AFRICANA STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information
As a field of inquiry, Africana studies, describes and analyzes the origins and experiences of people of African descent wherever they live or have lived. This field is informed by the intellectual traditions of African American, African, and African Diasporic studies. While it has a renewed focus on the connections and movements of African-descended people from different sites of Africa and the diaspora, it also values in depth study of black people in discrete local, regional and national contexts. This field is inherently comparative, international, and interdisciplinary in approach, embracing the range of fields in the humanities and social sciences and including the performing arts.

The major prepares students for a number of careers: government, politics, international affairs, law, education, journalism, public health, religious studies, literature and the arts, and business management, to name only a few.

See Also
- African Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/african-studies/)

Contact Information
Holly Sharac, Academic Department Coordinator
309/312 Skinner Hall
413-538-2377
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/africana

Learning Goals
All of our majors and minors should:

- Be aware of important events and themes in African American, African Diaspora and African histories.
- Have exposure to the broad array of theoretical perspectives on black life and experience, including an understanding of the constructedness of race, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity in the study of black conditions, progress and social change.
- Have considered the roles of cultural forms (literature, art, religion, music, etc.) in the lives of peoples of African descent in Africa and the diaspora, and how cultural forms create links among those peoples.
- Develop an awareness of the political economy of race and power in national and transnational contexts.
- Have the ability to read, write, and argue with rigor and discipline.
- Have the ability to critically appreciate and analyze texts.
- Have the ability to conduct independent primary research.
- Have an understanding and capacity to employ various research methodologies.

Faculty
This area of study is administered by the Africana Studies Committee:
Patricia Banks, Professor of Sociology
Amber Douglas, Professor of Psychology and Education; Dean of Studies; Director of Student Success Initiatives

Satyananda Gabriel, Professor of Economics
Samba Gadjigo, Helen Day Gould Professor of French
Dorothy Mosby, Professor of Spanish; Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty
Olabode Omoljola, Hammond-Douglass Five College Professor of Music
Preston Smith II, Class of 1926 Professor of Politics
Lucas Wilson, Professor of Africana Studies and Economics
Meredith Coleman-Tobias, Assistant Professor of Religion, Teaching Fall Only
Elisa Prosperetti, Visiting Lecturer in History

Requirements for the Major
A minimum of 40 credits:

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>AFCNA-200</td>
<td>Foundations of Africana Studies</td>
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<td>CBL requirement: Select at least one of the following courses:</td>
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<td>EDUC-205</td>
<td>Social Justice in Education</td>
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<td>At least 16 credits at the 300 level, in at least two different disciplines, of which only 4 credits may be AFCNA-395</td>
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<td>Additional courses in Africana Studies</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
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<td>40</td>
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1 Courses to be counted for the major are drawn from departmental and College offerings with the approval of the program. Students may also count courses taken at the other Five College institutions, subject to approval by the chair.

Other Requirements
- Concentration statement. Students who major in Africana studies will construct their own concentrations with the guidance and advice of a faculty advisor who is affiliated with the program. The concentration statement must be approved by the program. The concentration statement will include a description of the concentration, which disciplines it draws on, a discussion of its intellectual merits and an explanation by the student of why the concentration has been constructed in the particular ways proposed. The student needs to list courses pertinent to the concentration, as well as any relevant experiential learning opportunities including Community-Based Learning (CBL) classes, community service, and internships.

Additional Specifications
- When declaring a major, each student chooses an advisor from the committee. In addition, the student must have the approval of the program chair.
- Students who declare an Africana studies major automatically fulfill the College’s "outside the major" requirement.

