

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

**AFAMAST 1101: Introduction to African American &
African Studies
#33612**



Instructor: Viola Newton
newton.11@osu.edu
TR 11:10AM–12:30PM

****GE: Social Science: Individuals and Groups***

This course will be a comparative survey and analysis of the experience of Africans and their descendants in the Black World. We will focus specifically on Africa, Latin America, and North America. This course will cover topics such as the ancient African kingdoms, the international slave trade, slavery in Africa and the “new” world (Latin America and North America), and Emancipation and post Emancipation societies. Throughout this course we will focus on the lives led by “ordinary” people in the African diaspora (the Black World) by examining how the factors of race, class, gender, and ethnicity have helped shape the lives of everyday “ordinary” people.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 1121: African Civilizations to 1870
#19551 & #32667



Instructor: Fungisai Musoni
musoni.4@osu.edu
TR 9:35AM–10:55AM

Instructor: Dawn Chisebe
chisebe.1@osu.edu
MW 12:45PM–2:05PM

**GE: Historical Study; Diversity Global Studies*

This course focuses on precolonial African history, beginning with the formation of the continent's first human societies thousands of years ago up through the eve of European colonization in the nineteenth century. The primary themes in this course concern the ways in which ancient African communities developed and interacted with others. After a continental overview and exploration of Africa, we will consider several regional developments successively but not always in chronological order, focusing on the extensive sophisticated cultural, social, and material systems present in Africa prior to European conquest.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 1122: African Civilizations, 1870 to Present
#19536 & #19560



Instructor: Hannah Vidmar
vidmar.13@buckeyemail.osu.edu
TR 2:20PM–3:40PM

Instructor: Franco Barchiesi
barchiesi.1@osu.edu
MW 9:35AM–10:55AM

**GE: Historical Study; Diversity Global Studies*

This course examines pivotal moments in the social, cultural, political, economic, and historical forces that led to independence in Africa. Beginning with the eve of European conquest, this course will examine the processes of colonization and decolonization. Some themes this course will cover include colonization and European rule, resistance movements, decolonization, and contemporary issues of war, genocide, and racial and gender inequality. In doing so, students will be exposed to some of the most important African leaders, writers, musicians, and artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

**AFAMAST 2194: Social (In)Justice and the Black
Experience: An Inside-Out Prison Exchange Course
#33871**



Instructor: Tiyi Morris
morris.730@osu.edu
T 5:30PM–8:15PM

The Inside Out course at Ohio State Newark offers an innovative and transformative approach to learning. This experiential-based course emphasizes discussion and collaboration in learning. The course also provides a unique experience for all students that I hope will have a transformative effect during the semester and beyond. It is my goal that all of us consider the format of the course as vital to the ways we learn about social justice efforts and the content we will examine and discuss together.

This course will provide an historical grounding/foundation of the Black experience in America in an effort to help students understand some of the most pressing issues facing African Americans today. In so doing, this course will focus on key events, movements, and ideas that have shaped and informed Black peoples' social justice efforts in the 20th and 21st centuries. Topics to be explored include: the movement for Black Studies, Black Feminism, Civil Rights, Black Power, the struggle against Mass Incarceration, #BlackLivesMatter, and #SayHerName.

Location: Franklin Medical Center (FMC) in Columbus (a minimum-medium security prison approximately 15 minutes from the Columbus campus).

Enrollment: 15 undergraduate students and 15 incarcerated students. Enrollment for the class is by instructor permission only. For more information or to schedule a meeting to receive approval to register, contact Dr. Tiyi Morris at morris.730@osu.edu.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

