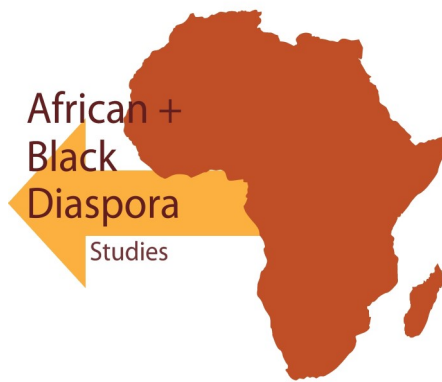


The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies

Course Descriptions

Spring 2019



ABD 100: Introduction to African and Black Diaspora Studies

TuTh 9:40AM - 11:10AM (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.

The course begins with an examination of the central concepts of the field: diaspora (pre-modern and modern) and Pan-Africanism. The investigation of the diaspora will enable the class to engage questions of geography, history, identity, migration, pedagogy, politics, gender, and power.

The course will investigate this field through the following principal topics. First, the creation of the modern diaspora through the simultaneous development of the Atlantic Slave Trade and the market economy. Second, a comparative study of slavery and colonialism in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Third, the practices of agency that Black people developed under conditions designed to make them slaves. Fourth, the relation of Black peoples in the diaspora to Africa.

ABD 203: Africa, 1900-Present

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

Instructor: Dr. Ogenga Otunnu

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

ABD 221: Romance, Gender, and Race

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

Instructor: Dr. Julie Moody-Freeman

Crosslisted with ENG 232. This course examines how writers represent gender and race in the romance genre. It examines why women readers are attracted to this genre and how writers and publishers influence and are influenced by women's reading preferences. Attention will be

devoted specifically to examining black women writers and readers of romance novels, who make-up 25% of a billion dollar publishing industry. Questions to be addressed include: How does a writer's gender and racial/ethnic identity shape the representations of race and gender in romance fiction and cover design? How have writers complicated the popular romance plot to address the issues of gender, race, class, and age? How do writers utilize the romance novel during specific historical periods to address social, political, and health issues? It studies how writers use romance fiction during particular historical periods to address such issues as: Black love; interracial dating and marriage in post 9/11; the HIV/AIDS health crisis in Black communities; profiling and racism in the United States. The course concludes by examining how the internet has transformed writing, publishing, purchasing, and reading practices for the writers, publishers, and readers of romance novels with black characters.

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 232: Mixed Race American Identity

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

Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce

Crosslisted with AMS 297. Racial mixing is not, of course, new. The idea presumes that ethnic purity or social homogeneity ever existed or was ever possible. This course will explore the idea of "mixing" by examining the lives of mixed race people, the laws, social institutions and cultural expressions that constitute mixed race identity. We will problematize the idea of race and the concept of race mixing and how the social and political contexts of racial identity is supported, undermined or

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

confounded by the existence of those who are considered to be "mixed." The course will also consider other forms of cultural and social mixing such as "passing," "war brides," "orientalism," trans-racial adoption, and "colorism."

ABD 240: Black Music in American Culture

Online

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 evolved over that period.

ABD 251: World Refugee Crisis

Tu 6:00PM - 9:15PM (LPC)

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; internal displacements; environmental displacements; challenges facing displaced women and displaced children; emergency response to humanitarian crises; global trafficking of people; war crimes; genocide and mass rapes; crises of land-mines; humanitarian

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interventions; durable solutions to refugee crises; and peace-building and reconstruction of post-conflict studies.

ABD 258: African-American History, 1900-Present

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

Instructor: Dr. Tera Agyepong

Crosslisted with HST 248. The African experience in America spans four hundred years, from the initial settlement of the American continent by Europeans, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and down through the present day. This course will focus on a portion of that history--from 1900 to the present. 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 262: What is Black Cinema?

