AFRICANA STUDIES (AFRC)

AFRC 001 Introduction to Africana Studies
The aim of this course is to provide an interdisciplinary examination of the complex array of African American and other African Diaspora social practices and experiences. This class will focus on both classic texts and modern works that provide an introduction to the dynamics of African American and African Diaspora thought and practice. Topics include: What is Africana Studies?; The History Before 1492; Creating the African Diaspora After 1500; The Challenge of Freedom; Race, Gender and Class in the 20th Century; From Black Studies to Africana Studies: The Future of Africana Studies.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Beavers, Butler, Charles, Johnson, Savage, Tillet, Zuberi
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 071, RELS 007, SOCI 027
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 002 Introduction to Sociology
We live in a country which places a premium on individual accomplishments. Hence, all of you worked extremely hard to get into Penn. Yet, social factors also have an impact on life chance. This class provides an overview of how membership in social groups shapes the outcomes of individuals. We will look at a range of topics from the organizational factors which promoted racial inequality in Ferguson, Mo to the refusal of (mostly elite) parents to vaccinate their children. The experience of women and men in the labor market -- and the social factors that lead women to earn less than men -- is another interesting topic taken up in the course. Who gets ahead in America? Course requirements include a midterm, research paper (five to six pages), final and recitation activities. Students are not expected to have any previous knowledge of the topic. Welcome to the course!
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Imoagene, Zuberi
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 001
Activity: Recitation
0 Course Units

AFRC 006 Race and Ethnic Relations
The course will focus on race and ethnicity in the United States. We begin with a brief history of racial categorization and immigration to the U.S. The course continues by examining a number of topics including racial and ethnic identity, interracial and interethnic friendships and marriage, racial attitudes, mass media images, residential segregation, educational stratification, and labor market outcomes. The course will include discussions of African Americans, Whites, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Multiracials.
Taught by: Charles, Kao, Zuberi
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ASAM 006, SOCI 006, URBS 160
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 010 Freshman Seminar
This course is cross-listed with PSCI 010 (Freshmen Seminar) when the subject matter is related to African American or other African Diaspora issues. Topics vary. A recent topic is "Race, Crime, and Punishment." See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Gottschalk
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: PSCI 010
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 011 Urban Sociology
This course is a comprehensive introduction to the sociological study of urban areas. This includes more general topics as the rise of cities and theories urbanism, as well as more specific areas of inquiry, including American urbanism, segregation, urban poverty, suburbanization and sprawl, neighborhoods and crime, and immigrant ghettos. The course will also devote significant attention to globalization and the process of urbanization in less developed counties.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SOCI 011, URBS 112
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 015 Freshman Seminar in 20TH Century History
In this First Year Seminar we will use coming-of-age autobiographies to explore some of the most significant historical developments of the 20th century. By coming of age I mean autobiographies in which the author focuses primarily on the periods of childhood and adolescence into young adulthood. We will read books by people who lived during segregation in the South, the Great Depression, Japanese Internment during World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. We will consider many issues, including: race, racism, immigration, religion, social class, and gender. We will contemplate questions about identity, family, honesty, and memory. As we read each book we will examine an individual life in a particular place and time, and we will move out beyond the confines of a person, family, or town to explore the broader historical moment in which the individual lived. To make this deeper contextualization possible, the course is divided into segments that will allow us to study the historical context of the autobiography as well as engage in focused discussion of the texts themselves.
Taught by: Williams
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 104
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 017 Topics in Literature
Freshmen Seminars under the title "Topics in Literature" will afford entering students who are considering literary study, the opportunity to explore a particular and limited subject with a professor whose current work lies in that area. Topics may range from the lyric poems of Shakespeare’s period to the ethnic fiction of contemporary America. Small class-size will insure all students the opportunity to participate in lively discussions. Students may expect frequent and extensive writing assignments, but these seminars are not writing courses; rather they are intensive introductions to the serious study of literature. See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Beavers, Jaji, Tillet
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 016
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Freshmen Seminar, Arts Scholars Program

AFRC 019 AFAM Freshman Seminar
This course will introduce students to a more hemispheric understanding of the American experience, through the writings of many authors from the New World, including the United States, on what it means to be an American. Students will read texts from many genres including but not limited to poetry, film, prose, political speeches and autobiography, to come to terms with histories of native Americans, African-Americans, Latinos, and whites in the United States, as well as peoples of South America and the Caribbean. In the process students will become familiar with scholarship across the social sciences and humanities that consider issues of race, culture, nation, freedom and inequality in the Americas, and how racial slavery and the Afro-American hemispheric experience has informed multiple American visions.
Taught by: Hanchard
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 041 Homelessness & Urban Inequality
This freshman seminar examines the homelessness problem from a variety of scientific and policy perspectives. Contemporary homelessness differs significantly from related conditions of destitute poverty during other eras of our nation’s history. Advocates, researchers and policymakers have all played key roles in defining the current problem, measuring its prevalence, and designing interventions to reduce it. The first section of this course examines the definitional and measurement issues, and how they affect our understanding of the scale and composition of the problem. Explanations for homelessness have also been varied, and the second part of the course focuses on examining the merits of some of those explanations, and in particular, the role of the affordable housing crisis. The third section of the course focuses on the dynamics of homelessness, combining evidence from ethnographic studies of how people become homeless and experience homelessness, with quantitative research on the patterns of entry and exit from the condition. The final section of the course turns to the approaches taken by policymakers and advocates to address the problem, and considers the efficacy and quandaries associated with various policy strategies. The course concludes by contemplating the future of homelessness research and public policy.
Taught by: Culhane
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 041, URBS 010
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This freshmen seminar is cross-listed with URBS 010 when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. A recent topic is "Homelessness and Urban Inequality." See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.

AFRC 050 World Musics and Cultures
This course examines how we as consumers in the "Western" world engage with musical difference largely through the products of the global entertainment industry. We examine music cultures in contact in a variety of ways—particularly as traditions in transformation. Students gain an understanding of traditional music as live, meaningful person-to-person music making, by examining the music in its original site of production, and then considering its transformation once it is removed, and recontextualized in a variety of ways. The purpose of the course is to enable students to become informed and critical consumers of "World Music" by telling a series of stories about particular recordings made with, or using the music of, peoples culturally and geographically distant from the US. Students come to understand that not all music downloads containing music from unfamiliar places are the same, and that particular recordings may be embedded in intriguing and controversial narratives of production and consumption. At the very least, students should emerge from the class with a clear understanding that the production, distribution, and consumption of world music is rarely a neutral process.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Muller, Rommen
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFST 050, ANTH 022, FOLK 022, MUSC 050
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
AFRC 056 South Africa: Contemporary Performance
The course begins with four two-hour online classes that provide an overview of South African music, dance, and theater beginning two weeks before the festival. Students will be expected to post to blogs and discussion forums about course materials, audio, video, and readings—provided online prior to leaving for South Africa. These blogs and discussion materials will be fully integrated into the online lectures. The Grahamstown Festival includes a wide range of events: we will focus on South African jazz, gospel, and art music, with some discussion of dance and theater. All students will be required to post daily to blogs and discussion forums while at the Festival. The class will conclude with two days of discussion, synthesis, and a final essay.
Taught by: Muller
Course usually offered summer term only
Also Offered As: AFST 056, COML 056, MUSC 056
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 070 Colonial Latin America
This course provides an introduction to the broad literature on Latin America's rich colonial history. We will begin by tracing some of the early origins of - and points of contact between - the Indian, Iberian, and African men and women who formed the basis of colonial society. As the course progresses, we will explore the variety of ways in which colonial subjects lived, worked, ate, worshipped and socialized. Lectures and reading assignments will draw upon a variety of sources, including court cases, artistic renderings, city maps and street plans, travel accounts of visits to the region, and the material, cultural, and intellectual products made possible by the wealth and dynamism of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The course will conclude with an analysis of the Age of Revolutions, a period of dramatic upheaval that remains at the center of lively scholarly debates. By the end of the semester, students will be able to engage the key questions driving these debates, the most important of which, perhaps, is: what is Latin America's colonial legacy?
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Farnsworth-Alvear, Walker
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 070, LALS 070
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills History Tradition Distribution Requirement

AFRC 071 Literatures of Africa and the African Diaspora
This course explores an aspect of the literature of Africa and the African Diaspora; specific course topics will vary from year to year. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 071, ENGL 071
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 075 Africa Before 1800
Survey of major themes and issues in African history before 1800. Topics include: early civilizations, African kingdoms and empires, population movements, the spread of Islam, and the slave trade. Also, emphasis on how historians use archaeology, linguistics, and oral traditions to reconstruct Africa's early history.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Babou
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFST 075, HIST 075
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

AFRC 076 Africa Since 1800
Survey of major themes, events, and personalities in African history from the early nineteenth century through the 1960s. Topics include abolition of the slave trade, European imperialism, impact of colonial rule, African resistance, religious and cultural movements, rise of naturalism and pan-Africanism, issues of ethnicity, and “tribalisms” in modern Africa.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Cassanelli
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFST 076, HIST 076
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

AFRC 077 Jazz Style and History
This course is an exploration of the family of musical idioms called jazz. Attention will be given to issues of style development, selective musicians, and to the social and cultural conditions and the scholarly discourses that have informed the creation, dissemination and reception of this dynamic set of styles from the beginning of the 20th century to the present.
Taught by: Ramsey
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: MUSC 035
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 078 Faculty-Student Collaborative Action Seminar in Urban University-Community Relations
A primary goal of the seminar is to help students develop proposals as to how a Penn undergraduate education might better empower students to produce, not simply “consume,” societally-useful knowledge, as well as function as caring, contributing citizens of a democratic society.
Please note new location of the class: The Netter Conference Room is on 111 South 38th Street, on the 2nd floor. Among other responsibilities, students focus their community service on college and career readiness at West Philadelphia High School and Sayre High School. Students are typically engaged in academically based community service learning at the schools for two hours each week.
Taught by: Harkavy
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 173, URBS 178
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 079 Literatures of Jazz
That modernism is steeped as much in the rituals of race as of innovation is most evident in the emergence of the music we have come to know as jazz, which results from collaborations and confrontations taking place both across and within the color line. In this course we will look at jazz and the literary representations it engendered in order to understand modern American culture. We will explore a dizzying variety of forms, including autobiography and album liner notes, biography, poetry, fiction, and cinema. We'll examine how race, gender, and class influenced the development of jazz music, and then will use jazz music to develop critical approaches to literary form. Students are not required to have a critical understanding of music. Class will involve visits from musicians and critics, as well as field trips to some of Philadelphia's most vibrant jazz venues. Topics vary. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Beavers
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 080
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 080 Introduction to American Literature
A consideration of outstanding literary treatments of American culture from its beginnings until the dawn of the 20th century. Works read generally include autobiographies and travel accounts as well as fiction and poetry.
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course is cross-listed with ENGL 080 (Introduction to American Literature) when the course content is related to Afro-American issues. Topics vary. Consult the Center for Africana Studies for a detailed course description.