**AFAMAST 2251: Introduction to African Literature
#19543**



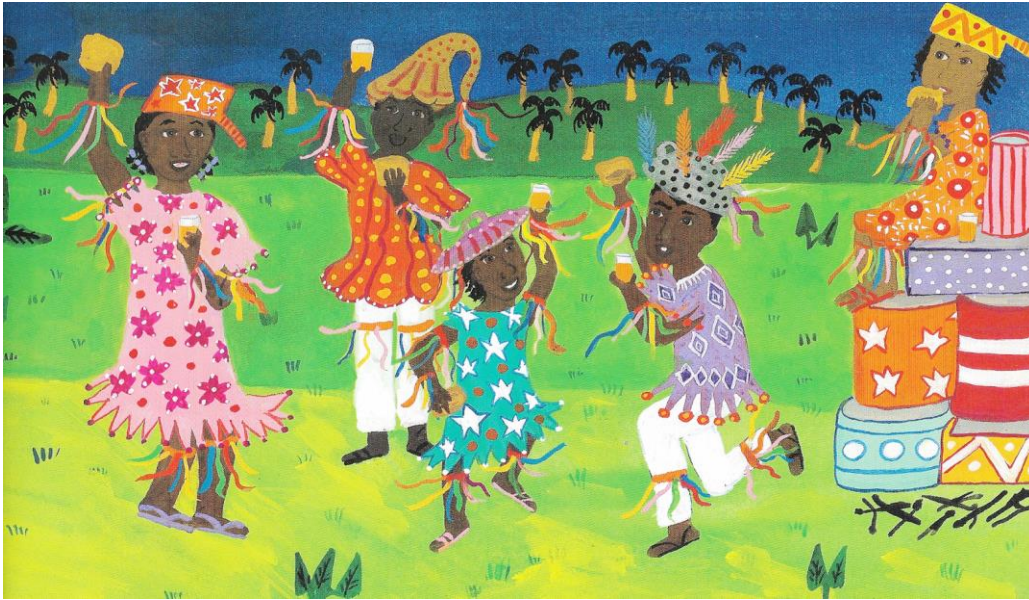
Instructor: Omar Dieng
omar.9@osu.edu
MW 2:20PM–3:40PM

**GE: Literature; Diversity Global Studies*

This course will explore precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial African literature through the analysis of epic texts, novels, films, poems, and drama. Through attention to standard literary conventions, our analysis will focus broadly on issues pertaining to the continent with special attention paid to the tensions between surviving precolonial traditions and those developed during and after colonialism. Some specific topics we will address include: social class, gender, religion, tradition, modernity, colonization, decolonization, nation, migration, and nationality.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 2253: Introduction to Caribbean Literature
33613



Instructor: Viola Newton

newton.11@osu.edu

TR 2:20PM–3:40PM

**GE: Literature; Global Studies*

This course is an introduction to contemporary literature of the Anglophone (English-speaking), Francophone (French-speaking), and Hispanophone (Spanish-speaking) Caribbean. Through the study of several genres—novel, short story, theatre, and political polemic—the course will examine the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and nation as they shape the experiences of Caribbean life on Caribbean islands, as well as in the Caribbean diaspora in the United States and United Kingdom. Thematic attention will focus on tourism and consumption; cultural identity and negotiating colonialism; gendered violence and resistance; and coming of age narratives.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 2270: Introduction to Black Popular Culture
#32672



Instructor: Ebony Oldham
oldham.61@osu.edu
WF 12:45PM–2:05PM

****GE: Visual and Performing Arts; Social Diversity in the US***

This course will undertake an interdisciplinary approach to studying the modalities of black cultural production such as music, film, television, fashion, literature, advertising, and vernacular expression. We will discuss, examine, and problematize concepts of blackness, black authenticity, black representation, black gender politics, black sexuality politics, and more. We will move away from understanding black popular culture as solely entertainment and toward more nuanced understandings of it as a critical site of discourse and debate about race, racial identity, gender, gender expression, sexuality, and cultural politics.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 2275: Blackness and the Politics of Sports
#33962



Instructor: Judson Jeffries
Jeffries.70@osu.edu
WF 11:10AM-12:30PM

This course considers the role of Black athletes in society, the racial politics involved, and the global implications of race on courts, playing fields, tracks, and other athletic arenas. The course is concerned about how Black athletes have responded to their own racialization; how a market has developed around Black athletics, who profits, and the costs and benefits; how intersections of gender and sexuality function within the world of sports; and the ways in which the Black athlete is represented in culture. It is, therefore, an interdisciplinary course that draws upon such fields as history, sociology, film, and literature. It is also global in content, as it is invested in exploring the global fact of blackness in sports in the United States, as well as abroad.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 3080: Slavery in the United States
#32777



Instructor: Eric Herschthal
herschthal.1@osu.edu
TR 12:45PM–2:05PM

****GE: Historical Study***

Enslaved Africans made up three out of every four immigrants to the western hemisphere between 1500 and 1800, and on the eve of the Civil War, no country held more slaves than the United States—four million in 1860. Indeed, slavery was central to the making of modern America, and enslaved and free Black people transformed American history—not simply as forced laborers, but as fierce intellectuals. Black abolitionists helped expand notions of democracy and citizenship, while fugitive slaves proved the lie that slavery was benign. This course will explore the history of slavery in America and study the institution’s development within a larger Atlantic world framework. Major topics will include how northerners, not just southerners, were complicit in slavery; how slavery helped define American notions of freedom; how gender, age, and ability shaped the experience of enslaved people; the extent to which indigenous African cultures survived the transatlantic slave trade; how enslaved people, women and men, resisted their enslavement; the role indigenous Africans played in the slave trade; and how black abolitionists and fugitive slaves turned slavery into a national crisis that ultimately provoked a civil war.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 3083: Civil Rights and Black Power Movement #19538