MoWe 11:20AM—12:50PM (LPC)

Instructor: Dr. Evan Poe Johnson

Crosslisted with AMS 297 and AMS 296. What makes a black film a black film? Is a black film one made by a black director with a majority black cast and made for black audiences? What if the director of the film is non-black or it is made for a multicultural audience? Are these films still “black films?” Is black film a genre, a mode, or something else entirely? Do black filmmakers make films that are different than non-black filmmakers? These questions guide this course’s investment in the idea black film from the 1960s to the present. Throughout the course, students will consider the formal, cultural, historical, industrial, and political ramifications at stake when we assume the existence and relevance of the idea of the black film. We will address topics such as genre, class, gender, sexuality, authorship, spectatorship, both individually and intersectionally. Students will watch, discuss, and write about films by notable filmmakers such as Spike Lee, Cheryl Dunye, Ava DuVernay, Dee Rees, and Quentin Tarantino.

ABD 290: Topics in Public Law: Law, Politics, and Mass Incarceration

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

Instructor: Dr. Christina Rivers

Crosslisted with PSC 269. This course is about the nexus/intersection of law, politics, and the carceral state. The overarching contexts of this course will be 1) the relationship of trauma and exposure to the criminal justice system, and 2) restorative justice approaches to wrongdo-

ing. The course will cover key concepts such as federalism, checks and balances, judicial review, and modes of constitutional interpretation. It will focus on our constitutional rights when accused, and the political contexts that have affected those rights.

The dynamics between law and politics illustrate the dynamics between political institutions and us, i.e. “we the people”, even those who don’t or can’t vote. We often demand that “there should be a law against that!”. But how often do we even know what we’re asking for when we make such demands? The truth is that we often don’t fully understand what we’re asking for in these moments.

ABD 300: African Islam

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

Instructor: Dr. Mark DeLancey

Crosslisted with HAA 302 and IWS 340. Focused study of the impact of Islam on the artistic traditions of sub-Saharan Africa. Rather than necessarily replacing previous art forms, this course investigates in what circumstances preexisting visual culture might be integrated with the requirements and needs of Islam. This approach necessitates an understanding that neither Islam nor African art are monolithic entities, but rather their interactions represent a wide variety of negotiations across the continent. Likewise, this course will consider specific historical circumstances to which Islamic art in sub-Saharan Africa has responded in terms of form and content.

ABD 380: Topics in African American Studies: Racial Violence and Resistance in U.S. Media

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

Instructor: Dr. Evan Poe Johnson

Crosslisted with AMS 397 and CES 405. This course traces the history of mediated representations of racial violence and the mediated objects that seek to resist these representations. The central question for this course will be: given the apparent immutability of racialized violence, what does resistance look like and is it actually even possible? Throughout the course, students will embark on an interdisciplinary journey that examines the mediation of racialized violence and its supposed resistance from a number of racial, class, gendered, and sexual perspectives. Students will engage with writers, historians, artists, and scholars who have written about and questioned the nature and persistence of racialized violence from a variety of aesthetic and intellectual perspectives, such as Ida B. Wells, Saidiya Hartman, Fred Moten, and Michelle Alexander.

ABD 380: Topics in African American Studies: Black Sexual Politics

TuTh 4:20PM - 5:50PM (LPC)

Instructor: Dr. Anne Mitchell

Crosslisted with WMS 394 and WGS 480. This class explores the politics of Black women and femme’s sexuality. Using the lenses of Black Studies, Feminist Theory, and Queer of Color Critique, we will think through the ways that the black body has been understood as a site of pathologized sexuality in order to forward racist, sexist, and homophobic policy in the West. We will examine specific political moments such as, The Black Power Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, Welfare Reform, Uganda’s Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2014, and various moments of racial uplift through the lens of sexuality studies.

This class will ask: How was specter of Black sexuality used to motivate racist actions? How do Black women experience their sexuality, in a climate where they are often stereotyped as hypersexual? We will answer these questions by exploring both the public discourses and personal narratives. Additionally, we critically analyze the ways that Black women’s bodies and sexual identities have been made both hypervisible and invisible in the public sphere.

Only 6 courses to minor in ABD!

Only 13 courses to major!

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

Questions?

Email abd@depaul.edu