

AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Professor Sheila Walker (SC), chair

Professors Basu (PZ), Conrad (PO), Fairchild (PZ), Lemelle (PO), Lytle (PO), McHenry (CGU), Roberts (SC), Shelton (CM), Thompson (CGU), Walker (SC), Wimbush (CGU)
Associate Professors Bradley (CM), Harris (PZ), Perkins (CGU), Thomas (PO), Weekes (PO)
Assistant Professors Aitel (CM), Bonaparte (PZ), Broussard (CM), Delmont (SC), Hurley (PO), Mayes (PO), Smith (PO), T. Williams (HMC)

The Intercollegiate Department of Africana Studies offers a multidisciplinary curriculum that examines the experiences of African, African American and Caribbean people from the liberal arts perspective. Courses accommodate the needs of majors and non-majors, providing significant preparation for careers in education, social work, public policy, law, medicine, business, international relations and advanced research.

Requirements for the Major in Africana Studies

Major requirements ensure that students are thoroughly exposed to the broad range of research and scholarship in the discipline. Africana studies majors must complete 10 courses from the following lists, including a senior exercise (project, thesis, or comprehensive examination) while enrolled in the Senior Seminar. While six of these courses are expected to be at the upper-division level, credit will be given, where appropriate, to courses numbered lower than 100. Students elect to focus on one of the following areas of concentration: arts, humanities, or social sciences.

1. AFRI (Africana studies) 10A,B. Introduction to Africana Studies. This two-semester sequence should be completed by the end of the student's sophomore year.
2. Literature: one course
3. History: one course
4. Social Science (e.g. economics, politics, psychology or sociology): one course.
5. Art, music or religion: one course
6. Four courses in the student's area of concentration, e.g. arts, humanities or social sciences. Students may count one of the breadth courses as part of their concentration.
7. AFRI 190, Senior Seminar; and 191 (thesis), 192 (project), or 193 (comprehensive exam)

Upon approval by the department chair, substitutions in the major requirements can be adjusted to respond to an individual student's interests and needs.

Students majoring in Africana studies are strongly encouraged to spend a semester or a year abroad, preferably in Brazil or countries in Africa or the Caribbean. In addition, the department strongly recommends that students take four semesters of a language spoken in the African Diaspora, e.g. Arabic, French, Portuguese, Spanish, or an African language.

Requirements for a Minor in Africana Studies

For the Africana Studies Minor, students are required to complete six courses in Africana studies, two of which must be the two-semester AFRI 10A,B sequence and four other courses that represent at least three disciplines.

Courses

- 10A AF. Introduction to Africana Studies.** *Mr. Lemelle.* Interdisciplinary exploration of key aspects of Black history, culture, and life in Africa and the Americas. Provides a fundamental, intellectual understanding of the global Black experience as it has been described and interpreted in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Fall 2009.
- 10B AF. Introduction to Africana Studies: Research Methods.** *Staff.* Introduce students to the methodologies used in research on topics pertinent to Africana studies. In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the field, introduces students to research methods in the humanities and social sciences including, but is not limited to, interviewing; content analysis; archival, library and Internet research; and participant-observation. Spring 2010.
- 144A AF. Black Women Feminism(s) and Social Change.** *Ms. Jackson.* Introduction to the theoretical and practical contributions of African-American feminists who maintain that issues of race, gender, sexuality and social class are central, rather than peripheral, to any history, analysis, assessment, or strategy for bringing about change in the United States. Next offered 2010-11.
- 190 AF. Africana Studies Senior Seminar.** *Mr. Lemelle.* Seminar for Africana studies majors. Compliments guidance of primary thesis advisor, by focusing on interdisciplinary research strategies and data collection methods; development of authorial voice for the interrogation African/African Diasporan topics, notions of race, and manifestations of racism. Emphasis on writing, rewriting, and peer review. Minors require professor's permission. Each fall.
- 191 AF. Senior Thesis.** *Staff.* In the Senior Seminar, students will undertake independent research culminating in a substantial thesis. The thesis work will be supervised by one faculty member chosen by the student. Each thesis will be read by one additional reader. Each semester.
- 192 AF. Senior Project.** *Staff.* Through the Senior Seminar, students will engage in an independent reading, research, and participatory exercise on a topic agreed to by the student and the adviser. Normally, the project involves a set of short papers and/or culminates in a research paper or original work of substantial length based upon participation in a project or program, e.g. original play script, film or film script, or artwork. Each semester.
- 193 AF. Senior Comprehensive Examination.** *Staff.* In the Senior Seminar, students will prepare for the exam to be taken during their senior year. The comprehensive examination consists of two field examinations that test the depth of the student's knowledge of Africana Studies. The student chooses two areas in Africana studies (e.g., history and literature) in which to be examined. Each semester.
- 195 AF.(PZ) Special Topics in Africana Studies.** *Staff.* Topics change from year to year. Each spring.
- 99/199. Reading and Research,** *Staff.* Prerequisite: permission of instructor. 99, lower-level; 199, advanced work. Course or half-course. May be repeated. Each semester. (Summer Reading and Research taken as 98/198.)

