

Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS)

Fall 2021 Undergraduate Courses

RE = Race and Ethnicity Requirement Course

HU = Humanities Distribution Requirement Course

SS = Social Sciences Distribution Requirement Course

ID = Interdisciplinary Distribution Requirement Course

ULWR = Upper-Level Writing Requirement Course

comparative: fulfills 300-level comparative requirement for DAAS major and minor

DAAS-In-Action: fulfills capstone “DAAS-In-Action” course requirement for DAAS major and minor

AAS 103	Prof. Klein	<p>“Reconsidering African Environments”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What popular narratives shape the way we think about environmental issues in Africa? Where do these narratives come from, what do they do, and what do they miss? • keywords: environment, (neo)colonialism, power, politics, development, climate conflicts, resource curse, blood diamonds, biodiversity conservation, land grabs 	SS
AAS 103	Prof. Stein	<p>“Reading Africa: Critical Perspectives on Popular Development Books”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What insights can we gain from studying a selection of popular books on Africa that claim to understand the historical and contemporary patterns of African socioeconomic development? • keywords: international aid, colonialism, global integration, economic growth, poverty, inequality, ethnicity 	SS
AAS 103	Prof. Ashforth	<p>“South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did a relatively small number of Europeans and people of European descent manage to exercise dominance over a much larger African population for so long, ultimately creating a country known as “South Africa” and a racist system of White domination known as “Apartheid”? How did the struggle for liberation manage to overcome apartheid? What kind of state is emerging in post-apartheid South Africa? • keywords: Apartheid; Race; Racism; Liberation; South Africa; Democracy 	SS
AAS 104	Prof. Zaborowska	<p>“Black Lives and Life Writing: How We Tell Stories About Ourselves”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we tell stories about our individual experience in this turbulent moment of our national history? How can we learn from the stories that African American writers have been telling us since the 19th century? 	HU

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keywords: life writing, autobiography, memoir, #Black Lives Matter, literature, race, aesthetics, ethics 	
AAS 104	Prof. Walker	<p>“African American Foodways”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who decides what is authentic African American food? What motivates their choices, what gets left out, and why? • keywords: cultural tradition, food studies, food activism, class, urban gardens, public health, advertisement, food industry, regionalism, American culture 	HU
AAS 104	Prof. Ellsworth	<p>“Nonviolence: From Montgomery to the World”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the Civil Rights Movement teach us about why some forms of protest succeed and others fail? • keywords: sit-ins, Diane Nash, SNCC, Freedom Rides, Selma, Bernard Lafayette, Estonia, Tank Man, CeaseFire Chicago 	HU
AAS 104	Prof. Deese	<p>“Black Atlantic Religion”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have African and African diaspora religious beliefs, institutions, and relationships shaped the Atlantic world? • keywords: slavery, identity-formation, ethnicity, colonialism, revolutions, nationalism, globalization, and popular culture 	HU
AAS 115	Prof. Mwipopo	<p>“Elementary Swahili I: Language and Culture”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where and who are the speakers of Kiswahili language? What are the alphabets and sounds of Kiswahili language? • keywords: East Africa, Kiswahili, Swahili people, Swahili sounds & words, Swahili grammar, Swahili culture 	
AAS 125	Prof. Ayoola	<p>“Elementary Yoruba I”</p>	
AAS 200	Prof. Ekotto	<p>“Introduction to African Studies”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you expect to learn from the continent of Africa? What do you know about Africa? • keywords: the idea of Africa, Africa in the World, colonialism, postcolonialism, China, Africa today, gender and sexuality in Africa, Colonial Library 	SS
AAS 201	Prof. Strongman	<p>“Introduction to African American Studies”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What social, political, and cultural movements led by Black people sparked the creation of the field of African American Studies and will continue to fuel its future? • keywords: protest, citizenship, antiblack racism, history, race, gender, sexuality, class, racial identity, enslavement, policing 	SS

