

The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies

Fall 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 229: Race, Science, & White Supremacy**

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

Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce

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. Race is not an objective scientific category that reliably conveys information about people or groups of people; it is a set of ideologies and practices that originated in modern Europe and has a traceable intellectual history. 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. We will utilize racial formation theory which links race and racism by showing the dynamic connections between stereotypes, prejudice,

discrimination, and privilege.

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

ABD 240: Black Music in American Culture**

Online/Asynchronous
Instructor: Dr. Amor Kohli

This course will focus on the historical development, cultural significance, political commentary, and social effects of Black music in the U.S. from the 1960s to the 1980s. Beginning with the rise of R&B and Soul in the 1960s, the course will continue on to examine innovations such as funk, disco and the emergence of hip hop. It considers the aesthetics and themes of black music and how they reflect the Black experience in the U.S. during the latter half of the 20th century, as well as the ways that the music, the themes, and the people evolve over that period. Crosslisted with AMS 297.

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

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ABD 243: Black Religion and Chicago

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

Instructor: Dr. Taurean Webb

Chicago, IL is one of the most vibrant and historically significant US cities for a range of Black religion in the 20th and 21st centuries. This course examines a few key religious traditions including Black Catholicism, Black Protestantism, the Moorish Science Temple, Nation of Islam, the Black Coptic Church, the Bahá'í Faith. Within these traditions, the course will pay special attention to how modes of religious thinking, feeling, and acting—such as through symbol, narrative, and ritual—live(d) in the world. While the list of selected traditions is certainly not exhaustive of Black religious voice in Chicago, the course offers students an entrée into Chicago's 20th and 21st century Black religious landscape. Crosslisted with AMS 297 Religious Dimensions Domain.



ABD 253: Food Justice in Black Communities

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

Instructor: Dr. Xorla Ocloo

This course begins with the basic premise that all people, at all times, have a right to nutritious foods that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

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

Achieving global food security not only calls for addressing food availability and accessibility, but a close examination of the racial inequalities that impacts the ways in which food is produced, distributed, and consumed. In this course, we will address topics in human rights, equity, food apartheid, environmental issues, food policies, colonization, local food production, and activism. Specifically, we will address questions including, but not limited to, how certain groups of people have experienced the effects of lack of fresh foods more than others and how African and African diasporic populations have organized to demand environmental justice in their food systems. Crosslisted with GEO 395, ENV 222, PAX 382

ABD 256: African American History to 1800
TTH 1:00PM - 2:30PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Oppong Wadie

This course focuses primarily on the colonial era with an emphasis on topics such as the construction of race and gender, the Black Atlantic, the emergence of African diasporic cultures in the Americas, slavery, black political thought, resistance, and the Revolutionary War.

ABD 259: Great Migration and Black Identity

Online/Asynchronous
Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce

The largest internal migration in US history took place in the early 20th century when three million African Americans fled racial terrorism in the South to pursue economic opportunities in the North. They were joined by people of African descent from the Caribbean, leading to what is now known as the Great Migration. The movement had profound political, social and economic ramifications. It changed how White Americans saw African Americans and how African Americans saw themselves. This course will explore how the Great Migration shaped Black

cultural identity in the 20th century. Topics will include racial terrorism in the South, education and political philosophies, and social movements. Crosslisted with AMS 297. Domain: Historical Inquiry

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 365: Voting, Representation, and the Law
MW 2:40PM - 4:10PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Christina Rivers

This course explores the struggles of African Americans and women, as individuals who were excluded from the franchise on the basis of their being an African American, a woman, or both, to gain access to the ballot. The relation of women and African Americans to the ballot is worthy of investigation for two reasons. First, with the exception of 18 year olds, women and Black Americans are the two groups who have required amendments to the Constitution to secure their right to vote. Second, they share a history, often contentious, of political struggle. In addition, the course will investigate what this history of political struggle can tell us about American law, politics, and society.

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

ABD 382: Theories in Religion, Culture and Race
TTH 1:00PM - 2:30PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Sesay

This seminar frames religion, culture, and race as systems of knowledge and power that shape our perceptions of humanity and society. Understanding religion, culture, and race in this way raises pivotal

questions that require address via multiple and interdisciplinary approaches. What is a system of knowledge? What are the multiple ways in which we can define power? What are the ways in which systems of knowledge and power inform and reflect definitions and experiences of religion, culture and race, especially with respect to Blackness? How are religious, cultural, and racial subjectivities constructed in local and global worlds integrated by colonialism and diaspora? As we discuss these big questions, we will also pay close attention to how and why intersectional orientations, experiences, and expressions of gender, class, sex, nationalism and transnationalism further complicate our understandings of religion, culture, and race.

