Africana Studies Fall 2016 Courses

1. AFR 0047-01 (MUS 0039) African American Music ~ Stephan Pennington
   (see Music dept. for course description)

2. AFR 0047-02 (MUS 0041) History of the Blues ~ Michael Ullman
   (see Music dept. for course description)

3. AFR 0047-03 (MUS 0049) Music of North Africa ~ Richard Jankowsky
   (see Music dept. for course description)

4. AFR 0047-04 (MUS 0072) Gospel Choir ~ David F. Coleman
   (see Music dept. for course description)

5. AFR 0047-05 (MUS 0077) Tufts Jazz Orchestra ~ Joel Larue Smith
   (see Music dept. for course description)

6. AFR 0048-01 (DS 0048) African American Theatre and Film ~ Monica Ndounou
   (see Drama dept. for course description)

7. AFR 0147-01 (ENG 0045-01) Non-Western Women Writers ~ Modhumita Roy
   This course is designed to introduce you to the diversity of women's writing from countries
   often referred to as "third world." Through an eclectic selection of texts, the course will explore
   some of the key concerns of women in places such as South Asia, the West Indies, Africa, and
   Latin America. We shall be concerned also with issues of literary technique, genre, and
   representation. We shall focus on the connections between literary texts and the social and
   political contexts within which the writing was produced. Authors will include Ama Ata Aidoo,
   Bessie Head, Joan Riley, Michelle Cliff, Merle Hodge, Meera Syal, among others. This course
   fulfills the post-1860 requirement. NOTE: This course counts towards World Civilization,
   Africana Studies, Peace and Justice, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

8. AFR 0147-02 (FR 0091) Strategies of Identity (in English) ~ H. Adlai Murdoch
   This course examines the range of literary, cultural, and political strategies framing the
   complexities of self-definition for the overseas departments of France in the post/colonial era.
   As the region's writers embrace the challenge of shaping the tensions and ambiguities of
   identity, the myriad multiplicities of the Francophone Caribbean emerge in these works.
   Readings will address and assess the varied roles of négritude, antillanité and créolité in the
   temporal trajectory from the binarisms of colonization to the modernities of the post/colonial
   département d'outremer. Class discussions, two five-to-six-page papers, an oral presentation,
   and a final 10-page paper. Prerequisite: French 31 and 32, or consent.

   Autobiography has long been a favored form in Caribbean writing. It is a multifaceted genre that
   has served historical, cultural, and discursive ends. But autobiography itself is an inherently fluid
form, one in which a range of possible strategies can promote false impressions of continuity and causality even as it incorporates patterns of play, commentary, and misdirection to subvert the conventions of the genre. In this course, particular attention will be paid to the multiple ways in which autobiography has been staged in recent times in the contemporary French Caribbean territories of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Haiti. Class discussions, two five-to-six-page papers, an oral presentation, and a final 10-page paper. Prerequisites: French 31 and 32, or consent.

10. AFR 0147-04 (FAH 0198-03) What is African Art? ~ Peter Probst
What is African art? The answer to this question might seem easy and obvious. But it is not. In fact, there are many different answers to the question. In the seminar we will look at these differences in relation to the time and political context in which they were conceived. Doing so will enable us to pose and discuss other questions: what is the proper place for the display of African art? Why do we distinguish between art and artifact? Who actually is an African artist and where is African art produced?”

11. AFR 0147-05 (SOC 0011) Racial and Ethnic Minorities ~ STAFF
This course provides an introduction to theoretical, historical and contemporary sociological perspectives on race, racism and ethnicity. The course will help you think critically about issues related to race and ethnicity in American society and globally. These issues include racial and ethnic inequality, discrimination, racial stereotyping, racial identity, assimilation, multiculturalism and postracialism. There is a special focus on the history and current situation of white-black relations, social movements such as the Civil Rights Movement and #BlackLivesMatter, and recent public policy debates.

12. AFR 0147-06 (PS 0129-01) African Politics ~ Pearl T Robinson
Analysis of political developments in contemporary Africa, with emphasis on the interaction between politics and culture. Relates Africa's historical, economic, social, and gender dynamics to general theories of politics and governance.

13. AFR 0147-07 (PS 0117-01) Politics in the American South ~ James M Glaser
Politics of the American South: Study of politics and government in the eleven states of the former Confederacy. Themes include the role of race and class in the politics of the region, change and continuity in Southern politics and society, and Southern political and cultural exceptionalism.

14. AFR 0147-08 (HIST 0191) African History ~ Jeanne Penvenne
(see History dept. for course description)

15. AFR 0147-09 (HIST 0025) Antebellum & Civil War America ~ James Rice
This course begins with the so-called "Era of Good Feelings" in American history, and chronicles the decidedly bitter feelings that followed. Through lectures and discussions, we will explore the Jacksonian Era and democratic politics, westward expansion and sectional tensions, religious and cultural developments, the issue of slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will engage both primary and secondary sources and take a field trip during the semester.
16. AFR 0147-10 (ENG 0191-04) Black Feminist Theories ~ Christina Sharpe
Black Feminist Theories will trace black feminisms and proto feminisms from the mid nineteenth-century to the present—with the focus largely on the last 40 years. We will attend to the links between race, place, history, blackness, sexuality, and gender. Focusing on black women’s political struggles in the Americas (largely the US, but also, the Caribbean and Canada), we will consider: The significance of (transatlantic) slavery to contemporary black experiences. The ways that black women have been subject to and resisted racism, sexism, homophobia, and economic oppression. The transnational and "intersectional" dimensions of black feminism. And the ways that black expressive cultures—visual art, literature, poetry, film, etc.—challenge dominant constructions of black femininity and black masculinity. Readings, viewings, and listenings may include: Anna Julia Cooper, Harriet Jacobs, Barbara Smith, Audre Lorde, Angela Davis, Nina Simone, Abbey Lincoln, Gayl Jones, Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed, Dionne Brand, M. NourbeSe Philip, and Joy James among other writers, artists, and theoretists. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