Requirements for the Minor
A minimum of 20 credits:

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<tr>
<td>AFCNA-200</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 credits credits at the 200 level or higher</td>
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Course Offerings

AFCNA-141 Introduction to Modern African History
Fall. Credits: 4
This course provides an introduction to African history over the past three centuries. Venturing beyond the stereotypes, we will explore the complex histories that constitute a diverse continent. Special attention is given to spotlighting the voices of African people through a range of primary and secondary sources, including memoirs, film, music, cartoons, speeches and photography. Students will gain knowledge of African geographies and histories, develop the skill of primary source analysis, and be able to connect events in -- and narratives of -- present-day Africa to a deeper historical past.
Crosslisted as: HIST-141
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
E. Prosperetti

AFCNA-181 Introduction to African Diaspora Religions
Fall. Credits: 4
Over the last century, religionists have labored to discover the meaning of African dispersal beyond the continent and its accompanying spiritual lineages. What theories of encounter sufficiently adjudicate the synthetic religious cultures of African-descended persons in North America, South America, and the Caribbean? What are the cross-disciplinary methodologies that scholars utilize to understand African religious cultures in the Western hemisphere? Firstly, this course will introduce the field of Africana religious studies. This background will inform the second and primary objective of the course: thematizing and exploring West and Central African religious traditions housed in the Americas. This reading- and writing-intensive course draws upon the intellectual traditions of African American, African, and African diasporic studies in order to explore the connections and disjunctures among people of African descent. While the course pays attention to national, regional, and historical contexts, it asks this question: what do African descended people have in common and when and how are their experiences and interests different? What can we glean from contemporary discourses grounded in the consideration of global black lives?
Crosslisted as: RELIG-181, CST-149AD
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Coleman-Tobias

AFCNA-200 Foundations of Africana Studies
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This reading- and writing-intensive course draws upon the intellectual traditions of African American, African, and African diasporic studies in order to explore the connections and disjunctures among people of African descent. While the course pays attention to national, regional, and historical contexts, it asks this question: what do African descended people have in common and when and how are their experiences and interests different? What can we glean from contemporary discourses grounded in the consideration of global black lives?
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
The department

AFCNA-208 Introduction to Twentieth-Century Critical Race Theory
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This course examines the discursive relationship between race, power and law in contemporary U.S. society. Readings examine the ways in which racial bodies are constituted in the cultural economy of American society where citizens of African descent dwell. We explore the rules and social practices that govern the relationship of race to gender, nationality, sexuality, and class in U.S. courts and other cultural institutions. Thinkers covered include W.E.B. DuBois, Kimberle Crenshaw, Derrick Bell, and Richard Delgado, among others.
Crosslisted as: CST-253
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Wilson
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Advisory: Critical Social Thought 248, 249, or 250 recommended but not required

AFCNA-221 Engaging Ghana: Inquiry and Action
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 2
This course prepares students to pursue curated internships in Ghana. It provides the historical, social, economic, political and cultural context crucial for powerful student learning experiences and ethical engagement with Ghanaian organizations and communities. Guest lectures, readings, and class discussion will provide an intellectual orientation to the country, as well as contextualize student work in curated internships across a range of fields and sites. The course begins a journey of reflection on personal and internship organizations goals that will continue when instructor and students are on site in Ghana in the summer.
Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
P. Smith
Instructor permission required.

AFCNA-222 Engaging Ghana: Experience and Reflection
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 2
This course facilitates a structured reflection for students to interrogate their intellectual preparation and subsequent experiential learning during high-value internships the previous summer in Ghana. The course concludes, momentarily, a journey of reflection on personal and internship organizations goals that began with a pre-departure course the previous spring continuing on site in Ghana in the summer. It will present a platform where students can explore a new understanding of themselves in the world after their summer experience in Ghana. Ultimately, the course will help students think about their next steps in their academic program of study and future careers. The course will culminate in students sharing what they learned during their summer internships in Ghana with the wider community through public presentations.
Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
P. Smith
Instructor permission required.
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: AFCNA-221.
AFCNA-234 Black Metropolis: From MLK to Obama
Spring. Credits: 4
Black Metropolis” refers to the more than half a million black people jammed into a South Side ghetto in Chicago at mid-twentieth century that featured an entrenched black political machine, a prosperous black middle class, and a thriving black cultural scene in the midst of massive poverty and systemic inequality. This course will follow the political, economic, and cultural developments of what scholars considered to be the typical urban community in postwar United States. We will examine such topics as Martin Luther King’s failed desegregation campaign; Harold Washington, first black mayor; William Julius Wilson’s urban underclass thesis; and the rise of Barack Obama.
Crosslisted as: POLIT-234
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Prereq: 4 credits in humanities or social sciences.

