

The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies

Course Descriptions WINTER 2021



ABD 202: Africa, 1750-1900

M 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM

Online: Synchronous

Instructor: Dr. Ogenga Otunnu

Crosslisted with HST 132. This class will focus on continental Africa with particular emphasis on the Age of Conquest, the origins of Afro-European relations and the political, economic and military causes of the European partition and occupation of the continent.

ABD 206: Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin America: Peoples, Cultures, Ideas, and Movements

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Julie Moody-Freeman

Crosslisted with LST 207, PAX 290.

This course examines historical and cultural constructions of blackness in Latin America and the Caribbean. This class will explore the way racial projects intersect with gender, sexuality, and class issues via case studies of diverse communities and countries in the region through both historical and contemporary perspectives. Students will learn how racial identities are constructed and interpreted in the Americas and the ways these identities have shaped Latin American and Caribbean cultures, politics, and societies. The course will situate race and blackness amongst social, cultural, economic and political transformations in the region and the comparative dimensions of these processes in order to illustrate the diversity and complexity of the region's development.

ABD 208: African America: Peoples, Cultures, Ideas and Movements

TuTh 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Martin Boston

Crosslisted with AMS 297, PAX 290.

This class is an introduction to African American Studies. This interdisciplinary course is intended to acquaint the student with a range of texts that illustrate some of the major themes in African American studies while emphasizing the development of students' critical reading, writing, and analytical skills. The course will act as an introduction to African American historical, literary, political, and cultural study. It is not meant to be the final word, but rather is meant to introduce students to some of the

complexities, debates, and questions that have shaped the study and development of African American Studies. Writers to be studied may include W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Angela Davis, Audre Lorde, among others.

ABD 235: Harlem Renaissance and Négritude

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Amor Kohli

Crosslisted with AMS 298, ENG 268, INT 368. This course will examine the literary and cultural movements known as the Harlem (a/k/a the "New Negro") Renaissance and the Négritude Movement. The U.S.-based Harlem Renaissance was the foundation and inspiration for the African and West Indian Négritude movement developed in France in the 1930s.

Both movements powerfully addressed the renovation of Blacks' political, social, and psychological status through artistic creation. Through close attention to essays, novels, and poetry this course will encourage students to reflect on the connections between these two movements and their contributions to the development of a global Black political and cultural consciousness.

The topics the course focuses on include: the debates surrounding constructions of Black identity; diasporic relationships with the African continent; the effects of racism, slavery and colonialism on identity as well as literary form; and questions of literary and cultural values.

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

**Only 13 courses to
major!**

**Email abd@depaul.edu to
contact an ABD advisor.**

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

ABD 236: Black Freedom Movements

MW 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Martin Boston

Crosslisted with AMS 297, PAX 225.

This class traces some of the global struggles of peoples of African descent for freedom, with an emphasis on Black Americans and Black South Africans since the beginning of the Second World War, including the contemporary Black Lives Matter movement. This course will examine how Black political movements have operated in relation to, and in response to, segregation, (un)employment, housing, policing and incarceration, voting rights, health, education, and law that were byproducts of tremendous political, social and cultural shifts. We also examine how state repression has responded to, neutralized, and liquidated Black freedom movements and the people that led them. Questions that drive this course are: How has Black culture served as a vehicle for liberation? How have Black people envisioned freedom? How have Black people constructed meanings of survival? How have Black people listened to the world, and how has the world listened to Black people's calls for justice and equality? And lastly, what is left to be done? Authors read include Francis Nesbitt, Robert Trent Vinson, Gwen Ansell, Ntongela Masilela, William Beinart, Angela Davis, Manning Marable, James Baldwin, Claudia Jones, among others. Organizations discussed will include the African National Congress (ANC), Pan-African Congress (PAC) and Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa to the NAACP, Black Panther Party and Black Arts Movement in the United States.

ABD 246: Introduction to African Art

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Jody Berman

Crosslisted with HAA 101. This course serves as an introduction to the study of African art. Coverage of the artistic tra-

(over)

ditions of Africa will not be exhaustive. Africa is an enormous continent with an extraordinary diversity of cultures. It is impossible to represent the entire continent in one quarter. The course is based around a series of important concepts for the study of African art. The course will explore each of these concepts through a variety of artistic traditions from the continent. In this manner, students will gain basic theoretical tools which will enable them to work with art from across Africa.

The study of African art will also serve as an introduction to the basic concepts of the field of art history more generally, albeit from the Africanist perspective. As such, there is no need to have taken prior art history or African studies courses. This course assumes no prior encounter with either.