AFRC 081 African-American Literature
This introduction to African American literature will begin with contemporary, groundbreaking texts such as Claudia Rankines Citizen: An American Lyric and Toni Morrison's A Mercy. These twenty-first century texts will lead us to the questions about freedom, beauty, struggle, pleasure, and resistance that shape the origins of African American literature. The course will be shaped around circles of influence (not a linear mapping of a literary tradition). These circles of the changing same become the art of flow, layering, and rupture. We will dive into the multidirectional flow of slave narratives/neo-slave narratives/black modernism/black postmodernism/black respectability politics/black radicalism, and mastery of form/deformation of mastery. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Beavers, Davis, Tillet
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 081, GSWS 081, MUSC 082
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 090 Intro to Art
Topics Vary. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Du Bois Shaw
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 100
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: For Freshmen only

AFRC 101 Study of an Author
This is an introduction to literary study through the works of a single author—often Shakespeare, but some versions of this course will feature other writers. We will read several works and approach them—both in discussion and in writing—from a range of critical perspectives. The author's relation to his or her time, to literary history generally, and to the problems of performance, the likely to be emphasized. Some versions of this course will also serve as an introduction to other members of the English faculty, who will visit the class as guest lecturers. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Davis
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 101, GSWS 101
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 106 Study of a Literary Period
This is an introduction to literary study through a survey of works from a specific historical period. Some versions will begin with traditional stories or poems, including a sampling of works in translation. Others will focus exclusively on modern and contemporary American short fiction or poetry. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Davis
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 104, ENGL 104
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 112 Discrimination: Sexual and Racial Conflict
This course is concerned with the structure, the causes and correlates, and the government policies to alleviate discrimination by race and gender in the United States. The central focus of the course is on employment differences by race and gender and the extent to which they arise from labor market discrimination versus other causes, although racial discrimination in housing is also considered. After a comprehensive overview of the structures of labor and housing markets and of nondiscriminatory reasons (that is, the cumulative effects of past discrimination and/or experiences) for the existence of group differentials in employment, wages and residential locations, various theories of the sources of current discrimination are reviewed and evaluated. Actual government policies and alternatives policies are evaluated in light of both the empirical evidence on group differences and the alternative theories of discrimination.
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Madden
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: GSWS 114, SOCI 112
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
AFRC 114 Poetry Writing Workshop
This workshop is intended to help students with prior experience writing poetry develop techniques to generate poems along with the critical tools necessary to revise and complete them. Through in-class exercises, weekly writing assignments, readings of established poets, and class critique, students will acquire an assortment of resources that will help them develop a more concrete sense of voice, rhythm, metaphor, and the image as well as a deeper understanding of how these things come together to make a successful poem. In addition to weekly writings, students will be asked to keep a journal, and to produce a final portfolio of poems.
Taught by: Beavers
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: ENGL 113
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course is not open to freshmen. Students wishing to take this course must submit a writing sample as part of the selection process.

AFRC 115 Religious Ethics and Modern Society
Religious beliefs of Malcolm X and MLK formed their social action during the Civil Rights for African Americans. This seminar will explore the religious biographies of each leader, how religion shaped their public and private personas, and the transformative and transgressive role that religion played in the history of the Civil Rights movement in the United States and abroad. Students in this course will leave with a clearer understanding of religious beliefs of Christianity, The Nation of Islam, and Islam, as well as religiously based social activism. Other course emphases include the public and private roles of religion within the context of the shaping of ideas of freedom, democracy, and equality in the United States, the role of the “Black church” in depicting messages of democracy and freedom, and religious oratory as exemplified through MLK and Malcolm X. See Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Butler
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RELS 112
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 117 African American Religion
The unique history and experiences of African Americans can be traced through religion and belief. Through the mediums of literature, politics, music, and film, students will explore the religious experiences of peoples of the African Diaspora within the context of the complex history of race in American history. The course will cover a broad spectrum of African American religious experience including Black Nationalism, urban religions, the “black church” and African religious traditions such as Santeria and Rastafarianism. Special attention will be paid to the role of race, gender, sexuality, and popular culture in the African American religious experience.
Taught by: Butler
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 016, RELS 117
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 120 Social Statistics
This course offers a basic introduction to the application/interpretation of statistical analysis in sociology. Upon completion, you should be familiar with a variety of basic statistical techniques that allow examination of interesting social questions. We begin by learning to describe the characteristics of groups, followed by a discussion of how to examine and generalize about relationships between the characteristics of groups. Emphasis is placed on the understanding/interpretation of statistics used to describe and make generalizations about group characteristics. In addition to hand calculations, you will also become familiar with using PCs to run statistical tests.
Taught by: Charles
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 120
Activity: Recitation
0 Course Units

AFRC 121 Writing for Children
We will read our favorite kids’ books, determine the kinds of books we love to read and write, and then write them, aiming at a clear voice appropriate to the story, and as much order or misrule as each writer’s kid-muse demands. For inspiration, we’ll visit the Maurice Sendak Collection at the Rosenbach Museum and Library and have a nostalgia wallow in the kids’ section at the library. Then students write, fast-fast, drafts of stories to workshop, mull and revise. Yes, fun is required. For sure we’ll critique, but first we’ll try to outrun our interior grown-up! Workshopping happens first with student writer colleagues, and then with the real kids in schools, through our partner West Philadelphia Alliance for Children. Reading to children will give student writers a chance to hear where children laugh, see where they look scared, or notice when they begin to fidget. Returning with revisions will be a promise fulfilled, and an important marker in the literary life of everyone involved. Our class will act as a team of editors, then, to submit stories and illustrations by authors and/or kids-on the upcoming website, SafeKidsStories.org.
Taught by: Cary
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 121
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course is not open to freshmen. Students wishing to take this course must submit a writing sample as part of the selection process. May be repeated for credit with a different instructor.
AFRC 134 Creative Non-Fiction Writing
This class is designed to advance students' writing practice, discipline, and workshop and critiquing skills. Student writers will create non-fiction narrative in several forms: blogs, memoir, interviews, Q&As, essays. We will play with promotion, video, and social marketing, even grant proposals, advertisements, public service announcements, queries, and photo captions-all the forms that writers actually use throughout careers of deep reflection followed by hustle-and-pitch. The class will act as an editorial group for SafeKidsStories.org, a site to be launched in the fall of 2015. The idea is to depict safety with the specificity and drama that we usually reserve for conflict. Your writing will explore Big Questions about the social, emotional, relational and physical structures that affect our children and youth; your research, interviews, reporting, and experience will discover and share solutions. If we do the job right, we will shine a light on people in our midst creating structures of safety for kids in an era of fear. If we make it fun to read, look at, and listen to, too, then, like a few historic college courses that participate substantively in their communities, we'll be on our way to stealth culture change.
Taught by: Cary
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 135
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 135 Law and Society
After introducing students to the major theoretical concepts concerning law and society, significant controversial societal issues that deal with law and the legal systems both domestically and internationally will be examined. Class discussions will focus on issues involving civil liberties, the organization of courts, legislatures, the legal profession and administrative agencies. Although the focus will be on law in the United States, law and society in other countries of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America will be covered in a comparative context. Readings include research, reports, statutes and cases. 
Taught by: Fetni
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 135
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 140 Elementary Zulu I in Residence
This elementary course is for beginners and it requires no prior knowledge of Zulu. The course will expose students to the Zulu language and culture and will be based in the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning. Students will be engaged in communicative language learning through interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of language learning techniques. They will gain knowledge and understanding of the Zulu culture. They will use their Zulu language and culture learning experience to connect with other disciplines and further their knowledge of these disciplines through perspectives acquired from their Zulu class. They will also develop insight into the nature of language and culture through comparisons of the Zulu language and culture and their own. Through movies, songs, and other cultural activities online students will acquire the natural use of the language which will enable them to acquire linguistic and cultural skill to become life-long learners who can participate in Zulu communities in the U.S. and overseas.
Taught by: Mbeje
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFST 140
Activity: Lecture
0.05 Course Units
Notes: OBJECTIVE: Attainment of Level 1 (ceiling) in speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills on the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) scale.

