

The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies

Course Descriptions

Fall 2019



ABD 100: Introduction to African and Black Diaspora Studies

TuTh 11:20AM- 12:50PM (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.

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

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

Instructor: Dr. Amor Kohli

In what ways have African Americans tried to negotiate the demands of being part of American culture while maintaining a sense of the distinctiveness of their own culture? How have African American intellectual and cultural figures dealt with the paradox of a belief in American democracy while recognizing that the mass enslavement of their ancestors was a constitutive part of it?

This course is intended to acquaint the student with a range of texts and concepts central to 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 is meant to introduce the student to some of the complexities, debates, and questions that have shaped the study and development of Black America.

Students will learn about and analyze key concepts (such as double-consciousness, intersectionality, respectability, uplift, among others) as they emerge through readings spanning the centuries. Writers studied may include figures such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Kimberle Crenshaw, Angela Davis, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Saidiya Hartman, among others.

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.

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

ABD 211: Africa to 1800: Age of Empires

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

Instructor: Dr. Otunnu

Crosslisted with HST 131. 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 215: The African American Religious Experience

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

Instructor: Dr. Chernoh Sesay, Jr.

Crosslisted with REL 115. This course will help students think deeply about the relationship of African-American religious traditions to American culture, black culture and black political thought. We will both discuss religion as a lived experience and examine it as an object of historical study. To these ends, we will chart the origins and history of black churches through several historical junctures, including the colonial era, the American Revolutionary and antebellum periods, Reconstruction, the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights movement. We will investigate how African-American religious expressions have mediated between culture and power.

We will also study the relationships between black churches, black

(over)

communities and black leadership; between race, gender, and church formation; between evangelicalism and theology; and between politics and ideas about a covenanted people.

Not only will we follow the development of black Christianity, we will also pay attention to other African-American religious forms like black Judaism, black Catholicism, black Buddhism, and the Nation of Islam. At quarter's end the student will have examined the incredible diversity of African-American religion, acquired an understanding of how black religion has influenced American history, and gained an understanding of the questions which underlie African-American religious studies.

ABD 229: Race, Science and White Supremacy

TuTh 1:00PM - 2:30PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce

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 historical application of that concept in various "pseudo-sciences" such as Phrenology and Eugenics, and contemporary examples of these ideas in, for example, commercial DNA testing.

ABD 234: Black Aesthetic Thought

MoWe 1:00PM - 2:30PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Evan Johnson

How have black artists, thinkers, filmmakers, and writers used the artistic and performative traditions of various expressive disciplines as a means to create for other black people and the world a more cohesive and "genuine" representation of black people?

This course examines the historical and interdisciplinary idea of the black aesthetic by investigating some of the various political, philosophical, and ideological debates surrounding the roles of art in black life and blackness in artistic production. This course will focus on the development of and disagreements within sources of prominent black artistic and intellectual production such as: The Harlem Renaissance, The Black Arts Movement, The British Black

Arts Movement, Blaxploitation, Hip Hop, and Black Digital Culture. We will explore the themes of authenticity, respectability, and migration as they relate to black artistic objects and the ideas surrounding those objects. Figures of inquiry might include: Du Bois, Locke, Hurston, Larsen, Wright, Baldwin, Dash, hooks, Boyce, and McQueen.

ABD 251: World Refugee Crisis

Tu 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. 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 256: African American History to 1800

TuTh 2:40PM - 4:10PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Authens Oppong Wadie

Crosslisted with HST 246. 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 290: Special Topics: African American Literature

MoWe 11:20AM-12:50PM
Instructor: Dr. Francesca Royster

Crosslisted with ENG 271. This course will introduce students to some major works of African American Literature through the lens of the imperfect quest for

freedom of the body, spirit and imagination. We'll be reading novels, poetry, essays and memoir, from the slavery narratives of Harriet Jacobs to literature of the Harlem Renaissance to Octavia Butler's Afrofuturism to Patrice Khan Culors' *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*. Assignments will include two short essays, weekly reflections and a final exam.

ABD 380: Advanced Topics in American Politics : The Politics of Urban Education

Mo 6:00PM - 9:15PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Valerie Johnson

Crosslisted with PSC 328. This course explores the role of public school education in the reproduction of urban problems. It examines the historical dynamics influencing inequality and inequities in educational resources and opportunities in metropolitan America. Students will explore some of the critical issues affecting the delivery of education (school segregation, funding disparities, school discipline policies, and privatization). They will have an opportunity to volunteer at an under-resourced inner-city public school in lieu of the research paper assignment.

ABD 382: Topics in African Diaspora Studies : Cairo: Mother of the World

TuTh 1:00PM - 2:30PM (LPC)
Instructor: Dr. Mark DeLancey

Crosslisted with HAA 372. This course will examine the urban development and architectural heritage of Greater Cairo, Egypt since the reconstruction of the fortress of Babylon in the Roman period, through the establishment of Cairo itself in 969, and until the present. Cairo has always been a crossroads of cultures, set between Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. It has been home to significant Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations who have been impacted by the various ruling dynasties who have held sway there. In the 20th century, rapid expansion has produced extreme pressures on transportation networks and housing. The solution to such problems of intense urbanization has been to build satellite cities including a projected new capital to the east that will connect the Nile to the Red Sea shipping industry, following in the footsteps of the past.

**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**