AAS 202	Prof. Khan	<p>“Global Blackness”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we understand Black diaspora, identity, and literature in a global context, particularly outside of the United States? • keywords: Caribbean, culture, religion, diaspora, postcolonial, Americas, history 	
AAS 206	Prof. Deese	<p>“African Religions”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have religious institutions and religious diversity informed social change in Africa? • keywords: Africa, religion, religious diversity, history, social movements, kingship, nationalism, politics, conflict, pluralism 	
AAS 207	Prof. Ampene	<p>“Performing Arts and Power in Sub-Saharan Africa”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is it about music that facilitates and sometimes disrupts the exercise and flow of power? Who controls such flows, how and for what purposes? • keywords: African music, Afrobeats, performing arts, racial identity, social identity, gender spaces, music and resistance 	ID
AAS 215	Prof. Mwipopo	<p>“Intermediate Swahili I”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keywords: East Africa, Swahili/Kiswahili, Swahili people, reading in Swahili, writing in Swahili, Swahili grammar, Swahili culture, Identity and diversity, study abroad 	
AAS 223	Prof. Poulson- Bryant	<p>“Stayin' Alive: Performing Race in 1970s US Film”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1970s saw major shifts in representations of racial identity in US popular film; how do these shifts continue to affect the cultural politics of our post-Civil Rights present? • keywords: race, ethnicity, popular culture, history, gender, stereotypes, representation, appropriation, cultural politics 	
AAS 225	Prof. Ayoola	<p>“Intermediate Yoruba I”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keywords: language study: intermediate Yoruba 	
AAS 260	Prof. Stein	<p>“The Political Economy of African Development”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the confluence of political and economic forces at the local, national, regional, and global levels that has shaped the historical trajectory of African development from the precolonial period to the present? • keywords: political economy theories, slave trade, colonialism, independence movements, cold war politics, international aid, conflict, health, and Paris Accord 	SS

AAS 271	Prof. Santamarina	<p>“Introduction to African American Literature”</p>	HU R&E
AAS 275	Prof. Kelow- Bennett	<p>“Black Women in Popular Culture”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can we learn about blackness and gender using the lens of popular culture, and what can critical approaches in Black Studies and Black Feminism reveal about the meanings made in popular culture? • keywords: Black women, popular culture, race, gender, sexuality, representation, Black feminism, controlling images, politics of respectability, stereotypes 	
AAS 290	Prof. Ellsworth	<p>“Hoop Dreams: Race and Basketball in America”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does basketball both reflect, and helped to initiate, racial change in the United States? • keywords: Naismith, Muscular Christianity, John McLendon, the Second Great Migration, housing projects, March Madness, ESPN, Michigan Fab Five 	
AAS 290	Prof. Boisseron	<p>“Black Memoir”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is one born ‘Black’ or rather, does one become ‘Black’? When was the first time one realized they were ‘Black’? Is the author’s voice always political in the black memoir? • keywords: memoir, race, gender, sexuality, Black internationalism, intersectionality, Hip Hop, health justice, Obamas, Kiese Laymon, Maya Angelou 	
AAS 304	Prof. Fadlalla	<p>“Refugees of Unjust Worlds”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By studying refugees and immigration, what can we learn about borders, mobility, xenophobia, and racialization? • keywords: refugees, immigration, intersectional oppression, voice and resistance, diaspora, place-making, memory, meanings of home 	SS comparative
AAS 309	Prof. Ashforth	<p>“Global Health in African Contexts”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the legacies of colonialism, what is “global” about “global health” in Africa? What are the main health issues facing Africans, and what resources do they have to deal with them? How do popular African notions of health and healing differ from those of the “global health” industry? • keywords: health and healing, Africa; colonial medicine; health systems; zoonotic epidemics 	comparative
AAS 315	Prof. Mpesha	<p>“Advanced Swahili I”</p>	