Instructor: Kenneth Goings
goings.14@osu.edu
TR 11:10AM–12:30PM

**GE: Historical Study; Diversity Global Studies*

The Civil Rights Movement is one of the most significant social and political developments in American history. The African American pursuit of equality has been long and arduous. While this quest can be said to have started on the shores of Africa, we will begin our examination during the Civil War era; quickly moving to the “nadir” and the New Deal and World War II–era activism. We will then examine what has been called the “high tide” of the Civil Rights Movement, 1955–65. This era, largely conducted in the South, was initially led by an older generation of activists who were quickly overtaken by young people (largely students) and working people who wanted “freedom” now. As the South began to respond to the activist phase, the conflict shifted to the North, where victories were few. The sluggishness of the northern response led to the urban uprisings of the 1960s and the cries of “Black Power.” These tensions, in turn, caused a splintering of the movement but not its end. And indeed, largely due to the voter suppression attempts around the nation as well as the recent spate of police encounters, the movement is being reinvigorated.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 3086: Black Women in Slavery and Freedom
#32680



Instructor: Dawn Chisebe
chisebe.1@osu.edu
MW 3:55PM–5:15PM

**GE: Historical Study; Social Diversity in the US*

This course allows students to examine the experiences of black women during the period of slavery through the contemporary moment. We will explore how they lived, built relationships, struggled to maintain their families, and survived the challenges of slavery, segregation, and political repression. Through their own words in documentary films, art, videos, literature, and historical sources, students will learn about the social and political movements that black women created. We will also follow their efforts both within and outside of the borders of the United States, as their engagement in efforts for independence, freedom, and equality were aimed at ensuring that black people throughout the diaspora had access to these same freedoms. A rich picture of black women will be drawn in exciting and enlightening ways.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 3260: Global Black Cultural Movements
#33611



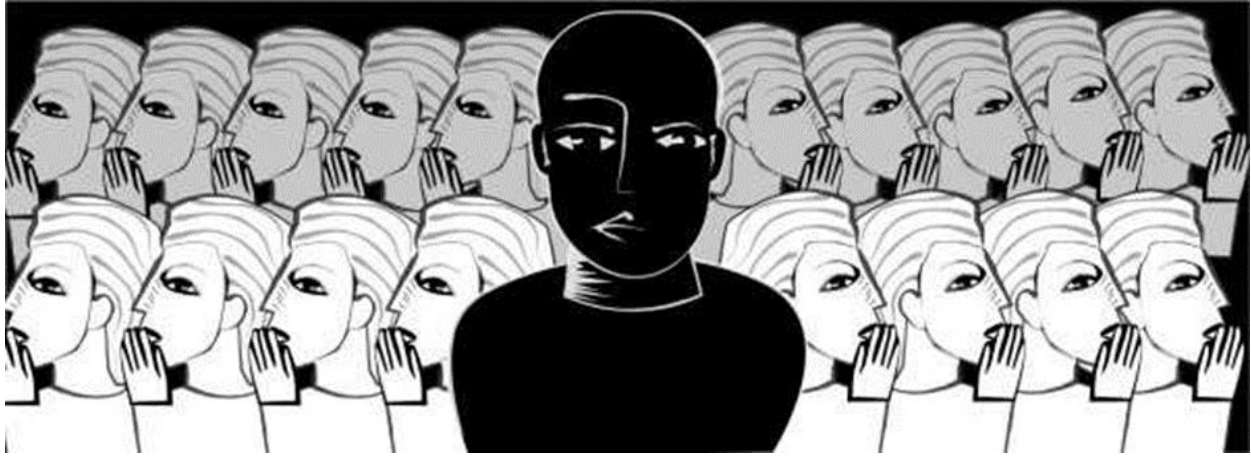
Instructor: Lynette Dixon
dixon.701@osu.edu
MW 2:20PM–3:40PM

****GE: Diversity Global Studies***

This course is designed to study and analyze cultural movements throughout Africa and its diaspora with a focus on hemispheric studies in the Americas, examining black cultural movements emerging after emancipation through the present. Covering modernist movements in the US, Cuba, Brazil, and the Francophone Caribbean and moving to the Black Arts and Black Power movements, Caribbean Creolité, and Brazilian youth movements, this course considers the ways people of African descent in the Americas have used cultural productions—literature, poetry, film, music, visual art, and performance—to construct identities, agitate for equality, and to understand aesthetics as both political and beautiful. Analysis of the texts will carefully consider the historical, social, and political contexts of the cultural productions. Attention will be paid to the absence and presence of critical gender and sexual consciousness in both the formation of each cultural movement as well as the creative productions coming out of each.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 3440: THEORIZING RACE



