

AAS 201/African and Diaspora Religious Traditions **1 course unit**
(occasionally)
(same as HON 220)

This course chronicles the religious traditions of African, Caribbean, Latin American, and African American people by exploring the links among indigenous African religious beliefs, values, rituals, and worldview, and the practices extent throughout the African Diaspora. The ways in which African religions have informed global preservations of an African worldview and the worldview's subsequent fusion with Africa, European and American Islam and Christianity will be emphasized.

AAS 205/African-American History to 1865 **1 course unit**
(annually)
(same as HIS 279)

An examination of the history of African Americans from their ancestral home in Africa to the end of the United States Civil War. The course encompasses introducing the cultures and civilizations of the African people prior to the opening up of the New World and exploring black contributions to America up to 1865.

AAS 206/African-American History 1865 to the Present **1 course unit**
(annually)
(same as HIS 280)

An examination of the history of African Americans from the end of slavery in the United States to the civil rights revolution of 1950s and 1960s. The course is designed to explore the history of African Americans since the Reconstruction and their contributions to the civil rights revolution of the present era.

AAS 207/Ancient and Medieval Africa **1 course unit**
(annually)
(same as HIS 251)

(formerly AAS 351 and HIS 351)

This introductory course surveys ancient and medieval African history through the eyes of male and female royalty, archaeologists, peasants, religious leaders and storytellers. While the course reconstructs the great civilizations of ancient Africa including Egypt, Zimbabwe, Mali, and others, it is not primarily focused on kings and leaders. Rather, the course explores how ordinary Africans ate, relaxed, worshiped, and organized their personal and political lives.

AAS 208 Colonial and Modern Africa **1 course unit**
(annually)

(same as HIS 252)
(formerly AAS 351 and HIS 352)

This course explores African history from 1800 up to the present. Using case studies, it will examine how wide-ranging social, political, and economic processes, the slave trade, colonial rule, African nationalism, independence, and new understandings of women's rights changed local people's lives.

AAS 210/Race, Ethnicity, Class and Gender in the English-Speaking Caribbean **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

A sociological examination of race, ethnicity, class and gender in the English-speaking Caribbean. The course seeks to understand social inequalities in the English-speaking Caribbean and the consequences of those inequities on human experiences.

AAS 211/The Caribbean: A Socio-Historical Overview 1 course unit

(occasionally)

A sociological approach to the Caribbean that uses history to explore the evolution of family, community, politics, faith, and the economy.

AAS 235/African-American Film

1 course unit

(occasionally)

(same as COM 370)

A survey of the images of African Americans as presented in American film. Emphasizes the viewing of a selected number of works which depict various types of movie-myth African Americans.

AAS 240/History of Jazz

1 course unit

(annually)

(same as MUS 245)

An introduction to the major innovators in various forms of African American music. The course will concentrate on jazz, sacred music, African American composers of classical music, and popular art forms. Field trips may be required at student expense.

AAS 251/Harlem Renaissance When In Vogue

1 course unit

(occasionally)

A survey of the philosophical, political, literary, and artistic activities and celebrated figures from the Harlem Renaissance era, 1920 to 1935.

AAS 252/Harlem Renaissance: Black Paris

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An international exploration of the Harlem Renaissance era, 1920 to 1935.

AAS 377 African-American Literature to 1920

1 course unit

(fall)

(same as LIT 377)

(formerly AAS 221 and LIT 281))

A study of selected African American Literature from the colonial period through Reconstruction, this course will build students' knowledge and confidence as readers and critics of African American culture and society in the United States. We will look at these texts through a lens focused on the effects produced by struggles with American fictions of race, class and sex and their intersections with categories of gender, ethnicity and nation. The course will also explore the canon of African American Literature, its literary tradition, and the connection to and diversions from the canon of American Letters.

AAS 378 /African-American Literature 1920-1980

1 course unit

(spring)

(same as LIT 378)

(formerly AAS 378 and LIT 282))

A study of literature in the African American tradition, focusing on the realist and naturalist writings of the this period, as well as the prose, poetry, essays and speeches of the Harlem Renaissance and Black Arts Movement. We will interrogate how the social matrices of competing definitions of black identity are reflected in and through writing produced by African Americans, while we trouble notions of authenticity, representation, and essentialism. Works by Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Lorraine Hansberry, Toni Morrison, and others will be included. The course will also explore the canon of African American Literature, its literary tradition, and the intersections with and diversions from the canon of American Letters.