AFRC 147 Studies in African American Music
This course explores aspects of the origins, style development, aesthetic philosophies, historiography, and contemporary conventions of African-American musical traditions. Topics covered include: the music of West and Central Africa, the music of colonial America, 19th century church and dance music, minstrelsy, music of the Harlem Renaissance, jazz, blues, gospel, hip-hop, and film music. Special attention is given to the ways that black music produces "meaning" and to how the social energy circulating within black music articulates myriad issues about American identity at specific historical moments. The course will also engage other expressive art forms from visual and literary sources in order to better position music making into the larger framework of African American aesthetics.
Taught by: Ramsey
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FOLK 106, MUSC 235
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 167 THE NEW AFRICAN DIASPORA: AFRICAN IMMIGRANT LIVES IN WEST PHILADELPHIA
This seminar will examine the experiences of recent African immigrants and refugees in Philadelphia in an historical framework. We will employ a variety of sources-newspapers, census data, legal briefs, literature and film, and diaspora internet sites-to explore the lives, aspirations, and perceptions of Philadelphia's African residents. There will be opportunities for dialogue with high school students, teachers, and parents; with representatives of African community and business organizations; and with local government and service agencies. Students will be required to do a final project which involves volunteering with an African immigrant non-profit or business and/or conducting focused research on specific African communities in Philadelphia.
Taught by: Cassanelli
Also Offered As: AFST 167, HIST 167, URBS 167
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 168 History of American Law to 1877
This course surveys the development of law in the U.S. to 1877, including such subjects as: the evolution of the legal profession, the transformation of English law during the American Revolution, the making and implementation of the Constitution, and issues concerning business and economic development, the law of slavery, the status of women, and civil rights.
Taught by: Berry
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 168
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 169 History of American Law Since 1877
This course covers the development of legal rules and principles concerning individual and group conduct in the United States since 1877. Such subjects as regulation and deregulation, legal education and the legal profession, and the legal status of women and minorities will be discussed.
Taught by: Berry
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 169
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 170 Elementary Yoruba I
This Elementary Yoruba I course can be taken to fulfill a language requirement, or for linguistic preparation to do research on Nigeria and the diaspora/Africa-related topics. The course emphasizes communicative competence to enable the students to acquire linguistic and extra-linguistic skills in Yoruba. The content of the course is selected from various everyday life situations to enable the students to communicate in predictable common daily settings. Culture, as it relates to language use, is also part of the course content. Students will acquire the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills at the mid-high novice level, based on the ACTFL scale. The mid-high novice level proficiency skills that the students will acquire constitute threshold capabilities of the second semester range of proficiency to prepare students for Elementary Yoruba II course materials.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Awoyale
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFST 170, AFST 517
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 171 Elementary Yoruba II
The main objective of this course is to further sharpen the Yoruba linguistic knowledge that the student acquired in level I. By the end of the course, the student should be able to (1) read, write, and understand simple to moderately complex sentences in Yoruba; and, (2) advance in the knowledge of the Yoruba culture.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Awoyale
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 517, AFST 171, AFST 518
Prerequisites: Completion of Elementary Yoruba I, or permission of instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 172 The American South
This course will cover southern culture and history from 1607-1860, from Jamestown to secession. It traces the rise of slavery and plantation society, the growth of Southern sectionalism and its explosion into Civil War.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Hahn
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 170
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

AFRC 175 Society and Culture of Brazil
With its booming economy, the recent inauguration of its first female president, and its selection as host to the 2012 World Cup and Olympic games, Brazil is growing in global prestige. But amid all these exciting developments are devastating socioeconomic inequalities. Access to safe living conditions, livable wages, higher education, and overall social mobility remain painfully out of reach to many Brazilians, the majority of whom are the descendants of slaves. Why do these problems persist in a country that has had such an enduring and widespread reputation as a "racial democracy"? What are the possibilities of closing the equality gap in Brazil?
Taught by: Walker
Also Offered As: HIST 175, LALS 175
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 176 Afro-American History 1550-1876
This course will study the history of African-Americans from their first encounter with Europeans in the 16th century to their emancipation during the Civil War. This course will concentrate on the variety of black responses to capture, enslavement, and forced acculturation in the New World, the difference in the slave experience of various New World countries, and the methods of black resistance and rebellion to varied slave systems will be investigated. The nature and role of the free black communities in antebellum America will also be studied.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Akins, Williams
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: HIST 176
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 177 Afro-American History 1876 to Present
A study of the major events, issues, and personalities in Afro-American history from Reconstruction to the present. The course will also examine the different slave experiences and the methods of black resistance and rebellion in the various slave systems.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Harris, Savage
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 177
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
AFRC 180 Elementary Swahili I
The elementary Swahili course can be taken to fulfill a language requirement, or for linguistic preparation to do research on East Africa/Africa-related topics. The course emphasizes communicative competence to enable the students to acquire linguistic and extra-linguistic skills in Swahili. The content of the course is selected from various everyday life situations to enable the students to communicate in predictable common daily settings. Culture, as it relates to language use, is also part of the course content. Students will acquire the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills at the mid-high novice level, based on the ACTFL scale. The mid-high level proficiency skills that the students acquire constitute threshold capabilities of the second semester range of proficiency to prepare students for Elementary Swahili II course materials.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Mshomba
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFST 180, AFST 580
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 181 Elementary Swahili II
This course continues to introduce basic grammar, vocabulary, and the reading and writing of Swahili to new speakers. During this term, folktales, other texts, and film selections are used to help introduce important aspects of Swahili culture and the use of the language in wide areas of Africa.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Bolger
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFST 181, AFST 581
Prerequisites: Completion of Elementary Swahili I, or permission of instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 190 Introduction to Africa
This course provides an introduction to the study of Africa in all its diversity and complexity. Our focus is cultural, geographical, and historical: we will seek to understand Africa’s current place in the world political and economic order and learn about the various social and physical factors that have influenced the historical trajectory of the continent. We study the cultural formations and empires that emerged in Africa before European colonial invasion and then how colonialism reshaped those sociocultural forms. We’ll learn about the unique kinds of kinship and religion in precolonial Africa and the changes brought about by the spread of Islam and Christianity. Finally, we’ll take a close look at contemporary issues such as ethnic violence, migration, popular culture and poverty, and we’ll debate the various approaches to understanding those issues.
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Hasty
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFST 190, ANTH 190
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 209 African Art
This selective survey will examine a variety of the circumstances of sub-Saharan African art, ranging from imperial to nomadic cultures and from ancient times to contemporary participation in the international market. Iconography, themes and style will be considered, as well as questions of modernity, religious impact, tradition and colonialism.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 209, ARTH 209
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 218 Race, Racism and American Law
The goal of this course is to study the role the law has played, and continues to play, in addressing the problems of racial discrimination in the United States. Contemporary issues such as racial profiling, affirmative action, and diversity will all be covered in their social and legal context. The basis for discussion will be assigned texts, articles, editorials and cases. In addition, interactive videos will also be used to aid class discussion. Course requirements will include a term paper and class presentations.
Taught by: Anderson
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: LGST 218
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 222 African Women’s Lives: Past and Present
Restoring women to African history is a worthy goal, but easier said than done. The course examines scholarship over the past forty years that brings to light previously overlooked contributions African women have made to political struggle, religious change, culture preservation, and economic development from pre-colonial times to the present. The course addresses basic questions about changing women’s roles and human rights controversies associated with African women within the wider cultural and historical contexts in which their lives are lived. It also raises fundamental questions about sources, methodology, and representation, including the value of African women’s oral and written narrative and cinema production as avenues to insider perspectives on African women’s lives.
Taught by: Blakley
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 221, GSWS 222
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 225 African Languages and Culture
The aim of the course is to provide an overall perspective on African languages and linguistics. No background in linguistics is necessary. Students will be introduced to theoretical linguistics—its concepts, theories, ways of argumentation, data collection, data analysis, and data interpretation. The focus will be on the languages and linguistics of Africa to provide you with the knowledge and skills required to handle the language and language-related issues typical of African conditions. We will cover topics related to formal linguistics (phonology/phonetics, morphology, syntax, and semantics), aspects of pragmatics as well as the general socio-linguistic character of African countries. We will also cover language in context, language and culture, borrowing, multilingualism, and cross-cultural communication in Africa.
Taught by: Mbeje
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFST 225
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
AFRC 230 Special Topics in Sociology
Topics vary. Recent courses offered include "Africana Urbanization," Race Relations in American Cities," and "Sociology of the Black Community."
SPRING 2015: Race, Science and Society - What is the role of the life sciences in shaping our understanding of race? How has racial stratification influenced scientists and how have scientists constructed racial difference and helped to maintain or contest racial inequities in society? This seminar draws on an interdisciplinary body of biological and social scientific literature to explore the connections between race, science, and society in the United States from the eighteenth century to the current genomic age. After laying a historical foundation, we will focus on the recent expansion of genomic research and technologies that treat race as a biological category that can be identified at the molecular level, including race-specific pharmaceuticals, commercial ancestry testing, and racial profiling with DNA forensics. We will discuss the significance of this increase in race consciousness in genomic research and technology at a time when colorblindness and post-racialism are gaining popularity. Students will investigate further specific topics related to race, genetics, and biotechnologies in their research papers.
Taught by: Charles, Zuberi, Roberts
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 533, SOCI 230, SOCI 530
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course is cross-listed with SOCI 430 (Special Topics in Sociology) when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues.