AFCNA-241 Topics in Africana Studies

AFCNA-241AT Topics in Africana Studies: 'African American Art'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course facilitates a critical dialogue between the creative contributions of African American artists and mainstream developments in American art. Specifically, the course explores the central themes and debates in the visual and cultural history of art made by African Americans (1750-present). Through the close study of art objects, engagement with primary sources, group discussions, and independent research, students will gain an understanding of African American art as both a distinct cultural expression and an integral part of the story of American art. In their study of art made by African Americans, students will develop advanced and transferable visual and cultural literacy skills.
Crosslisted as: ARTH-290AT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

AFCNA-241AU Advanced Topics: 'Black Activist Autobiography'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines the ways in which race, gender and activism intersect in shaping the narrative strategies of Black writers of autobiography. The course focuses primarily on the autobiographies of Black women, recognizing the differences in historical period and narrative structure including "slave narratives," activist autobiography, feminist autobiography, and contemporary autobiographical accounts that explore various forms of identity. These first-person narratives are used to tell their personal story and to testify about the social, political, and economic barriers to full citizenship that are experienced.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-254, CST-249AU
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Prereq: 4 credits in humanities or social sciences.

AFCNA-241CB Topics in Africana Studies: 'Caribbean Literature in the Age of Globalization'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course offers a study of selected Caribbean drama, prose, and poetry. We will read works published since 1970 that explore central themes such as the enduring impact of slavery and colonization, resistance movements, global migration and diasporic experiences, the constructions of gender, and the importance of history and memory. This course also engages deeply with form, particularly the role of orature, performance, and global popular cultures. We will read the literary works of writers such as Dionne Brand, Maryse Conde, Edwidge Danticat, and Marlon James.
Crosslisted as: ENGL-252
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

AFCNA-241FR Topics in Africana Studies: 'Beyond Francafrique: Franco-African Encounters in Historical Perspective'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course examines how France and Francophone West Africa have shaped each other throughout the past three centuries. Beginning with the French Atlantic of the eighteenth century, the course traces Franco-African encounters through informal and formal colonial rule, decolonization, and the postcolonial period. It closes by examining current controversies over race, literature and museum rights engendered by this complex history. Students will gain a deep historical understanding of contemporary issues, giving them the capacity to think widely about social divisions, power asymmetries, and debates surrounding identity and belonging that de-center the American experience.
Crosslisted as: HIST-241, CST-249FR
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

AFCNA-241HS Topics in Africana Studies: 'African American History, Precolonial to Emancipation'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine the cultural, social, political, and economic history of African Americans through the Civil War. Topics covered include the African background to the African American experience, the Atlantic slave trade, introduction and development of slavery, master-slave relationships, the establishment of black communities, slave revolts, the political economy of slavery, women in slavery, the experiences of free blacks, the crisis of the nineteenth century, and the effect of the Civil War.
Crosslisted as: HIST-281
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
The department
AFCNA-241PE Topics in Africana Studies: 'African Performance Aesthetics'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This class explores African approaches to performance, premised on the interdisciplinarity of theatre in many African societies. We take our inspiration from centuries of apprentice-style artist training in some indigenous West African societies. The evolution of oral and popular performance traditions into literary theatre has also necessitated a similar trend in the training of the modern actor. The primary object of this class is to be able to embody a plethora of idiomatic expressions. Thus, we will move to the energy of the drums, we will train the ears to transmit the complex musicality of several sonic elements and raise our voices in song and apply them in scene explorations. Ultimately, we intend to unlock new ways of using our minds, bodies, and voices as conduits of exciting storytelling.
Crosslisted as: FMT-240PE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
E. Prosperetti

AFCNA-241WA Topics in Africana Studies: 'West African Women in Their Own Words'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course challenges students to consider how and why, following Ralph-Michel Trouillot, certain voices get "silenced" in the historical record. We study how women have both shaped history and been subject to its forces, though often in unexpected ways. This course is unique because we learn about women in 18th, 19th and 20th century West Africa through their own words. Students will encounter more than a dozen real and fictional African women: mighty queens, snide co-wives, shrewd traders, ingenious slaves, brilliant writers, and fierce activists. Engaging with their stories in multiple formats; students will study graphic novels, fiction, and memoir, in addition to academic works.
Crosslisted as: HIST-296WA, GNDST-206WA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Ofori

