

The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies

Course Descriptions SPRING 2021

ABD 203: Africa, 1900-Present

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Ogenga Otunnu

Crosslisted with HST 133. This course examines the workings of the colonial system, the rise and course of independence movements, and the history of individual African states since independence.

ABD 218: African American

Politics

Online: Synchronous

MoWe 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM

Instructor: Dr. Valerie Johnson

Crosslisted with PSC 218. The goal of this course is to give students a pragmatic understanding of the African-American political experience in the United States in order to facilitate an understanding of the current status of African-Americans in general, and the plight of the African-American urban "underclass" in particular. Additionally, the course is concerned with examining and eradicating myths associated with the African-American "underclass". Therefore, the course will explore the relationship between African-Americans, historic and contemporary racism, and U.S. capitalist development and political economy throughout various historical periods.

ABD 240: Black Music in

American Culture

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Amor Kohli

Crosslisted with AMS 297. 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.

Counts as Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Inquiry



ABD 251: World Refugee Crisis

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Ogenga Otunnu

Crosslisted with HST 241. 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. With these objectives in mind, the course will examine some of the following themes and topics: refugee studies versus forced migration studies; international bill of human rights; causes of forced migration; regional and international human rights law and international refugee law; immigration, asylum and refugee policies; and internal displacements; among others.

ABD 258: African American

History, 1900 to Present

Online: Synchronous

TuTh 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Instructor: Dr. Authens Oppong Wadie

Crosslisted with HST 246. This course will focus on the voices and experiences of African Americans themselves. The course is more or less organized chronologically, with an emphasis on topics such as Jim Crow segregation, migration, the Harlem Renaissance/Black Arts Movement, African Americans in World Wars I and II, black political thought, black freedom movements, and gendered criminalization.

ABD 259: The Great Migration and Black Identity

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce

Crosslisted with AMS 297. The focus of this course is the migration of African Americans out of the south in the early 20th century.

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

Between 1910 and the 1970s, as many as 6 million African Americans left the Southern states in order to escape the brutality, dehumanization and poverty of the Jim Crow South. These migrants crowded into urban centers of New York and Chicago where they faced new challenges; better educational and employment opportunities, but new forms of discrimination and racism. We will explore the social, cultural, economic and intellectual motivations for migration in order to understand the development of African American identity.

The course will place this movement in a global context by examining multiple sites of migration, considering African American migration in an era of mass European and Asian emigration and immigration, and discuss the relationship between migration and citizenship for African Americans.

**Counts as Historical Inquiry
Learning Domain**

ABD 275: Black Feminist Theories in a U.S. Context

Online: Synchronous

Tu 6:00 PM- 9:15 PM

Instructor: Dr. Julie Moody-Freeman

Crosslisted with WGS 275 and AMS 297. "I continue to wonder whether the black community would have distanced itself as much from the women's liberation struggle in the 1970s if we had read the wise words – words of fire- of our sister-ancestors..."

This course serves as an introduction to Black feminist thought in the United States. It introduces the major figures, statements, and movements that shape Black feminist thinking, writing and activism in the United States. As Beverly Guy Sheftall's comment above suggests, it is important to grasp the historical development of black feminist thinking and its changes in philosophy and ideology over time in order to fully understand the stakes of current conversations. Therefore, it will survey black feminist thought in the U.S. in the past leading up to the present.

Counts as Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Inquiry

**Only 6 courses to
minor in ABD!
Only 13 courses to major!
Email abd@depaul.edu to
contact an ABD
advisor.**

**Founded in 2003, African and
Black Diaspora Studies is
committed to a rigorous, in-
terdisciplinary and socially-
conscious approach to the study
of the ideas, peoples, and
cultures of African descent
around the world.**

(over)

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

TuTh 4:20 PM - 5:50 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Chernoh Sesay Jr.

Crosslisted with AMS 295 and REL 219. 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.