AFRC 231 Cinema Francophone
This course will introduce students to recent films by major directors from Francophone Africa. While attention will be given to aesthetic aspects and individual creativity, the viewing and discussions will be mostly organized around a variety of (overlapping) themes: History; Tradition/Modernity; Urban Life; Gender and Sexuality; Politics. Class conducted in French.
Taught by: Moudileno
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 231, CIMS 210, FREN 231
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 232 Race and Ethnic Politics
This course examines the role of race and ethnicity in the political discourse through a comparative survey of recent literature on the historical and contemporary political experiences of the four major minority groups (Blacks or African Americans, American Indians, Latinos or Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans). A few of the key topics will include assimilation and acculturation seen in the Asian American community, understanding the political direction of Black America in a pre and post Civil Rights era, and assessing the emergence of Hispanics as the largest minority group and the political impact of this demographic change. Throughout the semester, the course will introduce students to significant minority legislation, political behavior, social movements, litigation/court ruling, media and various forms of public opinion that have shaped the history of racial and ethnic minority relations in this country. Readings are drawn from books and articles written by contemporary political scientists.
Taught by: Gillion
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PSCI 231
Activity: Lecture
0 Course Units

AFRC 235 Law and Social Change
Beginning with discussion of various perspectives on social change and law, this course then examines in detail the interdependent relationship between changes in legal and societal institutions. Emphasis will be placed on (1) how and when law can be an instrument for social change, and (2) how and when social change can cause legal change. In the assessment of this relationship, emphasis will be on the laws of the United States. However, laws of other countries and international law relevant to civil liberties, economic, social and political progress will be studied. Throughout the course, discussions will include legal controversies relevant to social change such as issues of race, gender and the law. Other issues relevant to State-Building and development will be discussed. A comparative framework will be used in the analysis of this interdependent relationship between law and social change.
Taught by: Fetni
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 235
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 237 Undergrad Research Sem
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 240 Elementary Amharic I
The Elementary Amharic I course can be taken to fulfill a language requirement, or for linguistic preparation to do research on Ethiopia/Africa-related topics. The course emphasizes communicative competence to enable the students to acquire linguistic and extra-linguistic skills in Amharic. The content of the course is selected from various everyday life situations to enable the students to communicate in predictable common daily settings. Culture, as it relates to language use, is also part of the course content. Students will acquire the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills at the mid-high novice level, based on the ACTFL scale. The mid-high novice level proficiency skills that the students will acquire constitute threshold capabilities of the second semester range of proficiency to prepare students for Elementary Amharic II course materials.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hailu
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 540, AFST 240, AFST 540, NELC 481
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 241 Elementary Amharic II
Continuation of Elementary Amharic I.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hailu
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 541, AFST 241, AFST 541, NELC 482
Prerequisites: Completion of Elementary Amharic I, or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center
AFRC 242 Intermediate Amharic I
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hailu
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 543, AFST 242, AFST 543, NELC 483
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 243 Intermediate Amharic II
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Zemichael
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 544, AFST 243, AFST 544, NELC 484
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 247 Advanced Amharic
An advanced Amharic course that will further sharpen the learner's communicative skills in the Amharic language and the culture of the Amharas. The learner's communicative skills will be further developed through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There will also be discussions on cultural and political issues.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Zemichael
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 548, AFST 247, AFST 547
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 252 Human Rights
Sociology provides a unique way to look at human behavior and the world. We live in a world of diverse and conflicting values in which human rights and respect for human dignity have provided a platform for convergence. One important instance of such convergence has been the development of international norms prohibiting genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. While there is agreement on fundamental principles as reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, differences in interpretation remain. A platform for convergence requires the engagement of a number of constituencies, in particular, state and inter-state entities, corporations, civil society and individuals, as well as the mutual reinforcement of their rights and duties. This course will critically cover the history, practice and social significance of human rights.
Taught by: Zuberi
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SOCI 252
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 258 Caribbean Music and Diaspora
This course considers Caribbean musics within a broad and historical framework. Caribbean musical practices are explored by illustrating the many ways that aesthetics, ritual, communication, religion, and social structure are embodied in and contested through performance. These initial inquiries open onto an investigation of a range of theoretical concepts that become particularly pertinent in Caribbean contexts—concepts such as post-colonialism, migration, ethnicity, hybridity, syncretism, and globalization. Each of these concepts, moreover, will be explored with a view toward understanding its connections to the central analytical paradigm of the course—diaspora. Throughout the course, we will listen to many different styles and repertoires of music ranging from calypso to junkanoo, from rumba to merengue, and from dance hall to zouk. We will then work to understand them not only in relation to the readings that frame our discussions but also in relation to our own North-American contexts of music consumption and production.
Taught by: Rommen
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ANTH 256, LALS 258, MUSC 257, MUSC 258
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 268 Contemporary Issues in the African Society
This course will deal with law and society in Africa. After surveying the various legal systems in Africa, the focus will be on how and to what extent the countries of Africa “re-Africanized” their legal systems by reconciling their indigenous law with western law and other legal traditions to create unified legal systems that are used as instruments of social change and development. Toward this end, the experiences of various African countries covering the various legal traditions will be included. Specific focus will be on laws covering both economic and social relations. This emphasis includes laws of contracts and civil wrongs, land law, law of succession, marriage and divorce and Africa’s laws of International Relations, among other laws. Throughout this course a comparative analysis with non-African countries will be stressed.
Taught by: Imoagene, Zuberi
Also Offered As: AFST 268, SOCI 268
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 269 Constitutional Law: Public Power & Civil Rights to 1912
This course explores the creation and transformations of the American constitutional system’s structures and goals from the nation’s founding through the period of Progressive reforms, the rise of the Jim Crow system, and the Spanish American War. Issues include the division of powers between state and national governments, and the branches of the federal government; economic powers of private actors and government regulators; the authority of governments to enforce or transform racial and gender hierarchies; and the extent of religious and expressive freedoms and rights of persons accused of crimes. We will pay special attention to the changing role of the Supreme Court and its decisions in interpreting and shaping American constitutionalism, and we will also read legislative and executive constitutional arguments, party platforms, and other influential statements of American constitutional thought.
Taught by: Smith
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: PSCI 271
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit
AFRC 270 Intermediate Yoruba I
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Awoyale
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFST 270, AFST 529
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 271 Intermediate Yoruba II
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Awoyale
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 534, AFST 271, AFST 532
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 276 African American Life and Culture in Slavery
This course will examine the lives of enslaved African Americans in the United States, both in the North and the South. We will engage historiographical debates, and tackle questions that have long concerned historians. For example, if slaves were wrenched from families and traded, could they sustain family relationships? If slaves worked from sun-up until sun-down, how could they create music? We will engage with primary and secondary sources to expand our understandings of values, cultural practices, and daily life among enslaved people. Topics will include: literacy, family, labor, food, music and dance, hair and clothing, religion, material culture, resistance, and memories of slavery. Several disciplines including History, Archaeology, Literature, and Music, will help us in our explorations. Written, oral, and artistic texts for the course will provide us with rich sources for exploring the nuances of slave life, and students will have opportunities to delve deeply into topics that are of particular interest to them.
Taught by: Williams
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HIST 274
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course will also count as the AFRC 176 requirement for the AFRC major.

AFRC 280 Intermediate Swahili I
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Mshomba
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFST 280, AFST 582
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 281 Topics in African American Literature
In this advanced seminar, students will be introduced to a variety of approaches to African American literatures, and to a wide spectrum of methodologies and ideological postures (for example, The Black Arts Movement). The course will present an assortment of emphases, some of them focused on geography (for example, the Harlem Renaissance), others focused on genre (autobiography, poetry or drama), the politics of gender and class, or a particular grouping of authors. Previous versions of this course have included "African American Autobiography," "Backgrounds of African American Literature," "The Black Narrative" (beginning with eighteenth century slave narratives and working toward contemporary literature), as well as seminars on urban spaces, jazz, migration, oral narratives, black Christianity, and African-American music. See Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Beavers, Davis, Jackson, Tillet
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 281
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Spaces will be reserved for English Majors.

AFRC 282 Intermediate Swahili II
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Mshomba
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFST 281, AFST 583
Prerequisites: Intermediate Swahili 1, or permission of Instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 284 Advanced Swahili I
This is an advanced Kiswahili course which will engage learners in extended spoken and written discourse. Advanced learners of Kiswahili will listen to, read about, write, and speak on authentic video materials, contemporary novels, and newspapers. They will also participate in various discussions on cultural and political issues.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Mshomba
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFST 284, AFST 584
Prerequisites: AFST 280, LING 280, AFRC280 or permission of Instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 285 Advanced Swahili II
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Mshomba
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFST 285, AFST 586
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center
AFRC 294 Facing America
This course explores the visual history of race in the United States as both self-fashioning and cultural mythology by examining the ways that conceptions of Native American, Latino, and Asian identity, alongside ideas of Blackness and Whiteness, have combined to create the various cultural ideologies of class, gender, and sexuality that remain evident in historical visual and material culture. We will also investigate the ways that these creations have subsequently helped to launch new visual entertainments, including museum spectacles, blackface minstrelsy, and early film, from the colonial period through the 1940s.
Taught by: Shaw
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 274, ARTH 674, ASAM 294, CIMS 293
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 303 Undergraduate Seminar
Topic varies. This course is cross-listed with ARTH 301 (Undergraduate Seminar) when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Shaw
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 310
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course is cross-listed with RELS 310 (Religious Diversity in America) when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. A recent topic is Religious Diversity and Social Change in West Philadelphia.