17. AFR 0147-11 (ENG 0191-01) Harlem Renaissance ~ Ichiro Takayoshi
A seminar on a wide range of African-American writers who were associated with the "Harlem Renaissance." The class will discuss poems, stories, novels, essays, and plays by W. E. B. Dubois, James Weldon Jonson, Claude McKay, Langston Hughes, George Schuyler, Jean Toomer, Jessie Fauset, Zora Neale Hurston, Alain Locke, Countee Cullen, Wallace Thurman, Nella Larsen, Carl Van Vechten, and more. Discussions will center around two questions: how these writers modernized American language and how these writers used literature to battle racism. Incoming freshmen are welcome. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

18. AFR 0147-13 (AMER 0010) Racial Politics and Urban Space in the United States ~ Tom Abowd
This course will highlight the radical changes that US urban centers have undergone historically and the role that race, racism, and racial politics have played in these transformations. As global and national economic trends and capitalist modernity began to make city life the majority experience in the US in the late 19th Century, a range of formidable forces intersected in the construction of these expanding places. Participants will examine these shifting and fluid racial and racialized realms not simply as cartographic places frozen on maps but also as ideas and myths that have helped construct US nationalism. How can the history of racism in this country be understood through both the actions of urban-based social movements as well as policing technologies and governing assumptions that have made racial segregation and racial violence possible? This course will feature examinations of Boston, New York, Detroit, Chicago, and Los Angeles, to name but a few.

19. AFR 0147-14 (SOC 0190-01) SEM: Immigration: Public Opinion, Politics and Media ~ Helen Marrow
American public opinion on immigration and its relationship to the political process. Role of traditional media (newspapers, magazines, network TV), new media (cable TV, internet), and ethnic media in reflecting and shaping public opinion on immigration. Methodological approaches (surveys of public opinion, content analyses of media portrayals) to controversies surrounding immigrant assimilation and integration and the impact of immigration on the American economy, culture, and security. Prerequisite: Two Sociology and/or Political Science courses, or consent of instructor.
20. AFR 0147-15 (AMER 0094-03) Arab and Muslim Americans ~ Thomas Abowd
This course is an exploration into the diverse cultures, politics, and experiences of Arab and Muslim Americans. Students will examine a range of sources about these growing and diverse communities. The course will highlight the intersecting and divergent lives of Arabs and Muslims in the Americas, from the early immigrant experiences of the late 19th century to more recent dimensions of life in a post-“9/11” America. Participants will explore Muslims and Arabs in the US with a particular emphasis on the racial, gendered, and class/status experiences of these communities over the last several decades. Questions of diaspora will be discussed as we probe the exilic dimensions of life for these groups through literature and cinema. We will bring together writings on these peoples and themes from the social sciences, humanities, realms of fiction, worlds of film, and other intellectual spheres.

21. AFR 0160-01 (0191-02) The Anti-Colonial Mode of Thought ~ Greg Thomas
When current academic theories speak of colonialism at all, they tend to speak of “post-colonialism” or “post-coloniality” and thus help to conceal the current phase of colonial or neo-colonial empire. This course will examine the critical-intellectual politics of ANTI-colonialism – past, present and future-oriented – with a focus on selected figures, positions and movements. We will address a series of questions: What is the relationship here between theory and practice, thought and struggle? What sort of ideas emanating from beyond the West (Europe or Anglo-North America) have been recently and historically suppressed? Why? How does Africa in particular signify in this particular space, globally and internationally? Why? What various affinities and solidarities emerge from continental and diasporic time-spaces of Africa, Asia and the Americas as well as Palestine? Text-wise, we may look at the work of Frantz Fanon, Malcolm X and Walter Rodney; Ho Chi Minh, Mao, Trinh T. Minh-ha and H.L.T. Quan; Vijay Prashad, Arundathi Roy and Edward Said; Haile Gerima and Djibril Diop Mambêty; “Che” Guevara, Anibal Quijano, Eduardo Galeano and Cherrie Moraga; Jack Forbes, Ward Churchill, Chrystos and Leslie Marmon Silko; Cheikh Anta Diop, Ifi Amadiume and Ayi Kwei Armah. The “ANTI-colonial mode of thought” will be engaged to think critically about not only the literary culture but geopolitics, economics, psychologistics and body politics of colonial or neo-colonial Western empire. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

22. AFR 0198 Senior Honors Thesis
Students wishing to do a Senior Thesis should contact Professor H. Adlai Murdoch, Director of Africana Studies at H.Murdoch@tufts.edu

23. AFR 0199: Independent Study
Students wishing to do an independent study should contact Professor H. Adlai Murdoch, Director of Africana Studies at H.Murdoch@tufts.edu