Instructor: Shaida Akbarian
Akbarian.2@osu.edu
WF 11:10AM–12:30PM

This course will critically examine the various conceptualizations of race that have spanned from the period of Enlightenment to our current moment, and how such conceptualizations have landscaped conditions of possibility for chattel slavery, colonization, imperialism, and contemporary racialized practices. Some questions that will be of central importance include: (a) How has Enlightenment's notion of "humanity" traversed to today's liberal discourse, and how does such discourse (re)produce the racialized subject? (b) How has the discourse of modernity been able to produce and maintain a racial order? (c) In what ways is the racialized subject a necessary agent in sustaining global whiteness?

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 4551: Topics in Africana Literature
Africana Literatures: Myth, Religion & Spiritualities
#32671



Instructor: Sheneese S. Thompson
thompson.2903@osu.edu
TR 9:35AM–10:55AM

**GE: Literature; Diversity Global Studies*

This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to introduce students to Afro-Atlantic religion as it appears and is discussed in diasporic literatures. Texts will include literature—novels, short stories, drama, poetry, and comics—as well as music, music videos, film, and excerpts from television shows. Our goals will be to consider, analyze, and discuss the form, themes, and purpose of these various cultural productions in order to closely examine the narratives of black life as defined by experiences with spirituality and religion. We will look closely at the ways in which spirituality, religion, and other mythical elements mediate discussions of race, gender and sexuality, relationships, conflict, and transformation.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

**AFAMAST 4557: History of South Africa
#32718**



Instructor: Dawn Chisebe
chisebe.1@osu.edu
MW 11:10AM–12:30PM

****GE: Historical Study***

Land redistribution, the removal of monuments, immigration/migration, and governmental restructuring are some of the headlines coming out of South Africa today. Utilizing autobiographies, novels, music, videos, dance, and a rich range of historical sources, we will study the history of South Africa from 1800 through the present in order to place these headlines, and more, within their appropriate historical context. How the horrific system of apartheid impacted all in society and why its legacy continues to shape South Africa today will provide a window into the world of South Africans. Special attention will be paid to the role that women played in the centuries of struggle for freedom in the land in which Nelson Mandela became the first black leader. Topics such as poverty, inequality, and public health issues like HIV/AIDS in South Africa today will be central in our explorations.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description
AFAMAST 4565: Topics in Africana Studies
Slavery: In Fact, Fiction, and Film
#32776

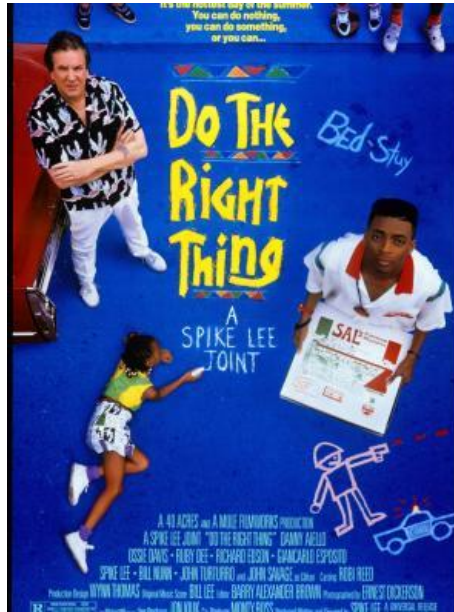


Instructor: Eric Herschthal
herschthal.1@osu.edu
TR 11:10AM–12:30PM

Films and novels about slavery have garnered significant attention in recent years. The film adaptation of Solomon Northup's *12 Years a Slave* received several Academy Awards in 2014, while the novelist Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* (2016) has met similar acclaim. Tapping into this cultural moment, this course will study six major films and novels about slavery produced recently, and over the last half century. The course will provide students with a grounding in the history of slavery and the particular historical events that inspired each work. As an interdisciplinary course, students will engage with the larger questions fictional renditions of slavery inevitably invite: What responsibility does the artist have to the historical record? What possibilities do literature and film offer that traditional history does not? Do artists have any ethical responsibilities to the descendants of enslaved communities today? Possible novels and films include: Octavio Butler's *Kindred*; Alex Haley's *Roots*; Toni Morrison's *Beloved*; Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*; Haile Gerima's *Sankofa*; James McBride's *The Good Lord Bird*; Steven McQueen's *12 Years a Slave*; Esi Edugyan's *Washington Black*; Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*; William Styron's *Confessions of Nat Turner*; Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*; and Gillo Pontecorvo's *Burn!*