AFRC 307 Race, Science and Justice
This course draws on an interdisciplinary body of biological and social scientific literature to explore critically the connections between race, science, and justice in the United States, including scientific theories of racial inequality, from the eighteenth century to the genomic age. After investigating varying concepts of race, as well as their uses in eugenics, criminology, anthropology, sociology, neuroscience, and medicine, we will focus on the recent expansion of genomic research and technologies that treat race as a biological category that can be identified at the molecular level, including race-specific pharmaceuticals, commercial ancestry testing, and racial profiling with DNA forensics. We will discuss the significance of scientific investigations of racial difference for advancing racial justice in the United States.
Taught by: Roberts
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 307
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 308 Religious Diversity in America
SPRING 2017 TOPIC: American Jesus - Images and beliefs about Jesus have always been a compelling part of American life. This course seeks to examine the social, political, religious and artistic ways that Jesus has been appropriated and used in American life, making him a unique figure for exploring American religious life. Special attention will be given to how Jesus is used to shape social and political concerns, including race, gender, sexuality, and culture. See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Butler
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 310
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Undergraduate Major Preference

AFRC 310 Sustainable Development in Ghana
This course is mandatory for students participating in the International Development Summer Institute (IDSI). IDSI is a service learning and training program for undergraduates that provides students with the opportunity to have an applied learning and cultural experience in Ghana. The program consists of 5 weeks of pre-program preparation at Penn and a 4-week long training program on the campus of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana. More Info: http://www.seas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/service-learn/idsi/index.php
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: Participation in the International Development Summer Institute (IDSI)
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 315 Africa, Decolonization, and Internationalism
In 1955, delegates from the Gold Coast, which would soon become the independent nation of Ghana, attended the first large-scale Afro-Asian conference alongside representatives from Indonesia, India, China, and other nations. The Bandung Conference is just one example of the importance of international linkages in the era of decolonization. This course will address decolonization in Africa within an international context and examine how African nationalism was forged in an interconnected world. Students will learn how African political thinkers engaged with, contributed to, and were shaped by intercontinental currents of thought, including Pan-Africanism, Pan-Arabism, communism, socialism, and the Non-Aligned Movement.
Taught by: Weitzberg
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 369
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
AFRC 320 Transoceanic Encounters: East Africa and the Indian Ocean
East Africa has been linked culturally, economically, and politically to the wider Indian Ocean world for centuries. In historical scholarship, the Indian Ocean is often portrayed in overly romanticized terms as a hybrid, cosmopolitan space. This course, which brings together some of the best work on East Africa and the Indian Ocean, will provide a more nuanced view of the region. By critically examining a variety of primary and secondary sources (including novels, photography exhibits, music, and historical texts), students will learn about the legacies of slavery, conquest, and inequality as well as the ways in which the region became a space of multicultural exchange and intercontinental interaction. We will explore the idea of African diasporas in their plurality and examine whether the theoretical tools used to study the Atlantic World can be applied to the Indian Ocean.
Taught by: Weitzberg
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 374
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 321 Understanding African Conflict
The end of colonial rule was the springboard for the start of cold wars in various regions of Africa. Where peace could not be maintained violence erupted. Even where secession has been attained, as in the new country of South Sudan, the threat of civil war lingers. While domestic politics have led to the rise of armed conflicts and civil wars in many African countries, the external factors should also not be ignored. Important in all current conflicts is the concern to international peace and security. Overall this course will: (1) investigate the general nature of armed conflicts in Africa (2) provide in-depth analysis of the underlining factors (3) and discuss the regional and the international responses to these conflicts and their implications. Special emphasis will be placed upon African conflicts and civil wars in: great Lakes area, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.
Taught by: Ali-Dinar
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 322 American Slavery and the Law
In this course, we will work both chronologically and thematically to examine laws, constitutional provisions, and local and federal court decisions that established, regulated, and perpetuated slavery in the American colonies and states. We will concern ourselves both with change over time in the construction and application of the law, and the persistence of the desire to control and sublimate enslaved people. Our work will include engagement with secondary sources as well as immersion in the actual legal documents. Students will spend some time working with Mississippi murder cases from the 19th century. They will decipher and transcribe handwritten trial transcripts, and will historicize and analyze the cases with attention to procedural due process as well as what the testimony can tell us about the social history of the counties in which the murders occurred. The course will end with an examination of Black Codes that southern states enacted when slavery ended.
Taught by: WILLIAMS
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 322
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 324 Dress and Fashion in Africa
Throughout Africa, social and cultural identities of ethnicity, gender, generation, rank and status were conveyed in a range of personal ornamentation that reflects the variation of African cultures. The meaning of one particular item of clothing can transform completely when moved across time and space. As one of many forms of expressive culture, dress shape and give forms to social bodies. In the study of dress and fashion, we could note two distinct broad approaches, the historical and the anthropological. While the former focuses on fashion as a western system that shifted across time and space, and linked with capitalism and western modernity; the latter approach defines dress as an assemblage of modification the body. The Africanist proponents of this anthropological approach insisted that fashion is not a dress system specific to the west and not tied with the rise of capitalism. This course will focus on studying the history of African dress by discussing the forces that have impacted and influenced it overtime, such as socio-economic, colonialism, religion, aesthetics, politics, globalization, and popular culture. The course will also discuss the significance of the different contexts that impacted the choices of what constitute an appropriate attire for distinct situations. African dress in this context is not a fixed relic from the past, but a live cultural item that is influenced by the surrounding forces.
Taught by: Ali-Dinar
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: ANTH 342, ARTH 324
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 325 Performance in the African Diaspora
The purpose of this course is to engage students in the rigorous process of mining experiences for material that can be transformed into a public performance piece. In-class writing, group discussions, and field work in the Philadelphia area. AUGUST WILSON AND BEYOND. The people need to know the story. See how they fit into it. See what part they play. - August Wilson, King Hedley II. In this seminar, students will read groundbreaking playwright August Wilson's 20th Century Cycle: ten plays that form an iconic picture of African American traumas, triumphs, and traditions through the decades, told through the lens of Pittsburgh's Hill District neighborhood. Other readings include supporting material on Wilson's work and African American theatre, the works of contemporary playwrights whom Wilson has influenced (such as Suzan-Lori Parks and Tarell Alvin McCraney), and context on Penn's relationship with West Philadelphia. As an Academically Based Community Service (ABCS) course, this seminar gives students the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the plays, and history and culture that shaped them, by forming meaningful relationships with West Philadelphia residents. Wilson's plays provide the bridge between the two groups. The course culminates with students writing an original theatre piece inspired by the readings and relationships, which they will share at an end-of-semester performance.
Taught by: Beavers, Berger
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 380
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Formerly AFRC 309. Writing Out Loud.
AFRC 326 Theories in Gender and Sexuality Studies
FALL 2015: QUEER VALUES - What are queer cultural experiences and values? Many academics and social movements have noted that the radical aspirations of queer theory and activism not only disrupt but also shore up neoliberal ideologies. In this course students will explore the historical co-emergence of queer cultures and neoliberalism by examining the promises and pitfalls of queer politics over the past quarter century. The coining of queer theory by Theresa de Lauretis in 1990 was intended as a disruptive joke. Its provocation resided in joining queer, an appropriation of street slang bandied about among New York City activists and artists in the 1980s, to theory, the passport of privilege in academic life. The irreverence of her joke exemplifies a central ethic of queer experience that renders palpable the tensions between margins and centers. The course will traverse scholarship from economic and queer anthropology, history, sociology & science studies, philosophy, political theory and literary studies. This wide survey of literature will allow students to develop an understanding of the political and economic processes that have conditioned the emergence of queerness as a diverse range of ethical commitments in particular sociocultural contexts globally. Students will investigate the affective dimensions of the emergence of queer theory, studies and activism within the United States and elsewhere in the context of global neoliberal social reforms. The course is split into four units: 1) In the Place of Queer Origins; 2) Queer Values; 3) Queer Circulations and Subjectivities; and 4) Queer Temporalities.
Taught by: Keirbeck
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: GSWS 326
Prerequisites: A prior course in gender, sexuality and women's studies.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 335 "Where My Girls At?": African American Women Performers in The 20th Century
African American women performers from blues woman Bessie Smith to Paris revue star Josephine Baker, from jazz darling Billie Holiday to rock legend Tina Turner, and from hip hop giant Lauryn Hill to millennial star Beyoncé, have constantly redefined and expanded American popular music. Using the long 20th century as our historical marker, this course will explore how African American women performers, across genres and time, have consciously and sometimes contradictorily navigated the racial and sexual limits of American popular culture in order to assert their own particular narratives of artistic and political freedom.
Taught by: Tillet
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: ENGL 281, GSWS 336
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 345 Race and Sex in Early America
This course explores the lost worlds of sinners, witches, sexual offenders, rebellious slaves, and Native American prophets from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. Using the life stories of unusual individuals from the past, we try to make sense of their contentious relationships with their societies. By following the careers of the trouble-makers, the criminals, and the rebels, we also learn about the foundations of social order and the impulse to reform that rocked American society during the nineteenth century.
Taught by: Brown
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: GSWS 345, HIST 345
Activity: Lecture
0 Course Units

AFRC 346 Gender in Modern American History
This course explores how immigration, industrialization, racial segregation, and the growing authority of science transformed the fundamental conditions of women’s lives in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Building on previous efforts by female reformers to perfect society, women at the turn of the century organized large social movements dedicated to improving the lives of women and children and gaining public access to political power. We will examine the fruits of this activism as well as the consequences of subsequent events for the rise of several important social movements in the latter half of the century -- including civil rights, women’s liberation, and gay rights -- in which women played a vital role. The course concludes with an assessment of feminism in the present day, with special emphasis on the responses of younger women to its legacy.
Taught by: Brown, Peiss
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: GSWS 346, HIST 346
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

AFRC 352 Topics In 19th-Century American Literature
This course explores an aspect of 19th-Century American literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 353
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Formerly ENGL 383. Benjamin Franklin Seminar

AFRC 371 Topics in the Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora
This course explores an aspect of the literature of Africa and the African Diaspora intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 371
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Benjamin Franklin Seminar