ABD 248: Classical African Art **Tu 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM**

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Mark DeLancey

Crosslisted with HAA 202. This course surveys a selection of artistic traditions from across the African continent beginning with the arrival of the Portuguese along the coast of West Africa in the mid-fifteenth century until the age of African independence in the 1960s. While the impact of a European presence helps define the boundaries of this course, artistic response to that presence is but one theme. Interactions between African cultures and the impact of Islam are equally important considerations.

ABD 257: African-American History, 1800-1900

TuTh 9:40 AM - 11:10 AM

Online: Synchronous

Instructor: Dr. Authens Oppong Wadie

Crosslisted with HST 247. This course examines the African experience in America beginning in the colonial era spanning the 19th century and lasting through the present day. 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, and Reconstruction.

ABD 380: Topics in African American Studies: African American Women Writers

Tu 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM

Online: Synchronous

Instructor: Dr. Francesca Royster

Crosslisted with ENG 469. In this course, we will explore the work of Black women writers, exploring in particular intergenerational literary conversations around race, gender, sexuality, history, activism and aesthetics. How do these works reflect the changing stakes of women's writing in the African Diaspora? How are black women writers writing to one another as well as to a larger readership? We'll use black feminist theory to help us explore these questions. We'll open with the black feminist manifesto "The Combahee River Collective" (1973) as a generative moment for black feminist organizing and black women's literary production. We'll then think about our current political moment and the role of the writer, through the work of Claudia Rankine and Black Lives Matter activist and thinker Alicia Garza. Next, Harriet Jacobs (*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*) and Toni Morrison's *Beloved* will be paired with Yaa Gyasi (*Homegoing*) to consider changing conversations about the impact of the transatlantic slave trade, trauma, identity and cultural memory. Poet Gwendolyn Brooks will be paired with hip-hop poet Eve Ewing's *Electric Arches* to consider the changing poetry scene of Chicago in particular, and the role of the poet as activist. Afrofuturist founding mother Octavia Butler (*The Flight*) will be paired with Walidah Imarisha and other Afrofuturist writer/activists who collectively call themselves "Octavia's Brood" to think how science fiction and speculative fiction can be sites of social critique as well as places to imagine new possibilities. Lesbian activist, poet and biomythographer Audre Lorde (*Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*) will be paired with feminist and trans femme activist Janet Mock (*Redefining Realness*) to consider the changing stakes of lesbian, trans, queer and other categories for black women writing about their lives in memoir.

ABD 382: Topics in African Diaspora Studies: Decolonial Theory

TuTh 4:20 PM - 5:50 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Shiera Malik

Crosslisted with INT 327. This political theory course explores what it might mean to unlearn social training and education. Students will undertake close, detailed readings of the material and participate in discussion/projects about what 'unlearning' might look like. The course aims to examine the relationship between knowledge, power, bodies, and history in order to expand our thinking beyond the boundaries of academic disciplines. Readings include: Azoulay, *Potential History: Unlearning Imperialism*; Minh-ha, *Lovecidal: Walking with the Disappeared*; Sharpe, *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*; Singh, *Unthinking Mastery: Dehumanism and Decolonial Entanglements*.

ABD 386: Black Women's Lives

TuTh 2:40 PM - 4:10 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Anne Mitchell

Crosslisted with WGS 386. We will explore varying topics from black girl magic to black women's pain and trauma. To do this work, we will critically examine representations of blackness in popular culture, social media, literature and fine art. We will address the difference and similarities between black women's lives throughout the diaspora, by exploring both the Global North and South.

This class will think through black women's and girls experiences within reproductive justice movements, queer communities, and beauty culture. We will question how black women and femmes survive in cultures that seek to erase them, exploit their labor and silence their voices. We will contrast how black women are seen and understood by the larger culture, to how black women define themselves. Despite the malignment of Black women they continue to enunciate complex life experiences, fight oppression, and maintain communities.

ABD 391: Capstone

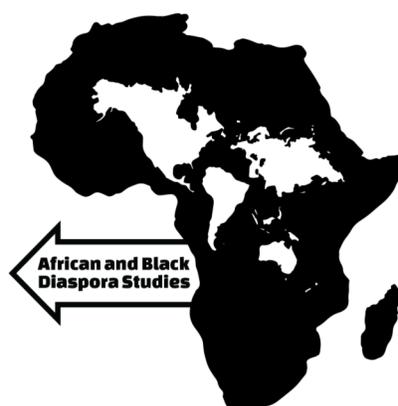
TuTh 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce

This class is open to ABD majors and minors with senior status.

Founded in 2003, African and Black Diaspora Studies 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.



Questions?
Email abd@depaul.edu