Affiliated Courses

American Studies (AMST)

- 125. (SC) Race in Popular Culture and Media.** *Mr. Delmont.* Next offered 2010-11.

Art History (ARHI)

- 140 AF. The Arts of Africa.** *Ms. Jackson.* Survey of African art and architecture exploring ethnic and cultural diversity. Emphasis on the social, political and religious dynamics that foster art production at specific historical moments in West, Central and North Africa.

Critical study of Western art historical approaches and methods used to study African arts. Spring 2011; offered alternate years.

- 141A AF. Seminar: (Re)presenting Africa: Art, History and Film.** *Ms. Jackson.* Seminar centers on post-colonial African films to examine (re)presentations of the people, arts, cultures and socio-political histories of Africa and its Diaspora. Course critically examines the cinematic themes, aesthetics, styles and schools of African and African Diasporic filmmakers. Fall 2010; offered alternate years.
- 141B AF. Africana Cinema: Through the Documentary Lens.** *Ms. Jackson.* Examines documentary films and videos created by filmmakers from Africa and the African Diaspora (United States, Britain and the Caribbean). Topics include: history and aesthetics of documentary filmmaking, documentary as art, the narrative documentary, docu-drama, cinema vérité, biography, autobiography and historical documentary. Next offered 2010-2011.
- 144B AF. Daughters Africa: Art, Cinema, Theory, & Love.** *Ms. Jackson.* Course examines visual arts and cultural criticism produced by women from Africa and the African Diaspora (North American, Caribbean and European). Students identify and analyze aesthetic values, key representational themes, visual conventions, symbolic codes and stylistic approaches created from feminism's love of Blackness, Africaness and justice. Complement to Black Women Feminism(s) and Social Change (AFRI 144A). Spring 2010.
- 178 AF. Black Aesthetics and Politics of (Re)presentation.** *Ms. Jackson.* Survey of the visual arts produced by people of African descent in the United States, from the colonial era to the present. Emphasis on African American artists' changing relationship to African arts and cultures. Examines the emergence of an oppositional aesthetic tradition that interrogates visual constructions of "Blackness" and "whiteness," and gender and sexuality as a means of re-visioning representational practices. Fall 2009.
- 186L AF. Critical Race Theory Representations & Law.** *Ms. Jackson.* Examines the role of law in constructing and maintaining racialized, gendered and classed disparities of justice, as well as the intellectual, aesthetic and political convergences of critical jurisprudence with representational practices in the visual arts. Next offered 2010-11.
- 186W AF. Whiteness: Race, Sex and Representation.** *Ms. Jackson.* An interrogation of linguistic, conceptual and practical solipsisms that contribute to the construction and normalization of whiteness in aesthetics, art, visual culture, film and mass media. Course questions the dialectics of "Blackness" and "whiteness" that dominate Western intellectual thought and popular culture, thereby informing historical and contemporary notions and representations of race, gender, sexuality and class. Next offered 2010-11.