AFRC 372 Africa & the Mid-East
This seminar will explore the historical relationship between these two regions from the early modern age to the present. We will examine the history of trade, particularly the slave trade, and its cultural and political legacy. We will compare the experiences of European imperialism—how the scramble for Africa dovetailed with the last decades of the Ottoman Empire—with an eye to how this shaped nationalist movements in both regions. The course will also explore the decades of independence with a special eye towards pan-Africanism and pan-Arabism. We will also study the ramifications of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the relationship between African and Middle-Eastern countries, from Uganda to Ethiopia, from OPEC to Darfur. This course will pay close attention to migrations through the regions, whether forced or economic or religious. Whenever possible we will explore, through film and literature, how people in Africa and the Middle East see their connections, and their differences.
Taught by: Eve Troutt Powell, Young
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFST 373, HIST 371, HIST 412
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 381 Topics in African American Literature
In this advanced seminar, students will be introduced to a variety of approaches to African American literatures, and to a wide spectrum of methodologies and ideological postures (for example, The Black Arts Movement). The course will present an assortment of emphases, some of them focused on geography (for example, The Harlem Renaissance), others focused on genre (autobiography, poetry or drama), the politics of gender and class, or a particular grouping of authors. Previous versions of this course have included "African American Autobiography," "Backgrounds of African American Literatures," "The Black Narrative" (beginning with eighteenth century slave narratives and working toward contemporary literature), as well as seminars on urban spaces, jazz, migration, oral narratives, black Christianity, and African-American music. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 381
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Benjamin Franklin Seminar

AFRC 387 Topics in Africana Studies
Topics vary: Black Feminist Approaches to History & Memory - The term black feminism emerged in public discourse amid the social, political, and cultural turbulence of the 1960s. The roots of black feminism, however, are much older, easily reaching back to the work of black women abolitionists and social critics of the nineteenth century. The concept continued to grow and evolve in the work of twentieth century black women writers, journalists, activists, and educators as they sought to document black women's lives. Collectively, their work established black feminism as a political practice dedicated to the equality of all people. More recently, black feminism has been deployed as a tool for theoretical and scholarly analysis that is characterized by an understanding that race, class, gender, and sexuality are inextricably interconnected. Using materials such as slave narratives, social criticism, and archival sources, this course will explore the theoretical and practical applications of black feminist thought in nineteenth and twentieth century North American culture and politics. In particular, we will consider the symbols and practices (storytelling, myth-making, art, archival research) that black women use to document lives. We will ask: how do these methods of documentation inform our understanding of the past and the production of historical knowledge? How can we understand black feminism as both theory and practice? And what are the implications of black feminist approaches for current research and scholarship? We will give particular attention to concepts such as gender, race, memory, the archive, and embodied knowledge to complicate our understanding of historical documentation, epistemology, and authenticity. The course material will include scholarship by Harriet Jacobs, Audre Lorde, Saidiya Hartman, Hazel Carby, Herschyl Young, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Toni Morrison, and others. (Image: From In Praise of Shadows, Kara Walker (2009).
Taught by: Osuji, Sanders-Johnson, Willis
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COMM 387, GSWS 387, HIST 387, LALS 387, SOCI 340
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 391 Survey Francophone Literature
A brief introduction about the stages of French colonialism and its continuing political and cultural consequences, and then reading in various major works --novels, plays, poems -- in French by authors from Quebec, the Caribbean, Africa (including the Maghreb), etc. of interest to majors in International Relations, Anthropology and African Studies as well as majors in French. Taught in French.
Taught by: Moudileno
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 390, FREN 390
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 392 Topics in Cinema Studies
This topics course explores aspects of Cinema Studies intensively.
Specific course topics vary from year to year. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 389, CIMS 392, COML 391, ENGL 392, SLAV 392
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 400 Seminar in Africana Studies
This course is an examination and analysis of the changing images and achievements of African Americans in motion pictures and television. The first half of the course focuses on African-American film images from the early years of D.W. Griffith's "renegade bucks" in The Birth of a Nation (1915); to the comic servants played by Steppin Fetchit, Hattie McDaniel, and others during the Depression era; to the post-World War II New Negro heroes and heroines of Pinky (1949) and The Defiant Ones (1958); to the rise of the new movement of African American directors such as Spike Lee (Do the Right Thing), Julie Dash (Daughters of the Dust), Charles Burnett, (To Sleep With Anger) and John Singleton (Boyz N the Hood). The second half explores television images from the early sitcoms "Amos n' Andy" and "Beulah" to the "Cosby Show," "Fresh Prince of Bel Air," and "Martin." Foremost this course will examine Black stereotypes in American films and television--and the manner in which those stereotypes have reflected national attitudes and outlooks during various historical periods. The in-class screenings and discussions will include such films as Show Boat (1936), the independently produced "race movies" of the 1930s and 1940s, Cabin in the Sky (1943), The Defiant Ones (1958), Imitation of Life (the 1959 remake) & Super Fly (1972).
Taught by: Bogle
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 370
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 431 Advanced Special Topics in Sociology
This course is cross-listed with SOCI 430 (Advanced Topics in Sociology) when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. Recent courses offered include "Race, Colonialism and Methods," "Residential Segregation," and Race, Space and Inequality. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Charles, Zuberi
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 630, SOCI 430, SOCI 630
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 433 Social Movement
Social movements and political protest have become some of the most effective tools for citizens and non-citizens to influence the political system. This course is designed to introduce students to the theoretical and methodological approaches taken in understanding these behaviors. Analyzing social movements that range from civil discontent to contentious political protest, the course will address a variety of questions: What is the origin of movement behavior and why do individuals turn to these actions in lieu of simply engaging in institutional modes of political action such as voting? What were the strategies of these movements? What are the political conditions that allow social movements to resonate with the American public? In addition to addressing these topics, this course surveys the policy successes of major social and political movements. From the Civil Rights and Women's Right Movement to the recent 2010 Tea Party movement, this course explores the various public policies that have resulted from citizens' protest actions. While state-level and local-level government responsiveness will be addressed, special attention will be given to how political protest influences public policy in all three branches of the federal government.
Taught by: Gillion
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: PSCI 433
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 435 Modern Presidency & Race
This seminar is designed to serve as a "capstone" experience for advanced undergraduates interested in American politics. It exposes students to some of the issues currently being studied and debated by the leading scholars in the field. For each topic we will read works that take competing or opposing positions on an issue; for example we will examine the current controversy over the causes and consequences of divided government. Students will write a research paper analyzing one of the debates.
Taught by: GILLION
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PSCI 434
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 436 Africana Studies Undergraduate Seminar
Taught by: Johnson
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 437 Race & Criminal Justice
This seminar analyzes the connection between race, crime, punishment, and politics in the United States. The primary focus is on the role of race in explaining why the country’s prison population exploded since the early 1970s and why the United States today has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Topics to be covered include: the early history of race in the development of the criminal justice system, including an examination of lynchings and the convict-leasing system; the relationship between the crime rate, patterns of offending and arrests, and the incarceration rate; public opinion and "law-and-order" politics; U.S. penal policies compared with other industrialized countries; capital punishment; the growth of the prison-industrial complex; the "war on drugs"; the courts, prisoners’ rights, and political prisoners; felon disenfranchisement, elections, and democracy; and the future of penal reform. The class will take field trips to a maximum-security jail in Philadelphia and to a state prison in the Philadelphia suburbs. This seminar is intended for both advanced undergraduates and graduate students.
Taught by: Gottschalk
Also Offered As: AFRC 638, PSCI 437, PSCI 638
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 450 Black France: History and Representations
This class will focus on the rich history of the African, African-American and Caribbean presence in France. The seminar will enable students to gain a better understanding of the multifarious connections that have historically not only shaped national identities, but also served to establish the Black Atlantic as a site of cultural exchange and subject formation, particularly as pertains to the period extending from the end of the nineteenth-century to the present time. In particular, we will look at individual and collective migrations including World War soldiers, African-American expatriate writers and performers, Pan-African intellectuals, and workers from the former Empire. This will allow us to both document the historical significance of the various and complex contributions made by these select groups and people, and to examine the modalities of their representation within the evolving French society. Ultimately, the course is designed to investigate the idea of "blackness" from a European perspective, while relating it to wider debates about race and multiculturalism in a global context.
Taught by: Moudelino
Also Offered As: FREN 490
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 480 Liberation and Ownership
Who is going to own what we all have a part of creating? The history of the Americas, and of all peoples everywhere, is an evolving answer to the question of ownership. Ownership is about: the ties that bind and those that separate; the creation of community and the imposition of hierarchies; the dream of home ownership and ecological despoliation; dependency and the slave yearning to breathe free. Of all the issues relevant to democracy, oppression, and economic injustice, ownership is arguably the most important and least understood. Utilizing a variety of disciplinary perspectives, and by focusing on particular global sites, students will assess and refine their views regarding ownership in light of their own social, political, religious, and/or ethical commitments. Taught by: Lamas
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: URBS 480
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 491 African Language Tutorial - Elementary II
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFST 491
Prerequisite: Permission of Penn Language Center
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through Penn Language Center

AFRC 493 African Language Tutorial - Intermediate II
Continuation of AFST 492
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFST 493
Prerequisite: Permission of Penn Language Center
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 495 African Language Tutor: Adv II
Continuation of AFST 494.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFST 495
Prerequisite: Permission of Penn Language Center
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 497 Language & Culture II
Continuation of AFST 496
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFST 497
Prerequisites: Permission of Penn Language Center.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 517 Elementary Yoruba II
The main objective of this course is to further sharpen the Yoruba linguistic knowledge that the student acquired in level I. By the end of the course, the student should be able to (1) read, write, and understand simple to moderately complex sentences in Yoruba; and (2) advance in the knowledge of the Yoruba culture.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Awoyle
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 171, AFST 171, AFST 518
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through Penn Language Center