AAS 280/ Women of Africa Descent in Historical Perspective **1 course unit**
(annually)

(same as WGS 260)

A global and cross-cultural survey of the lives and contributions of women of Africana ancestry. Emphasis will be placed upon the shared elements of African culture that, when impacted by colonialism and/or the Atlantic slave trade, resulted in similar types of resistance to oppression and analogous cultural expression among the women of four locales: Africa, South America and the Caribbean, and Europe. Theoretical methodologies, historical narrative, literature, demographic data, material culture, representations of self, and representations by others will be explored to illuminate/explain the: history, cultural artifacts, cultural retentions and, self concept.

AAS 281/The Sociology of Race in the US **1 course unit**
(annually)

(same as SOC 281)

A broad sociological study of race in the dynamics of American power, privilege, and oppression. The course argues race, as a concept and social phenomenon, is fluid, malleable, and socially constructed and those characteristics have made it a persistent and useful feature in US historical development.

AAS 282/History of Race Relations in the United States **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

(same as HIS 290)

A socio-historical examination of race as a category in the United States. The course approaches the United States as a multiracial society and discusses how the various racial groups negotiate their differences politically, economically, intellectually, socially, and culturally.

AAS 310/Great Lives African-American History I **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

A biographical study of notable African American contributions to, and participation in, the struggles for justice and freedom from colonial times to the present.

AAS 321/Race, Gender, and the News **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

(same as JPW 321)

Through interactive discussion, case study analysis, ongoing research, and “old-fashioned reporting,” this class explores the role and influence of the news media as it covers stories related to race, gender, and religion.

AAS 335/Caribbean Women Writers **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

(same as LIT 335)

Anglophone and English translations of Hispanophone and Lusophone writings by Caribbean women writers of African descent will be examined. Post Colonial and Africana feminist literary criticism will be used to explore the intersectionalities of race, gender, class, and sexuality on this literature as well as its connection to the writings African and other Diaspora women.

AAS 348/African-American Music **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

A survey of African-American music as a social document. The types of music discussed in the course include Negro spirituals, the work song, blues and jazz, various forms of religious music, and popular music. Field trips may be required at student expense.

AAS 353 Advanced Criminology: Race and Crime **1 course unit**
(annually)

(same as LWJ 352)

Prerequisite: LWJ 205 or permission of instructor

A critical examination of the correlation between race and crime in America. The course will focus on four major areas: race and the law, race and criminological theory, race and violent crime, and myths and facts about race and crime. Through critical examination of readings and official statistics, students will come to understand the complexity of the relationship between race and crime within the American criminal justice system and broader social context.

AAS 365/African Cinema: Francophone African Experience Through Film **1 course unit**
(annually)

(same as INT 365)

This course offers an in-depth exploration of Francophone African cinema by Africans in front of and behind the camera. Cinema, as a ideological tool, has played a major role in Africa during colonial times and after the independence of African nations. It extends the spectrum of choices for students as well as laying the foundations of African history and culture from a filmic perspective.

AAS 370/Special Topics in Africana Studies **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

Focuses on different topics of significance to Africa and the African diasporas. May be repeated as topic/instructor varies.

AAS 375/Womanist Thought **1 course unit**
(annually)

(same as WGS 365)

Prerequisites: AAS 280, WGS 280, or WGS 375, or by permission of the instructor

This course traces the evolution of feminist consciousness among Africana women. Students will trace the thoughts, social and political activism and ideologies generated by women of African ancestry from the early 19th Century free black "feminist abolitionists" to contemporary times. "Womanist," "Feminist," "Critical Race Feminist," and "Black Feminist" ideologies will be emphasized through course readings and assignments that explore the emergence and perpetuation of an Africana women's feminist consciousness.

AAS 376 African-American Women's History **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

(Same as WGS 361 and HIS 365 when topic is African American Women's History)

A study of the experience of African-American women in the United States, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Through a survey of critical time periods, key social institutions, and crystallizing experiences, the course will explicate the role of African-American women in shaping present American society. Readings, lectures, discussions, recordings and movies will be used to present a comprehensive and cohesive understanding of African-American women.

AAS 390/Advanced Research in African Studies **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

Seminar or lecture based format specific to interdisciplinary research in African and Diaspora studies.

AAS 391/Independent Study

Course units vary

(occasionally)

Individual pursuit of topics in African and/or Diaspora studies that transcends the regularly available curriculum. Faculty direction and evaluation required but not intensive mentoring.

AAS 392/Guided Study in Africana Studies

1 course unit

(occasionally)

A faculty member leading a small group of students or assisting the students in leading themselves through a shared topic.

AAS 393/Independent Research

Course units vary

(occasionally)

Intensively mentored undergraduate research in Africana studies. discipline.

AAS 477/Honors in Africana Studies

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: HON 220, HON 243, or by invitation

Special projects for those in the Honors Program and for other highly qualified students.

For more information, see the department chair.

AAS 495, 496/Senior Thesis

1 course unit each

(occasionally)

Culminating project or thesis in Africana studies.