Economics (ECON)

- 116. Race and the U.S. Economy.** *Ms. Conrad.* To be announced.

History (HIST)

- 35 AF. The Caribbean: Crucible of Modernity.** *Ms. Mayes.* Caribbean histories and cultures from the 15th- century to the present. Themes in the Spanish-, French- and English-speaking Caribbean, with a particular focus on Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. Next offered 2010-11.
- 40 AF. History of Africa to 1800.** *Mr. Lemelle.* History of Africa from earliest times to the beginning of 19th-century. Attention given to methodology and theoretical framework used by the Africanist, development of early African civilizations and current debates and trends in historiography of Africa. Fall 2009.
- 41 AF. History of Africa: 1800 to the Present.** *Mr. Lemelle.* History of Africa from 19th-century to recent times. Attention given to political and economic aspects of Africa's development process. Methodological and theoretical frameworks utilized by Africanists, as well as current debates and trends in African historiography. Spring 2010.
- 100U AF. Pan-Africanism and Black Radical Traditions.** *Mr. Lemelle.* Examination of the historical evolution of the Pan-African concept and its political, social and economic implications for the world, generally and for Black people in particular. Discussion of 20th-

- century writers of Pan-Africanism in terms of the contemporary problems of African-Americans. Spring 2010.
- SC 111A AF. African Diaspora in the United States to 1877.** *Ms. Roberts.* Grounded in a transnational, comparative approach, this course connects the diverse and complex experiences, belief systems and institutions of Blacks in the United States with those of others in the Diaspora. Beginning with pre-European contact in West and central Africa, we examine the multifaceted nature of distinct cultures, forms of nationalism, significance of protest and gender and class relations across time and space. Fall 2009.
- SC 111B AF. African Diaspora in the United States Since 1877.** *Ms. Roberts.* This is the second half of the African Diaspora in the United States survey. This course connects Black emancipation and post-emancipation political struggles throughout the Diaspora. Other topics include nationalism, civil rights and contemporary feminist theory. History 111A is not a prerequisite for HIST 111B. Spring 2010.
- SC 114 AF. Slave Women in Antebellum America.** *Ms. Roberts.* This course examines the role of power and race in the lives and experiences of slave women in antebellum United States mainly through primary and secondary readings. Topics include gender and labor distinctions, the slave family, significance of the internal slave trade and regional differences among slave women's experiences. The course ends with slave women's responses during the Civil War. Fall 2009.
- SC 122 AF. Black Intellectuals and the Politics of Race.** *Staff.* Explores the varied ways in which scientific racism functioned against African-Americans in the United States from the mid-19th- to mid-20th centuries and addresses African-American intellectuals' response to biological racism through explicit racial theories and through less explicit means such as slave narratives, novels, essays and films. Next offered 2010-11.
- 143 AF. Slavery and Freedom in the New World.** *Mr. Lemelle.* Survey course covering the history of Africans and their descendants in the Americas from the epoch of the trans-Atlantic slave trade until the end of the 19th-century. Divided into two general sections: the slave epoch and emancipation and aftermath. Next offered 2010-11.
- 145. Afro-Latin America.** *Ms. Mayes.* Examines the social and political effects of racial and ethnic categorization for people of African descent in Latin America, with special reference to Cuba, Brazil, Colombia, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Questions include who is "Black" in Latin America and why does "Blackness" have different meanings. Open to juniors and seniors only. Next offered 2010-11.
- SC 171 AF. History of African American Women in the United States.** *Ms. Roberts.* Exploration of distinctive and diverse experiences of women of West African ancestry in the U.S. from the 17th century to the present. Topics to be examined within a theoretical framework include labor, activism, feminism, and family and community. Narratives, autobiographies, letters, journals, speeches, essays and other primary documents constitute most of the required reading. Next offered 2010-11.
- SC 176 AF. The Modern Civil Rights Movement.** *Ms. Roberts.* Beginning with the idea that local community activism established the foundation for the mass movement that followed, this course explores the origins, development, impact and the role of women in the modern African-American struggle for civil rights. HIST 111B recommended. Next offered 2010-11.