AFRC 522 Psychology of the African-American
Using the Afro-centric philosophical understanding of the world, this course will focus on psychological issues related to African Americans, including the history of African American psychology, its application across the life span, and contemporary community issues. Taught by: Stevenson
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EDUC 522
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 524 INEQUALITY AND RACE POLICY
Taught by: Gillion
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PSCI 535
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 527 Advanced Seminars in Africana Studies
SPRING 2017: Market Women, Madames, Mistresses & Mother Superior studies gender, labor, sexuality, and race in the Caribbean. In our historical examination of primary source documents alongside literature, and popular media, we will question some of the iconic representations of Caribbean and Latin American women in order to understand the meaning, purpose and usages of these women’s bodies as objects of praise, possession, obsession and/or ridicule by communities, governments and religions within and outside of the region. Beginning in the late-18th century and ending with contemporary migration narratives, this course considers the relationship between slave society and colonial pasts on gender performance in the modern Caribbean, Latin America, and their diasporas. Taught by: Sanders Johnson
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GSWS 527, HIST 660, LALS 527
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 528 Advanced Topics
This course is cross-listed with SWRK 528 (Advanced Topics) when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. Recent topics include, "Religion, Youth and Popular Culture" and "Anxious Identities." See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 530, SWRK 798
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 533 Advanced Selected Topics
This course is cross-listed when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. Courses recently offered are, "Political Culture and American Cities, Social Movements and Social Change, Critical Race Theory. See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings. This course brings together the vantage points of urban political economy, history and urban anthropology. Readings and discussions will cross those literatures, folding in considerations of race, ethnicity and gender in the American city life, with a focus on the relation between culture and political economy. We will reconstruct the history of the different tracks of urban studies in the U.S., beginning with its roots in sociology and anthropology in the Chicago School and in political science in reform-oriented studies of public administration. We will revisit the community power debate of the 1950s-1970s, which shook out significantly along disciplinary lines, and will examine the development of the urban political economy perspective in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as developments within U.S. urban anthropology since the 1960s. We will employ local case study materials, and at every point we will try to understand the intellectual trajectories of the urbanist discourses in relation to dynamics contemporaneously shaping urban politics and policy. Course requirements are seminar preparation which includes each student’s leading discussion around specified reading assignments – and a research paper, the topic of which must be approved by week 5.
Taught by: Charles, Zuberi, Reed, Roberts
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 230, LALS 530, PSCI 534, SOCI 530
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 534 Intermediate Yoruba II
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Awoyale
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 271, AFST 271, AFST 532
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through Penn Language Center

AFRC 540 Elementary Amharic I
An introductory course for students with no previous knowledge of Amharic. Amharic belongs to the southern branch of Hemit-Semitic languages which is also referred to as "Afrasian." Amharic is the official language of Ethiopia and is spoken by 14 million native Amharas and by approximately 19 million of the other ethnic groups in Ethiopia. The goals of this course are to introduce students to the culture, customs, and traditions of the Amharas. Students will develop communicative skills through listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hailu
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 240, AFST 240, AFST 541, NELC 481
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 541 Elementary Amharic II
Continuation of Elementary Amharic I.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hailu
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 241, AFST 241, AFST 541, NELC 482
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

AFRC 543 Intermediate Amharic I
Offered through the Penn Language Center
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hailu
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 242, AFST 242, AFST 543, NELC 483
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 544 Intermediate Amharic II
Offered through the Penn Language Center
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Hailu
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 243, AFST 243, AFST 544, NELC 484
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

AFRC 545 Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Current and Historical Issues
Students taking this course will learn about the historical context of HBCUs in educating African Americans, and how their role has changed since the late 1800’s. Students will also be expected to connect financial, societal, and/or economic connections between the role of HBCUs past and present. Specific contemporary challenges and success related to HBCUs that will be covered relate to control, enrollment, accreditation, funding, degree completion, and outreach/retention programming. Students will become familiar with HBCUs in their own right, as well as in comparison to other postsecondary institutions.
Taught by: Gasman
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EDUC 543
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 547 Topics in Religion
Religions of the African Diaspora - Religion shapes and defines the lives of many persons in the Africans Diaspora. This course will explore both the historical and present day manifestations of religions practices by those in the African Diaspora, including Voodoo, Candomble, Obeah, Rastafari, African Initiated Churches, Pentecostalism, and Catholicism. Theoretical issues including sexuality, gender, and material culture will also be covered in the course.
Taught by: Butler
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RELS 501
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 570 Topics in Afro-American Literature

"To be a Negro in this country and to be relatively conscious" wrote James Baldwin "is to be in a state of rage almost all the time. " While more attention has been paid to how other feelings like forgiveness or love have been the moral underpinnings to African American social movements, this class makes an effort to look at the history of and value this more difficult but equally important African American cultural expression of black rage, one that is often maligned as a destructive and subject to hyper-surveillance and suppression. We will take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding this phenomenon by looking at the discourse surrounding events like Nat Turner’s rebellions, Stonewall, the Attica Uprising, and Black Lives Matter, historicizethe construction of "black rage" as a medical disorder and legal defense, studyits offshoots, like "protest psychosis" and the "Angry Black Woman," and examine how artists as vast as Richard Wright, Nina Simone, Alice Walker, Glen Ligon, Public Enemy, Kara Walker, and Solange have explored it as a site of black resistance. Focusing on one of the most misunderstood African American political emotions -- black rage -- this course will examine how artists have steadily moved it from the margins of black life into the mainstream in American culture.

Taught by: Beavers, Tillet
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 573, ENGL 570, GSWS 570
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 587 Race, Nation, Empire

This graduate seminar examines the dynamic relationships among empires, nations and states; colonial and post-colonial policies; and anti-colonial strategies within a changing global context. Using the rubrics of anthropology, history, cultural studies, and social theory, we will explore the intimacies of subject formation within imperial contexts - past and present - especially in relation to ideas about race and belonging. We will focus on how belonging and participation have been defined in particular locales, as well as how these notions have been socialized through a variety of institutional contexts. Finally, we will consider the relationships between popular culture and state formation, examining these as dialectical struggles for hegemony.

Taught by: Thomas
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: ANTH 587
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 590 Recent issues in Critical Theory

Topics vary. This course is a critical exploration of recent literary and cultural theory, usually focusing on one particular movement or school, such as phenomenology, psychoanalysis, the Frankfurt School, or deconstruction. See Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offering.

Taught by: Jaji
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 590, ENGL 590
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 591 Francophone Postcolonial Studies

SPRING 2016: This seminar will introduce key authors and issues in Francophone studies through texts that specifically focus on various experiences of war in colonial and postcolonial contexts. Significantly, the first piece of fiction by an African author may well be Bakary Diallo’s Force Bonte, (1926), the autobiographical story of a WWI Senegalese Tirailleur, physically deformed by his war experience and trying to through his writing. While Force Bonte is unique as an early piece, similar narratives have not ceased to proliferate in French and Francophone fiction. Indeed, writers from all over the former French Empire have repeatedly offered fictional accounts of colonial subjects’ involvement in European wars, and especially WWII, with various degrees of ambivalence. As conflicts and genocides continue, the experience of war fuels a new wave of Francophone accounts at the turn of the twenty-first century. We will use an extensive diachronically and synchronically developed reading (and viewing) list of texts and films from Senegal, Congo, Rwanda, Guinea, Algeria, Martinique, Mauritius, and (Metropolitan) France from the 1920s to 2014. Using this material as the basis for our exploration we will address several questions: What are some of the important tropes deployed in these narratives and how do they relate to broader issues concerning colonial and postcolonial violence? How do the wars of others (e.g. WWI and WWII) complicate the experience of war and questions of engagement and solidarity? How do such experiences lay the groundwork for other wars, of liberation, for example? Finally how does war impact the articulation of memory, survival and writing in colonial contexts, in the postcolony, and in the European Metropole? Primary texts in French. Class discussion in French or English.

Taught by: Moudileno
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 560, FREN 590, FREN 591
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: An introduction to major literary movements and authors from five areas of Francophonie: the Maghreb, West Africa, Central Africa, the Caribbean and Quebec.
AFRC 594 POST-COLONIALISM LITERATURE
Writing in 2001, literary critic Jahan Ramazani introduced his study The Hybrid Muse by noting that unlike authors of fiction, the achievements of postcolonial poets have been strangely neglected. In this course we will consider whether and why that may be changing, focusing on Africana poets from the Caribbean and Africa. We will begin by considering Isidore Okpewho’s influential study of oral poetry and myth in Africa, and then move chronologically through a set of weekly readings likely to include Nicolas Guillen (Cuba), Aime Cesaire (Martinique), Leopold Senghor (Senegal), Okpot Bitek (Uganda), Chris Okigbo (Nigeria), Kofi Awoonor (Ghana), Kamau Braithwaite (Trinidad), Derek Walcott (St. Lucia), David Dabydeen (Guyana/UK), Dionne Brand (Trinidad/Canada), Julia de Burgos (Puerto Rico), M. NourbeSe Philip (Tobago/Canada) and Chris Abani (Nigeria/US). Among the broad questions we will consider are why women’s voices appear to be underrepresented, how oral poetic traditions and translation inflect this body of work, the grounds of comparison across African and Caribbean spaces, and the particular contributions of poets who are also critics. The reading list may be adjusted to address interests of seminar members, and prospective students are welcome to send suggestions for particular authors, readings, or units to Tsitsi Jaji. This is an introductory-level graduate class, open to advanced undergraduate majors by permission. No particular background knowledge is expected. Assignments will consist of weekly response papers, an in-class presentation, and a choice of a final conference-style paper (10-12pp) or syllabus.