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

**AFAMAST 4571: Black Visual Culture and Popular Media
#32668**



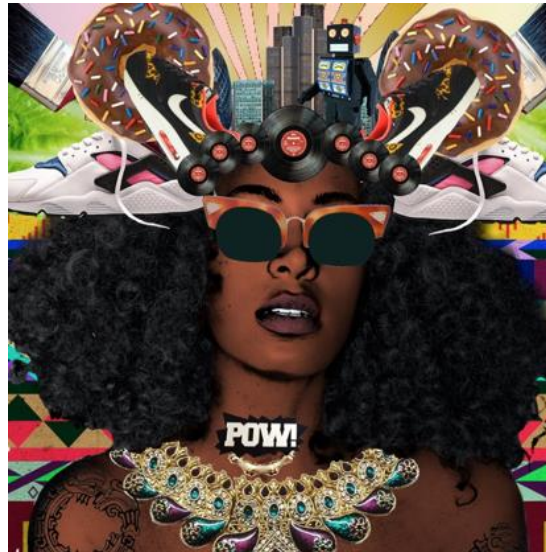
Instructor: Kenneth Goings
goings.14@osu.edu
TR 12:45PM–2:05PM

****GE: Visual Performing Arts; Social Diversity in the US***

Given the almost daily assault of violence (physical and mental) inflicted on African Americans, we will consider how white manufacturers, black activists, black and white playwrights, white TV and movie producers and directors, and black TV actors and directors have tried to intervene in the representation of black bodies in knickknacks, photos, TV shows, and movies. We will examine how these entities have sought to reinforce or trouble hegemonic ideas about subjectivity, power, justice, and gender, among other concerns.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 4571: Black Visual Culture and Popular Media
#32669



Instructor: Ioanna Kipourou
kipourou.1@osu.edu
TR 12:45PM–2:05PM

**GE: Visual and Performing Arts and Social Diversity in the US*

This course examines Black visual representations through methods and theories of critical media analysis. We will discuss how both mainstream and subcultural media create narratives of culture and socio-politics in relation to race, gender, class, agency, and subjectivity. We will track the conceptualization of blackness as “other” through visual codes, signifiers/signifieds, commodity spectacles, and racial fetishism across media technologies, genres, creators, and audiences. With an emphasis on the representation of and discourse on blackness, we will also analyze photos, TV shows, movies, cartoons, advertisements, and art.

Department of African American and African Studies

Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 7756: Theorizing Race and Ethnicity



Instructor: Kwaku Korang

korang.1@osu.edu

W 10:00AM–12:45PM

This course will implicate race and ethnicity in questions about sociohistorical relations/hierarchies and the place of power and knowledge and interest and strategy in shaping, consolidating, and transforming them. Students will be required to read and engage with key theoretical writings that are critical to the study of race and ethnicity. They will be tasked to have a grasp of the foundational histories and intellectual and cultural, social and global, heritages in which race and ethnicity are invented. As such, students will do careful and critical scrutiny of how theorists unpack the cultural/discursive/ideological meanings of race and ethnicity; make sense of social/socioeconomic structures, subject positions, and cultural and psychic identifications; and, finally, the utility of theorists' problematizing. Primarily the focus will be on the meanings, uses, abuses, and consequences of race and ethnicity as they pertain to African-descended and African peoples.

Department of African American and African Studies
Spring 2019 Course Description

AFAMAST 7759: Topics in Africana Diaspora Studies



Instructor: Ryan Skinner
skinner.176@osu.edu
R 2:15PM–5:00PM

In this class, we will explore and critically examine the idea of “Black Europe” and its intersubjective and performative expressions—in close dialogue with a variety of humanists and social scientists working within global Black Studies. The course begins with the generation of diasporans who came to Europe in the early to mid-20th century in the midst of heightened calls for decolonization and civil rights across the African world. We will then read and discuss a series of recent case studies that form the basis of an emergent and interdisciplinary “Afro-European” literature, including scholars such as Crystal Marie Fleming, Derek Pardue, Tina Campt, and Griffith Rollefson, who make the public culture of black Europe visibly, audibly, and palpably present. To complement these readings, the course will also engage with popular media, including film and music, in which still other perspectives on and arguments about the contours, subjects, and meanings of “Black Europe” may be seen, heard, and discussed.