AFCNA-241WE Topics in Africana Studies: 'On West Africa's Shores: From the Sahara to the Atlantic c. 800 to 1800'
Spring. Credits: 4
One of the most significant shifts in global history is the incorporation of the New World into the Afro-Eurasian trading system. Slowly, but surely, the Mediterranean declined as a hub of inter-continental trade, and the Atlantic Ocean gained ground. On West Africa's Shores analyzes this world-historical pivot from the perspective of West Africa. Beginning with the rise of the Ghana Empire, we study trans-Saharan cultures of exchange, the societies of West Africa's Middle Ages, and the ways that the trans-Atlantic slave trade transformed the region. A special focus on art and artefacts helps us imagine the worlds of West Africa over the course of a millennium.
Crosslisted as: HIST-242
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
E. Prosperetti
Notes: meets history department pre-1750 requirement.

AFCNA-246 Womanist Religious Thought
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
As a conceptual framework which reconsiders the rituals, scriptures, and allegiances of religious black women, womanist thought has expanded the interdisciplinary canon of black and feminist religious studies. This course is a survey of womanist religious scholars from multiple religious traditions: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Yoruba-Ifa -- as well as theorists who understand womanism as a "spiritual but not religious" orientation. Course participants will use the interpretive touchstones of cross-culturalism, erotics, earthcare, and health -- among others -- to examine contemporary womanist religious thought.
Crosslisted as: RELIG-246, GNDST-210WR
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Coleman-Tobias

AFCNA-250 African American Literature I
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
African American literature, particularly in the early part of the formation of the United States, reflects the dichotomy between citizenship and American identity. This course will study the literary works of African Americans from the late-eighteenth century to 1865. Beginning with slave narratives and early poetry, we will consider issues of genre, literary tradition, and historical context while gaining experience in analyzing literary texts. Themes of alienation, communion, haunting, and upward mobility will be covered to illuminate the expansive world of early African American literature. Authors include: Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, David Walker, Phillis Wheatley, and William Wells Brown.
Crosslisted as: ENGL-250
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
The department
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Notes: meets English Department 1700-1900 requirement

AFCNA-251 Contemporary African American Literature II
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine African American literature and culture in the postwar period as American identities are coalescing around the concept of the US as a world power. Specifically, our task during the semester will be to discuss the myriad ways black authors and artists attempt to interrogate the structure of racial hegemony by creating poetry and prose meant to expand notions of culture and form. We will also examine music, visual art, and advertisements from this era to have a greater sense of the black experience through various cultural representations. Writers will include James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ralph Ellison, Michael S. Harper and bell hooks.
Crosslisted as: ENGL-251
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
The department
AFCNA-257 African American Literature
Fall. Credits: 4
This course is a survey of African-American plays, novels, poetry, and non-fiction from the antebellum period to the present. Readings will focus on writers responding to the afterlife of slavery through a feminist lens. Texts include slave narratives by Harriet Jacobs and William Wells Brown; turn-of-the-century writing by Georgia Douglas Johnson, W.E.B. DuBois, and Charles Chesnutt; novels by Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, and plays by Amiri Baraka and Adrienne Kennedy. We conclude with contemporary work by Jeremy O. Harris and Ta-Nehisi Coates. Assignments will focus on the interdisciplinarity of African-American literature, and students will be given interactive assignments like staging a scene on campus.
Crosslisted as: ENGL-257
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
K. Wright

AFCNA-282 African American History from Emancipation to the Present
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine the social, cultural, political, and economic history of African Americans from emancipation and Reconstruction through the present. Emphasis will fall on postwar southern social and economic developments, the rise of segregation, northern migrations, black class stratification, nationalism, the twentieth-century civil rights movement, and current trends in African American political, social, and economic life.
Crosslisted as: HIST-282
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

AFCNA-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4
The department
Instructor permission required.