Literature (LIT)

- PZ 12 AF. Introduction to African-American Literature.** *Ms. Harris.* Survey of major periods, authors and genres in the African-American literary tradition with a focus on gender and race. This is the second half of a two-semester course offered through IDBS faculty. This course covers the major literatures produced from the turn of the 20th-century to the contemporary period. Spring 2010.
- CM 77. Richard Wright and Zora Neale Hurston.** *Mr. Bradley.* To be announced.

CM 87. Modern Black Fiction. *Mr. Bradley.* To be announced.

CM 117 AF. Novel and Cinema in Africa and the West Indies. *Ms. Shelton.* Examination of works by writers and filmmakers from French-speaking countries of Africa (Senegal), Cameroon and Van Burkina Faso and the Caribbean (Martinique, Guadeloupe and Haiti). Special emphasis will be placed on questions of identity, the impact of colonialism, social and cultural values, as well as the nature of aesthetic creation. Prerequisite: FREN 44. Next offered 2010-11.

125C AF. Introduction to African American Literature: In the African-Atlantic Tradition. *Ms. Thomas.* Survey of 18th- and 19th- century Black Atlantic literary production, including oral and song texts, slave and emancipation narratives, autobiographical writing, early novels and poetry, with attention to cultural and political contexts, representations of race, gender and class, cultural political contexts, aesthetics of resistance, and African-centered literary constructions and criticisms. Spring 2010.

CM 126 AF. 20th-Century Black Poetics. *Mr. Bradley.* To be announced.

ENGL 130 AF. Topics in 20th-Century African Diaspora Literature. *Ms. Thomas.* Readings and discussions of contemporary African Diaspora literary production, with emphasis on particular authors, themes, critical and/or theoretical issues. Fall 2009.

PZ 132 AF. Black Queer Narrative, Autobiography and Documentary. *Ms. Harris.* This course examines the cultural productions of Black queer artists and scholars whose focus on race and sexuality at the intersections of Black, feminist and queer history and thought shape the content and form of a Black queer narrative in the latter 20th century (approximately 1985-2005). Fall 2009.

CM 132. North African Writers After Independence. *Ms. Aitel.* In this course, we will examine the post-independence work of North African writers from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Lectures and discussion will focus on those texts that are central to an understanding of the North African situation and that of its writers. Readings will also include theoretical texts such as those by Frantz Fanon and Aime Cesaire, as well as novels by Tahar Ben Jelloun, Albert Memmi and Rachid Mimouni. Spring 2010.

PZ 134 AF. Harlem Renaissance. *Ms. Harris.* This course is a survey of African American literature and culture produced during, or linked to, the 1920s Harlem Renaissance. Central to the course is an ongoing survey and analysis of popular cultural forms, such as the blues, social dance, film and musical theatre. Next offered 2010-11.

ENGL 140 AF. Literature of Incarceration: Writings from No Man's Land. *Ms. Thomas.* Focusing on writing by women within prison systems worldwide, including the United States and South Africa, the course seeks to frame and analyze their confrontations and experiences where conflicts of gender, ethnicity, class and state authority produce inmates of policed and criminalized landscapes. Spring 2010.

CM 160 AF. African and Caribbean Literature. *Ms. Shelton.* Reading and analysis of works of fiction, poetry and drama representing the most important trends in African and Caribbean literatures. Next offered 2010-11.

CM 165 AF. Writing Between Borders: Caribbean Writers in the U.S. and Canada. *Ms. Shelton.* Examination of works by women writers from the Caribbean who live in the United States and Canada. Explores the strategies used by these writers to define themselves both inside and outside the body politic of two societies. Attention given to questions of identity, exile, history, memory and language. Prerequisite: upper-division literature course. Next offered 2010-11.

