: Dr. Jody Berman

This course surveys the work of African American artists, from the nineteenth century to the present.

Lectures will cover a wide range of visual media, including painting, sculpture, photography, art criticism and performances. Crosslisted with HAA 210.

Founded in 2003, DePaul's African and Black Diaspora Studies program is committed to a rigorous, interdisciplinary and socially conscious approach to the study of the ideas, peoples, and cultures of African descent around the world.

**ABD 290: Special Topics - Slavery, Race, and Religion**

MW 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (LPC)  
Instructor: Dr. Chernoh Sesay

This class addresses three basic questions:

- 1) How do we understand and explain the shift from defining slavery as a natural, but oppressive, condition to defining slavery as unnatural and evil?
  - 2) How has religion been used both to legitimate and to criticize slavery?
  - 3) What is the significance of the changing relationship between Christianity and slavery for thinking about various modes of contemporary oppression?
- While the class will briefly introduce students to the long historical relationship between slavery and religion, the class will focus on the historical relationship between racial slavery, evangelical religion, and Christian abolitionism in the Atlantic world. Students will examine religious arguments for and against slavery. Students will also gain an introduction to and think about the relationship between slavery, evangelicalism, capitalism, and Enlightenment moral philosophy. Crosslisted with REL 219.

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**ABD 301: African Architecture**

TTH 2:40 PM - 4:10 PM (LPC)  
Instructor: Dr. Mark DeLancey

This course examines a wide variety of issues pertinent to the study of architecture in Africa, highlighting above all else the diversity of traditions across the continent. Weekly themes are defined at times by materials, technology, type, geographical region, culture, or specific architectural elements. Examples of subjects studied include: earthen mosques of Mali; subterranean residences in Burkina Faso; nomadic tents; impluvial and courtyard traditions of Nigeria and Senegal; mural painting in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and South Africa; Ethiopian rock cut churches; imperialist exploitation of Great Zimbabwe's legacy; and coral architecture of the Swahili Coast.



**ABD 380: Intersectionality**

MW 4:20 PM - 5:50 PM (LPC)  
Instructor: Dr. Ashley Stone

One of the most popular contemporary buzzwords, the term intersectionality yields over 60,000,000 results on Google. While widely used in academia, public discourse, and social justice movements, intersectionality is a newer concept, but not a new idea. This course will explore the concept and praxis of intersectionality. The course will survey how the concept of intersectionality has been developed and practiced by people of African descent, and how the concept has simultaneously explicated their lived experiences. Crosslisted with AMS 397, CES 410, WGS 394, & WGS 480.