AFCNA-301 The Abolition Movement
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine the maturation of North American slave regimes after the American Revolution and the diverse activities of people who worked to abolish slavery. The assorted motives of white opponents of slavery and the actions of both free and enslaved African Americans to achieve freedom will be highlighted. We will analyze the mechanics of biracial coalition building and assess the historical legacy of these activists for subsequent social movements.
Crosslisted as: HIST-301AB
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
The department

AFCNA-308 Luminous Darkness: African American Social Thought After DuBois
Spring. Credits: 4
Examines the life, work, and legacies of WEB DuBois. Drawing on domestic and diasporic fictional and nonfictional meditations on black life and progress in and beyond the 'DuBoisian century', the course considers the changing meanings of and movements for global racial justice for people of African descent. The course also confronts the globalization of the color line in the post-Civil Rights/Black Power era. Due to increasing precarity for the masses, emphasis is given to more recent ideas like afro- pessimism, racial capitalism, and afro-futurism, as contemporary responses to DuBois’s 1903 question, 'How does it feel to be a problem?' Readings by Jemisin, Gyasi, Robinson, Fields, Butler, Davis, Ransby, Hartman, Wilderson, Fanon, YamahttaTaylor, among others form the core of the course.
Crosslisted as: CST-349LD
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Wilson
Instructor permission required.
Prereq: 8 credits in Africana Studies.

AFCNA-341 Topics in Africana Studies

AFCNA-341AF Topics in Africana Studies: ‘African American Spiritualities of Dissent’
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course seeks to understand how protest fuels the creation and sustenance of black religious movements and novel spiritual systems in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will examine the dissentive qualities of selected African American activists, community workers, scholars, spiritual/religious leaders and creative writers. By the end of this course, students will be able to thoughtfully respond to the questions, "What is spirituality?"; "What is dissent?"; and "Has blackness required resistive spiritual communities?
Crosslisted as: RELIG-331AF, CST-349AF
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Coleman-Tobias

AFCNA-341AT Topics in Africana Studies: ‘African Theater’
Spring. Credits: 4
This course introduces the oral traditions, important playwrights, and aesthetic innovations in postcolonial literary theatre in some African societies. The oral theatre traditions of Africa are an example of the innate human quest to perform and will eventually be the basis for understanding some of the innovations made in African literary theatre. We shall also focus on writings by African writers and writers of African descent who deal with the post-colonial conditions of Black Africa and the African Diaspora. This class is designed to serve as a window into the continent of Africa: its people, its ideas, triumphs, struggles, and the complex histories emerging from its vastness and diversity.
Crosslisted as: FMT-330AT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Ofori
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Africana Studies or Film, Media, Theater.
AFCNA-341DE Topics in Africana Studies: 'Development in Africa: A Critical History'
Fall. Credits: 4
How and why has Africa become synonymous with "development"? This class traces the historical construction of an idea so pervasive that it has become almost invisible. Moving through 200 years of history, we interrogate the ways that different projects for "developing" Africa have been envisioned, challenged, planned, implemented and lived. Throughout, we return to key questions. Why and how have the lives of African people become entangled with various ideologies of "progress"? What visions of African "development" have been articulated in the West, in the African diaspora, on the continent itself? And, fundamentally, is "development" still a useful concept today?
Crosslisted as: HIST-341DE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
E. Prosperetti
Prereq: 8 credits in History.

AFCNA-341EM Topics in Africana Studies: 'The Age of Emancipation'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This colloquium examines the causes and the course of the Civil War, its social, economic, and political results during Reconstruction, and the early roots of both de jure segregation and the civil rights movement. It will examine the process of emancipation from the perspective of social history. Violent conflicts over free labor, the establishment of sharecropping, and the political and economic policies pursued by various groups—freedpeople, ex-masters, northern policymakers, wage laborers, and African American women, for example—will be covered. African American viewpoints and histories will receive particular emphasis.
Crosslisted as: HIST-301EM
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
The department
Prereq: 4 credits in History.