ENGL 170J AF. Special Topics in American Literature: Toni Morrison. *Ms. Thomas.* A seminar on Morrison's contributions to African-American literature, the Western canon, Black feminist discourse and promoting African Diaspora literacy. Students will examine Morrison as a writer of fiction, literary criticism, essays, short stories, cultural criticism and editorial commentaries. Next offered 2010-11.

PZ 196 AF. Major Figures in 20th-Century American Literature: James Baldwin. *Ms. Harris.* Explores the work of one of America's greatest writers whose importance re-

sides in part in his calling into question national practices and injustices in regards to race, sexuality, religion, civil rights struggles and other political matters. Next offered 2010-11.

Psychology (PSYC)

- PZ 12 AF. Introduction to African-American Psychology.** *Mr. Fairchild.* Includes perspectives, education, community, life-span development and gender and related issues. Emphasizes the critical examination of current research and theory. Students are expected to contribute orally and in writing. Prerequisite: PZ PSYC 10. Spring 2010.
- 125 AF. Culture and Human Development.** *Mr. Hurley.* Explores the growing movement to situate the study of development in the context of culture. Examines cross-cultural research, but the focus is not on cross-cultural appreciation. Methodological issues pertaining to research across cultures, and theories important in culture and development will be explored. Next offered 2010-11.
- 150 AF. Psychology of the Black Experience.** *Mr. Hurley.* Facilitates students' understanding of Afro-American psychological experience. Critical review of historical and traditional approaches to the psychological study of Black people; examination of the contributions of the first three generations of Black psychologists who set the foundations for the current generation; concludes with a look at Black psychology today and its influence on the mainstream of the field. Prerequisite: PSYC 51. Fall 2009.
- PZ 188 AF. Seminar in African-American Psychology.** *Mr. Fairchild.* Critically examines contemporary literature in African-American psychology. Emphasizes the ideas of leading theorists (e.g., Na'im Akbar, Wade Nobles, Linda Myers) and the research literature on contemporary problems (e.g., teen pregnancy, gangs). Prerequisites: PSYC 10 or 12. Fall 2009.
- PZ 194 AF. Seminar in Social Psychology.** *Mr. Fairchild.* Explores an area of longstanding concern in social psychology: racism. It does so by reviewing the works of leading social psychologists' theory, research and praxis in this area of concern. An important component of the course is the incorporation of international and interdisciplinary perspectives to the study of racism. Explores the subject matter with an emphasis on developing students' written and oral presentations. Next offered 2010-11.

Religious Studies (RLST)

- 142 AF. The Problem of Evil: African-American Engagements with(in) Western Thought.** *Mr. Smith.* This course thematically explores some of the many ways African-Americans, in particular, have encountered and responded to evils both as a part of and apart from the broader Western tradition. We see how the African-American encounter with evil troubles the distinction often made between natural and moral evil and highlights the tensions between theodicies and ethical concerns. Fall 2009.

Sociology (SOC)

- 109. African American Social Theory.** *Ms. Bonaparte.* How have African Americans contributed to sociology? This course seeks to provide an overview of early 20th century to more contemporary African American contributors to the discipline. Moreover, students will become familiar with how race, sex, and class shaped these theoretical writings and expanded sociocultural understanding of African Americans in the U.S. Spring 2010.
- PZ 124 Race, Place and Space.** *Ms. Basu.* An introduction to the processes underlying social and spatial differentiation, with particular reference to race, gender, sexuality and class. We examine how social difference and social inequalities are constituted through space, not just expressed spatially. Spring 2010.
- PZ 136. Framing Urban Life.** *Ms. Basu.* Next offered 2010-11.
- PZ 142 AF. Transatlantic Black and Asian Experience.** *Ms. Basu.* In this seminar we explore Black and South Asian cultural and social experiences primarily in the U.S. and the U.K. using an interdisciplinary approach through scholarship, film, documentary, literature and music. Next offered 2010-11.