

# The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies Course Descriptions

## WINTER 2023



### ABD 202: Africa, 1750-1900

Online Asynchronous  
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 209: Race & Racism

Mo/We 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
Instructor: Dr. Ashley Stone

**Crosslisted with AMS 297.** Although it is common for us to talk about race, very few of us have an understanding of what the term means, much less how it came to signify human diversity. In this course we will study the origin of race as an intellectual and scientific project designed to organize humanity into discrete and hierarchical groups, and the implications of racial thinking, i.e. racial discrimination perpetuated by rhetorical and pictorial stereotypes, discriminatory behavior and institutional practices.

### ABD 214: Anthropology of the African Diaspora

Tu/Th 9:40 AM - 11:10 AM  
Instructor: Dr. Symone Johnson

**Crosslisted with AMS 297 and ANT 390.** Africans have been on the move since the dawn of humanity. Anthropology is one discipline that can inform us about the presence and influence of Africans throughout the world.

Topics include: the history of anthropology and its role in the construction of race and modernity; patterns of migration and displacement of African peoples across the world and their socio-cultural implications; and the evolution of the Black anthropological tradition.

### ABD 220: Blacks & Love

Tu/Th 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM  
Instructor: Dr. Nino Rodriguez

**Crosslisted with AMS 297.** This course examines definitions of love as well as representations of blacks and love in essays, photography, art, film, and literature. The course begins by studying the construction of race in eighteenth and nineteenth century. It explores how European and American writers theorized about blacks and their capacity to give and receive love. In addition, it studies how black writers, artists, and photographers challenged these theories as well as the stereotypical representations of blacks in media and popular culture.

### ABD 229: Race, Science, & White Supremacy

Tu/Th 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
Instructor: Dr. Symone Johnson

**Crosslisted with AMS 297 and PAX 382.** 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, the medicalization of the body, and the historical struggle of traditional folk medicine against the dominance of Western biomedicine and the medical industrial complex.

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

### 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 traditions 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.

### ABD 251: World Refugee Crisis

Online Asynchronous  
Instructor: Dr. Ogenga Otunnu

**Crosslisted with HST 247.** Human history has been punctuated by violent and systematic violations of human rights and massive displacements of populations in all regions of the world. This course will raise questions and highlight debates about forced migration and the challenges of contemporary displacements. It will also analyze the causes and consequences of forced migration since 1500.

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

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.

## **ABD 254: African Politics**

**Online Asynchronous**  
**Instructor: Dr. Clement Adibe**

**Crosslisted with PSC 254.** The purpose of this course is to equip first-time students of African politics with the requisite comparative analytical tools to embark upon a measured and systematic study of African politics, international relations and political economy. During the course of this quarter, we shall focus our critical lenses on the continuing influence of colonialism on both the academic study of Africa and the development of 'state capacity' in this vast continent as well as the emerging patterns of (re)engagement between Africa and the international community in light of the global war on terror.

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

**Tu/Th 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**  
**Instructor: Dr. Authens Oppong Wadie**

**Crosslisted with HST 247.** 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.

## **ABD 290: Lived Civics, Social Contract & Public Life**

**Tues 6:00 PM – 9:15 PM**  
**Instructor: Dr. Valerie Johnson**

**Crosslisted with PSC 215.** This interdisciplinary course aims to provide the groundwork for embracing, challenging, and grappling with the important and contentious issues that lie at the heart of American contemporary civic culture and democratic life. We will discuss and interrogate the social contract in the United States, examining the implicit agreement among members of a society to follow certain rules in exchange for the benefits of living together. The course will center the lives of students through the "lived civics" approach, which embraces the experiences of each student in their various communities as examples of "lived civics."

## **ABD 290: Catholicism in Africa**

**Online Asynchronous**  
**Instructor: Dr. Stan Chu Ilo**

**Crosslisted with CTH 276.** This course will study African Catholicism as a socio-cultural and religious movement. It will locate African Catholicism in three main streams: 1. As a religious heritage which goes back to the first century. 2. As a cross-cultural and socio-political movement which has affected and changed Africa through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Colonialism, Western Missionary activities in Africa. 3. As a unique African Christian religious movement with its own identity, mission, and character which is now redefining the future of Catholicism

## **ABD 380: Topics in African-American Studies: James Baldwin**

**Tu/Th 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**  
**Instructor: Dr. Billy Johnson Gonzales**

**Crosslisted with ENG 382.** Our primary goal in this course is to become familiarized with the major works of James Baldwin. Baldwin wrote with breathtaking insight and great lyrical and moral power about questions of race, gender, and sexuality – and especially about the contradictions in American society related to these issues – at a time when it is still controversial or unheard of to discuss such topics in public.

## **ABD 386: Black Women's Experiences**

**Thurs 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM**  
**Instructor: Dr. Anne Mitchell**

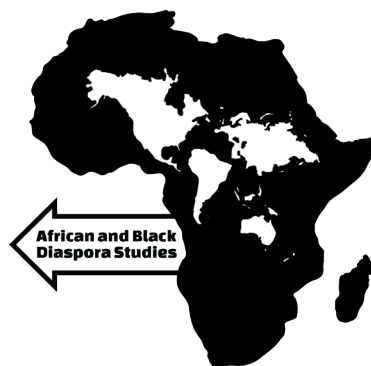
**Crosslisted with WGS 386.** We will explore varying topics from black girl magic to black women's pain and trauma. To do this work, we will critically examine representations of blackness in popular culture, social media, literature and fine art. We will address the differences and similarities between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

This class will think through black women and girls' experiences with in 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.

## **ABD 391: Senior Capstone**

**M/W 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM**  
**Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce**

**Open to senior ABD majors & minors only.** This seminar engages students in a synthesis of what they have learned throughout coursework. The capstone course will involve reading, writing discussion, as well as the preparation by students of a substantive piece of work (e.g., a senior thesis, a research paper, or a creative work).



**Questions?**  
**Email [abd@depaul.edu](mailto:abd@depaul.edu)**