ABD 290: Special Topics: Urban Politics

Mo 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM

Online: Synchronous

Instructor: Dr. Valerie Johnson

Crosslisted PSC 223. This course will provide students with an understanding of the scope and nature of urbanization in America. The first section of the course will describe the emergence of urban America. The goal will be to explain the role of immigrants and ethnics in urban America; to understand the origin and maintenance of political bosses and machines; to discuss the forces responsible for the decline of political machines; and to survey the impact and efficacy of machine rule. The second section focuses on the modern city and the theories that have evolved to explain the politics of big cities. The goal is to compare and contrast the major theories concerning power and influence in urban politics. The final section of the course is an inquiry into the nature of the urban condition with particular emphasis on the challenges faced by residents and government in the post-industrial city. In this section, we will also examine the rise of minority (African American and Hispanic) mayors with an eye toward assessing the impact of minorities on urban public policy, and the role of protest in the contemporary city.

ABD 301: African Architecture

TuTh 1:00 PM -2:30 PM

Online: Synchronous

Instructor: Dr. Mark DeLancey

Crosslisted with HAA 301. 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: Topics in African American Studies: Toni Morrison

We 11:20 AM - 12:50 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Francesca Royster

Crosslisted with ENG 371. This course will explore four of Toni Morrison's most critically acclaimed novels: *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Beloved* and *A Mercy*, as well as her speeches and critical essays. Among the questions we'll ask are: how does Morrison explore the concept of memory in light of a history of racial trauma? How are traditional gender roles engaged and reinvented in her work? How does literacy, its absence or presence help provide the means of connection? How do characters see themselves as citizens of a larger social world, as well as part of localized black communities? What role does family connection (blood and found) serve to mediate and/or complicate one's role in community? How do we see the effects of reading and writing to create social change?

ABD 382: Topics in African Diaspora Studies: Reparations and Reconciliation

TuTh 2:40 PM - 4:10 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Martin Boston

Crosslisted with INT 328, AMS 397, PAX 386, INT 490, CES 410. The fall of the violent racial caste system of apartheid and the transition towards democracy in South Africa was aided by the restorative-justice public hearings of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). However, South Africa is not the only one. In this course, students will investigate the history of TRC's from around the world and how they provided nations attempts at healing during transitions from civil war, colonialism or authoritarian rule. We will also consider how these commissions have largely fallen short of what we will argue is the ultimate goal of reparations. We will look to our current debate that finds U.S. institutions and corporations challenged to confront anti-Blackness and take a stand for Black lives, truth, reconciliation, and reparations. We will analyze what TRC's have gotten right and how they have missed the mark with regard to reparations and fixing the issues of nations' pasts.

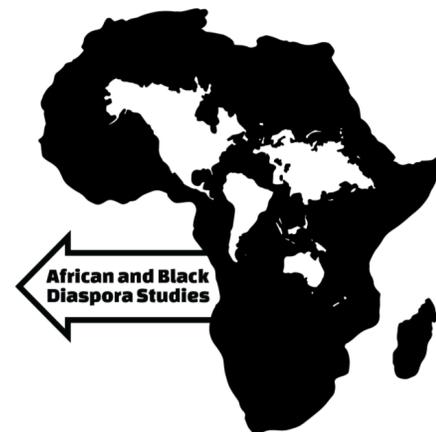
ABD 382: Topics in African Diaspora Studies: Feminism and Political Thought

Tu 4:20 PM - 5:50 PM

Online: Hybrid

Instructor: Dr. Shiera Malik

Crosslisted with INT 326. The Nigerian historian, Yusufu Bala Usman says that 'the examination of primary sources [should go] ... beyond the assessment of their reliability and accuracy, [and] right into their basic conceptual framework and the world outlook which informs them'. Taking this provocation seriously, this course is a conceptual analysis of gender and an historical examination of gendered power dynamics. The course approaches questions of feminism through questions of imperial gender practices. The course starts with a weaving together of a political economic examination of women and capitalism, a critical analysis of imperialism and gendered power dynamics, and a critical analysis of the history of sexuality and the idea of repression. These three angles prepare students for engaging in the second part of the course with the conceptual complexity of notions of gender and the relations they frame. The course concludes with readings that aim to enliven humanistic relations. Along with the readings, students will explore a more fluid conversation related to gender that takes place on Twitter. In developing an expanded literacy in Twitter as a platform for scholarly work, students will curate an empirical referent that they will use to produce an analysis of gender in contemporary political interactions. Bringing together this material in the context of a single course will allow us as students to broadly investigate feminist inquiry while remaining grounded in the lived experiences that bell hooks describes in *Belonging: A culture of place*.



**Questions?
Email abd@depaul.edu**