AAS 322	Prof. Adunbi	<p>“Introduction to Environmental Politics: Race, Class and Gender”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are environmental issues also issues of race, class and gender, and how do local and global histories, memories, practices, values, gender, race and identities that derive from our understanding of politics intersect with nature? • keywords: environment, politics, economy, race, gender, class, development, communities, ecotourism, culture, biodiversity, climate change 	SS R&E ULWR comparative
AAS 323	Prof. Strongman	<p>“Black Feminism(s)”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Black Feminism different from mainstream 'white' feminism, and how did it develop as a robust, interectional, autonomous field of thought? • keywords: feminism, race, gender, intersectionality, queer, Black Feminism, sexuality 	comparative
AAS 346	Prof. Peterson	<p>“Literature in African History”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How—in the 19th and 20th centuries—did early African writers of fiction use their literature to shape the political controversies of their time? • keywords: Literature, fiction, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, nationalism, politics, newspapers 	HU R&E comparative
AAS 354	Prof. Andre	<p>“Race and Identity in Music”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is race/ethnic difference expressed musically, who is representing whom, and what is the intersection between the original performing context and our understanding of these works today? • keywords: postcolonialism, orientalism, intersectionality (gender, race, class, nation), Senegal, South Africa, 19th-century Egypt and Ethiopia, opera, jazz, hip hop, Europe, US, cultural studies 	HU R&E comparative
AAS 356	Prof. Pitcher	<p>“Democracy and Development in Africa”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are democratic institutions in Africa “backsliding” as they are in other countries around the world? • keywords: voting behavior, political parties, public opinion, election related violence, populism, resurgent authoritarianism, social movements, urbanization, middle class 	SS comparative
AAS 357	Prof. Klein	<p>“Environmental Governance and African Development”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What institutional structures mediate human interactions with the environment in Africa? How have different approaches to natural resource extraction and use shaped economic and ecological outcomes across the continent throughout history? And what strategies have different actors used in seeking to gain and maintain control over resources for purposes of subsistence, profit, 	SS comparative

		<p>conservation, and/or development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keywords: environmental governance, natural resources, sustainable development, politics, economic systems, political ecology, colonialism, conflict, conservation 	
AAS 358	Prof. Mpesha	<p>“Learning Culture through African Children's Literature”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By studying African Children’s Literature, what can we learn about African cultural perspectives and the craft of writing for children? • keywords: theory of children’s literature, oral literature, written literature, applying the skill of writing children’s literature 	
AAS 365	Prof. Fadlalla	<p>“Global Persepctives on Gender, Health, and Reproduction”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By studying gender, health, and reproduction, what can we learn about the production of social difference? • keywords: colonialism, globalization, capitalism, the female body, gender, race, class, power, narratives of resistance 	SS comparative
AAS 366	Prof. Ampene	<p>“Music of Africa”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By studying African musical expressions, what can we learn about the intersections between music and social processes, historical narratives, ethnic diversity and musical diversity, and expressive arts in the African Diaspora? • keywords: music, body movement, Afro-pop, Afrobeats, Rap and hip hop in Africa, social media, digital orality, trans-Atlantic collaborations, Afropolitanism, cosmopolitanism 	comparative
AAS 393	Prof. Poulson-Bryant	<p>“Flawless/Formation/Freedom: Writing about Race, Gender, and Popular Culture”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How might we think and write about popular culture (e.g., music, film, fashion, TV) in a way that intersects with public discourses about race and gender? • keywords: race, gender, popular culture, sexuality, style, cultural politics, journalism, media 	HU ULWR
AAS 407	Prof. Doris	<p>“Looking at African Things”</p>	
AAS 421	Prof. Johnson	<p>“Religions of the African Diaspora: Vodou, Santeria, Rastafari”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the gods, ancestors, and spirits of Africa remade in the Americas (the U.S., Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica) through dance, spirit possession, art, and liturgy? • keywords: spirits, art, dance, trance, ritual, diaspora, Caribbean, religion, resistance, transculturation 	R&E

AAS 453	Prof. Pitcher	<p>“Culture, Class, and Conflict in Southern Africa”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa became democratic more than 25 years ago. What has changed since then? What is the legacy of racial discrimination, and how is it manifest? • keywords: race, gender, colonialism, racism, resistance, democracy, capitalism, social justice 	ULWR
AAS 458	Prof. Davis	<p>“Political Violence in Africa”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What explains political violence in Africa? • keywords: civil war, terrorism, ethnicity, poverty, development, international intervention, politics, religion 	
AAS 495	Prof. Murray	<p>“Contemporary Africa and the World”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How might we understand Africa within a global context? • keywords: global trade and investment, hybrid artistic cultures, diasporic movements, travel 	ULWR
AAS 498	Prof. Partridge	<p>“Filming the Future of Detroit”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will decide the future of Detroit? • keywords: Detroit, urban uprising, urban renewal, Blackness, gentrification, accountability, comeback? 	DAAS In Action
AAS 498	Prof. Zaborowska	<p>“Preserving James Baldwin’s Legacy”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we preserve and disseminate a black writer’s material legacy? What can we learn about humanism and community building from James Baldwin’s domestic practices? • keywords: African American literature, Black Digital Studies, archives, humanities, James Baldwin’s house in France 	DAAS In Action