AFCNA-341RB Topics in Africana Studies: 'Postcolonial Literatures of Anglophone Africa and South Asia'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course brings together literatures from Anglophone South Asia and Africa to explore how belonging to the nation is complicated by realities of marginalization and displacement. Postcolonial histories demonstrate tensions between the ideological aspirations of the nation and the reality of internal conflicts and wars that expose the limits of belonging. Texts include novels, literary criticism, and critical theory on internal displacement and refugees, the gendered and ethnic minorities, the political other, and trauma. We will read Chinelo Okparanta's Under the Udala Tree, Bapsi Sidhwa's Cracking India, Michael Ondaatje's Anil's Ghost, and Tsitsi Dangarembga's The Book of Not.
Crosslisted as: ENGL-382RB
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
A. Mandal
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in English.

AFCNA-341SE Topics in Africana Studies: 'Black Sexual Economies'
Spring. Credits: 4
At once viewed as a dysfunction of normative ideas about sexuality, the family, and the nation, Black sexualities are intimately linked to and regulated by political and socioeconomic discourses. Slavery studies scholars remind us of how it has proven foundational for modern notions of race and sex by making explicit links between labor and exploitation. Thus, this course moves through themes such as slavery historicity, intersections between Black feminisms and Black sexualities, sexual labor/work, pleasure, and the erotic, in order to consider the stakes of our current critical approaches to Black sexual economies and interrogate its silences and possibilities.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-333SE, CST-349SE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
S. Smith
Prereq: Two courses in Gender Studies or Africana Studies.

AFCNA-341TM Topics in Africana Studies: 'Toni Morrison'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine the work and the centralized black world of the last American Nobel laureate in literature, Toni Morrison. Morrison is the author of eleven novels and multiple other works, including nonfiction and criticism. In a career that has spanned over forty years and has informed countless artists and writers, Morrison's expansive cultural reach can hardly be measured accurately. In this course we will endeavor to critically analyze the arc and the import of many of Morrison's writings. Readings include: The Bluest Eye, Sula, Song of Solomon, Jazz, Playing in the Dark, Paradise, and A Mercy.
Crosslisted as: ENGL-350TM
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
The department
Prereq: 4 credits in English or Africana Studies.

AFCNA-349CB Topics in Africana Studies: 'Contemporary Black Memoir'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course traces the formation of the Black public intellectual in the internet age. All memoirs read in this class have been published within the last decade, and include works by luminaries such as Kiese Laymon, Tressie McMillan Cottom, Roxane Gay, Hari Ziyad, and Da'Shaun Harrison. Students will examine the elasticity of memoir as a category, and assignments will compare and contrast authors' online personas to their published work.
Crosslisted as: ENGL-350CB
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
K. Wright
Prereq: 8 credits in English or Africana Studies.

AFCNA-361 The Aquatic Life of Black Devotion
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Water informs religious and spiritual worldviews the world over; commonplace rituals from baptism to libation underwrite its prescience. The religious cultures of West and Central Africa, along with its multiple diasporas, theorize, encounter, and engage water centrally. Seminar participants will dive deeply into the water-based epistemologies of African and African diaspora religions, probing liturgical language, ritual performance and spiritual entities for aquatic common threads. Seminar participants will analyze the historical realities that have made water such a contested yet indispensable feature of black religious life.
Crosslisted as: RELIG-361
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Coleman-Tobias
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
AFCNA-363 Rastafari
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
From its counterhegemonic beginning as a nexus of Garveyism, Ethiopianism, and Pan-Africanism, Rastafari has shifted from a Caribbean theological movement to a new religious and socio-political movement globally. What were the epistemological tenets that enabled Rastafari to boast such a multi-sited diaspora? What was the role of reggae music in spreading the religious culture? How have women negotiated their roles within its textured prescriptions? Seminar participants will explore these questions, among others. Beyond understanding the diverse beliefs and practices of global Rastafari, seminar participants will consider some of the enduring motifs of black, dissentive religions as iterated through Rastafari.
Crosslisted as: RELIG-363
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Coleman-Tobias

AFCNA-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.

Courses in Other Departments Counting toward the Major and Minor in Africana Studies

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ANTHR-216HR Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology and Human Rights' | 4

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CST-249FR Topics in Critical Social Thought: 'Beyond Francophone: Franco-African Encounters in Historical Perspective' | 4

CST-253 Critical Race Theory | 4

CST-349AF Advanced Topics: 'African American Spiritualities of Dissent' | 4

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ECON-306 Political Economy of Inequality | 4

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