Taught by: Jaji
Also Offered As: ENGL 595
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 610 Topics in American History
This course is cross-listed with HIST 610 (Colloquium in American History) when the subject matter is related to African American, African, or other African Diaspora issues. See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.

Taught by: Savage
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 610
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 617 Theories of Racial and Ethnic Differentiation
This course provides an overview of prominent theories of race and ethnicity, and is concerned with 1) Understanding the nature and persistence of race and ethnicity as meaningful social groupings in contemporary American society, and 2) Explaining the social significance of these group identities— that is, how these groupings are related to social stratification, to socio-cultural relations, and to the political and economic dynamics in American society. Special attention will also be given to such topics as immigration and the intersection of gender, race, and class.

Taught by: Charles
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SOCI 617
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 630 Advanced Special Topics in Sociology
DEMOGRAPHY OF RACE: This course examine demographic and statistical methods used to capture of impact of racial stratification in society. This course covers the skills and insights used by demographers and social statisticians in the study of racial data. A key challenge facing researchers is the interpretation of the vast amount of racial data generated by society. As these data do not directly answer important social questions, data analysis and statistics must be used to interpret them. The course will examine the logic used to communicate statistical results from racial data in various societies. We will question the scientific claims of social science methodology by extending the critical perspective to biases that may underlie research methods. We will discuss good practices within the context of the historical development of the methods.

Taught by: Zuberi
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 431, DEMG 630, SOCI 430, SOCI 630
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

Notes: This course is cross-listed with SOCI 630 (Advanced Topics in Sociology) when the subject matter is related to African American or other African Diaspora issues. A frequent topic of this course is “Race, Colonialism and Methods”

AFRC 638 Race and Criminal Justice
This advanced seminar analyzes the connection between race, crime, punishment, and politics in the United States. The primary focus is on the role of race in explaining why the country’s prison population increased six-fold since the early 1970s and why the United States today has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Topics to be covered include: the early history of race in the development of the criminal justice system, including an examination of lynchings and the convict-leasing system; the relationship between the crime rate, patterns of offending and arrests, and the incarceration rate; public opinion and law-and-order politics; U.S. penal policies compared with other industrialized countries; capital punishment; the growth of the prison-industrial complex; the “war on drugs”; the courts, prisoners’ rights, and political prisoners; felon disenfranchisement, elections, and democracy; and the future of penal reform. This seminar is designed for advanced undergraduates, as well as graduate students. The readings and assignments will be adjusted accordingly for graduate students. The class will likely take field trips to a maximum-security jail in Philadelphia and to a state prison in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Taught by: Gottschalk
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 437, PSCI 437, PSCI 638
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 640 Proseminar in Africana Studies
This course focuses on the historical and cultural relationship between Africans and their descendants abroad.

Taught by: Beavers, Butler, Charles, Rommen, Savage, Thomas, Williams, Zuberi
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Also Offered As: ANTH 640, COMM 740, MUSC 705, RELS 617
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
AFRC 641 Topics in African American History  
Topics vary. See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.  
Taught by: Williams, Savage  
Course usually offered in spring term  
Also Offered As: HIST 641  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  

AFRC 645 Graduate Research Seminar  
SPRING 2017: This seminar is suitable for graduate students in any discipline in which historical research may be relevant. We will work with both secondary and primary sources, and students will have the opportunity to visit and undertake research in an archive.  
Taught by: Williams  
One-term course offered either term  
Also Offered As: AFST 650, HIST 650  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  

AFRC 650 Topics in African History  
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in African history.  
Taught by: Babou, Cassanelli  
Also Offered As: AFST 650, HIST 650  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  

AFRC 670 Topics in Trans Regional History  
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Transregional History See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.  
Comparative Slavery and Emancipation: What do historians gain by approaching the past with an awareness of the body as a material and historically contingent entity? In this course we consider several different ways of imagining historical bodies and the body in history. Our readings will explore how events and new social, racial, economic and political formations influence how contemporaries imagined and described bodies and their capacities. We will also explore whether the body itself might be a dynamic source of historical change. Among the topics we will discuss are: medical theories about bodies, epidemics and their impact; sensory capacities; capacities for physical labor; cultures of violence; reproductive capacities and politics; coerced migration; fashion, beauty, and grace; and the state’s interest in mobilizing bodies to serve imperial, economic, and military agendas. This course complements but does not duplicate "Race and Gender in Comparative Perspective" offered in Spring 2012. It is an intensive readings course with written assignments: short papers throughout the semester and a synthetic final paper.  
Taught by: Brown  
One-term course offered either term  
Also Offered As: ARTH 501, GSWS 670, HIST 670  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  

AFRC 705 Seminar in Ethnomusicology  
This course is cross-listed with MUSC 705 (Seminar in Ethnomusicology) when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. Recent courses offered include "Reading Women in Jazz," "Popular Music and the Ethics of Style in the Caribbean," "Music and Tourism in the Caribbean," and "Imagining Africa Musically." See the Africana Studies Department’s course list at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offering.  
Taught by: Muller, Rommen  
Course usually offered in fall term  
Also Offered As: AFST 705, ANTH 705, FOLK 715, MUSC 705  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  

AFRC 706 Introduction to Africa and African Diaspora Thought  
This course examines the processes by which African peoples have established epistemological, cosmological, and religious systems both prior to and after the institution of Western slavery.  
One-term course offered either term  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  

AFRC 708 Cultural and Literary Theory of Africa and the African Diaspora  
This course introduces students to the theoretical strategies underlying the construction of coherent communities and systems of representation and how those strategies influence the uses of expressive culture over time. Topics vary. See the Africana Studies Department’s website at https://africana Studies.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.  
One-term course offered either term  
Also Offered As: COML 708, ENGL 775, FREN 700  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  

AFRC 710 Political Economy and Social History of Africa and the African Diaspora  
This course provides the opportunity for students to investigate the relationship between the emergence of African peoples as historical subjects and their location within specific geopolitical and economic circumstances. Topics vary. FALL 2017: FASCISM AND RACISM: A LOVE STORY- What is the relationship between fascism and racism in modern politics, and how have black political thinkers and organizations understood this relationship? This graduate level course is designed to familiarize students with the historical and contemporary literature on fascism as a phenomena of modern politics, and the importance of racial politics and ideologies to its constitution. Students will become familiar with the contributions of Black political actors, organizations and thinkers in Europe, Africa, Asia and the New World to fascism’s defeat in the 1920’s and 1930’s, as well as more contemporary efforts to curb more contemporary fascist movements, regimes and aesthetics in late modernity. Antonio Gramsci, Robert Paxton, Michael Mann, C.L.R. James, George Padmore, Aime Cesaire, Suzanne Cesaire and Hannah Arendt are among the thinkers, theorists and activists students will encounter in this course. The overarching aim of his course is to identify fascism in both historical and contemporary contexts as a very specific form of political organization and rule, and its interrelationship with racism, nationalism and xenophobia.  
Taught by: Hanchard, Zuberi  
Two terms. student must enter first term.  
Also Offered As: COML 710, HIST 710, LALS 710, PSCI 711, SOCI 702  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit
AFRC 712 Comprehensive School Reform as Applied Public Policy
This course examines how K-12 education policy is designed and implemented in the United States. It uses a systems analysis as the framework for looking at who makes what kinds of demands on the education policy system, how these demands are placed on the policy agenda, the decision making process, and resulting education policies and policy outcomes. The course pays particular attention to the roles of federal, state and local governments in education policy, and the impact of our intergovernmental system on the design and implementation of policy. Students will also examine major education policies and debate key education policy issues that arise at each level of government.
Taught by: Hershberg
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EDUC 712
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 720 Graduate Prospectus and Grant-Writing Seminar
Taught by: Williams
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Graduate student must be "All but dissertation" (ABD).

AFRC 770 Afro-American American Literature
How does Elizabeth Alexanders poem Praise Song for the Day, written for the inauguration of Barack Obama, relate to Amiri Barakas 9/11 poem Somebody Blew America? This seminar will explore the unnaming and experimentation that shape African American literature and theory in the early years of the 21st century. Frameworks of the seminar will include the post-9/11 novel, the poetics of the black, black abstraction, twenty-first century practices of the black diaspora Age of Obama turn to the satirical. Critical texts such as How to See a Work Total Darkness and Abstractionist Aesthetics will be as central as cutting edgetexts such as The Psychic Hold of Slavery and signature essays such as On Failing to the Past Present. This course will focus on the new literary voices that have the 21st century and, also, writers whose 21st century art is the late stage or literary trajectory. Special attention will be given to Toni Morrison, Colson Whitehead, Octavia Butler, Claudia Rankine, Mat Johnson, and Paul Beatty.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 773, ENGL 770
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 771 Seminar in Afro-American Music
This seminar treats selected aspects of the history, aesthetics, criticism and historiography of African-American music. Topics vary. See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Ramsey
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FOLK 770, MUSC 770
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 777 Special Topics
This course is cross-listed with SOCI 777 (Special Topics) when the subject matter is related to African American or other African Diaspora issues. Topics vary: See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of current offerings.
Taught by: Zuberi, Bonilla-Silva
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SOCI 777
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

AFRC 798 Advanced Topics
This course is cross-listed with SWRK 798 (Advanced Topics) when the subject matter is related to African, African American, or other African Diaspora issues. Recent topics are "Difference" and Social Policy, and "Critical Race Theory." See the Africana Studies Department's website at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SWRK 798
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit