African Curriculum
Fall 2019 Course List
Last Edit: 4/3/19

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
100 Introduction to African Cultural Expression
An introduction to current research in African cultural studies, ranging from various literary genres and uses of discourse; to diverse media including screen media, music, cartoons, and journalism; and to other forms of popular expression like soccer and drama. Through an introduction to these forms, students will also gain an overview of the diverse methods used by scholars in this field, such as textual analysis, film criticism, ethnomusicology, discourse analysis, and ethnography; and to the cultural diversity of Africa and its diasporic cultures.
Instructor: Vlad Dima
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
202 Introductory Topics in African Cultural Studies
An introductory discussion-based course on various topics in African cultural studies and African expressive cultures. Topics will include cultural and/or political themes that cut across multiple media and genres, including two or more of the following: literature, film, media, music, performance, language use, etc.
Instructor: Tejumola Olaniyan
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
204 Introductory Topics in African Languages
Special topics related to African languages and/or linguistics at the introductory level. Introduction to the diversity of African languages, superdiverse multilingual African societies, and the relationships between language and other societal issues.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
210 The African Storyteller
The oral tradition and the written word; the composition of stories, relationship between performer and audience, and transmission of tradition in various African societies. All coursework is online. There are no meetings or official office hours. Students read stories and introductory hypertext, watch lectures featuring Harold Schueb, complete quizzes, participate in discussion forums, and compose weekly practice essays. Coursework is synchronous, meaning that, while there is a great deal of flexibility, students must meet weekly deadlines. Major assessments include a midterm essay and a final research essay.
Instructor: Matthew Brown
Core Course

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
212 Introduction to African Popular Culture
This course will use aspects of popular culture (such as popular literature, music, television, news media, movies, etc.) to introduce students to the African continent and its cultures, people, and languages. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts from different regions on the continent, learning about differences and similarities across the continent at the level of aesthetics and context.
Instructor: Jacquelyn Mougoue
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
277 Africa: An Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
300 African Literature in Translation: Tales of Love and War from Portuguese-speaking Africa
The texts we’ll be studying this semester arise from a creative will to bring a new community into being. They are fueled, at the same time, by a desire to undo the destructive legacy of racism and oppression bequeathed by centuries of Portuguese colonial domination. Since, in several instances, this desire led to a protracted armed struggle against the colonial order, these creative expressions are in a sense born out of violence and war. In the case of Angola and Mozambique, the bloodshed, in the form of brutal and devastating civil wars, lasted well into the post-independence period. Thus, by the end of the millennium, the lofty dream of a free, equitable and more just society lay in shambles. Throughout it all, cultural and literary expressions endured as a mode of bearing witness to often unspeakable pain and destruction. In the words of a Mozambican novelist, they remain also as a stubborn reminder that despite the violence, people tenaciously maintained their will to re-invent themselves, to convert the days of blood and horror into the stuff of hope and tenderness, endeavoring to produce order where chaos had entrenched itself, life and beauty where death had spread its mantle of agony and sorrow. Our cultural area of focus will be Portuguese-speaking Africa, but we’ll also expand our linguistic and geographic horizons to include selected films and texts from Latin America (Cuba and Brazil) as well as Europe.
Instructor: Luis Madureira
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
321 First Semester Arabic
For beginning learners of Modern Standard Arabic; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.
Core Course

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
323 Third Semester Arabic
For intermediate learners of Modern Standard Arabic; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.
Instructor: Mustafa Mustafa
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
331 First Semester Swahili
For beginning learners of Standard Swahili; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context. This course will be two sections: one online and one in-person
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
333 Third Semester Swahili
Continuation of AFRICAN 332. Four skills approach (speaking, listening, writing, and reading) centered on authentic texts, recordings, and images. Grammar review, concerted vocabulary expansion, and intensive practice.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
335 First Semester Language of South Africa: Zulu
For beginning learners of a Southern African language; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
361 First Semester Hausa
For beginning learners of Hausa; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
370 Islam: Religion and Culture
The emergence and development of Islam; schism; theology; asceticism; speculative and popular mysticism; literatures in diverse Islamic languages.
Instructor: Anna Gade
Extended Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
371 First Semester Yoruba
For beginning learners of Standard Yoruba; emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
373 Third Semester Yoruba
Advanced grammar and conversational practice. Reading contemporary Yoruba literature and other writings.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
391 First Semester Language of West Africa: Wolof
Speaking knowledge, description, structure, drills.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
405 Topics in African Cultural Studies: Gender and Sexuality in Afro-Futurism
Through the lens of gender and sexuality, this course will show that Afrofuturism not only addresses concerns of those in the African diaspora, but also very much of those on the continent.
Instructor: Jacqueline Mougoue
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
435 African Studies in Swahili Language-Grammar
Reading, conversation and composition beyond the fourth semester level with emphasis on linguistic structure and the grammatical analysis of texts appropriate to the level of the student.
Core Course

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
475 Fifth Semester Yoruba
Advanced linguistic structures, literature and poetry. Introduction to Yoruba cultures in the works of Wole Soyinka.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
606 Advanced Topics in African Literature: African Historical Fiction
We begin with the following question: what is at stake, aesthetically, ethically and politically, in African appropriations of the historical drama and novel? How are we to understand these works’ claims to referential truth? Does African historical drama and fiction reflect a desire to assert the authority and therefore political significance of an African perspective on the colonial and precolonial eras? If so, is there an inevitable contradiction in advancing such historical claims through fiction? What are the entanglements inherent to the adoption of a classical (late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century) European genre that is buttressed by notions of cultural difference, gendered subjectivity and teleological time that postcolonial reinterpretations of the past would seek at least to interrogate, if not undo? What is the status of their “provisional” interpretations of real or historical phenomena? To coin Harry E. Shaw’s formulation of the central problem of the historical novel, how can fictional characters signify the contexts and situations they are meant to exemplify? Exploring several critical approaches to historical drama and fiction’s referential claims, we will try to address these questions as thoughtfully and painstakingly as we can.
Instructor: Luis Madureira
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
670 Theories and Methods of Learning a Less Commonly Taught Language
This course is both theoretical and practical. Through reading, discussion, and research, students will explore theories of second language acquisition (SLA) and relate them to self-instructional methods. Each student will test and/or modify one or more theories/methods by putting these self-instructional methods into practice in order to learn a less commonly taught language (LCTL). Students will share their findings in writing and during class discussions, and write a final paper assessing their learning outcomes. This course is intended for those with prior experience in the study of African languages, or advanced study of other foreign languages.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
671 Multilanguage Seminar
Through weekly meetings, students discuss their use of self-instructional methods to learn a less commonly taught language (LCTL), get feedback on individualized syllabi and assessment plans, and present progress reports orally and in writing. Homework includes continuous self-instruction in the chosen LCTL including reading, writing, oral, and listening skills; work with a conversation partner; and cultural knowledge.
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
700 Reading and Writing African Cultural Studies
This is a course on academic writing, designed to guide graduate students toward a full understanding of the craft of marshaling evidence to support an argument in the humanities, particularly African cultural studies. It covers the norms and expectations that inhere in academic writing as well as the mechanics of producing original scholarship.
Instructor: Ronald Radano
Core Course

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
905 Seminar in African Cultural Studies: Cinematic Bodies
This seminar explores the narrative use of cinematic sound and diegetic bodies by francophone filmmakers beginning in 1966 with Ousmane Sembène’s Black Girl and all the way up to Jean-Pierre Bekolo’s Naked Reality (2016). The course follows historical, theoretical, and aesthetic approaches to studying both African sound and African image. It first connects African sound(s) to African orality, European counter-cinema practices, and classical Hollywood. Second, it connects images of bodies to issues of sexuality, gender, and power. Ultimately, the seminar aims to reveal the possible bodies that emerge through cinema--aural, visual, and haptic--as a way to trace the socio-political impact of space(s) in the neocolonial context.
Instructor: Vlad Dima
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
926 Literacy Ethnography
This graduate-level methods seminar is an intensive introduction to reading and writing “new ethnographies”—what H. L. Goodall calls an “emerging, alternative style of qualitative writing” that “combines the personal and the professional, … work that may be rendered as a story …, or an account that derives rhetorical force from blurring or blending of literary genres.” Taking a discourse-centered approach to culture and to writing as a form of qualitative analysis, we will explore theories and examples of autoethnographies, autobiographies, ethnographic fiction, poetry, and drama, and literary ethnographies. Our main examples will be writing by Africans and Africanists, but students working in other world areas are welcome. Important themes will include language, voice, dialogic research, transcription, and translation. The course will help students whose primary interests are in literature, languages, and second language acquisition to gain expertise in ethnographic research practices and evocative writing. Seminar meetings will involve both discussion of readings and workshopping participants’ writing.
Instructor: Katrina Thompson
Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES
983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies
This seminar provides a setting for participants to consider Africa – as an idea, a field of study, a place in the world, a subject for teaching – from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics in order to consider not just what to think about the history, cultures, and politics of Africa but also how to think and teach about this part of the world.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

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AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
231 Introduction to Afro-American History
Survey from the African beginnings to the present day. Focus on slave trade and slavery; major black figures of the past; social, economic, and political trends within the black community.
Instructor: Christy Clark-Pujara
Extended Core

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
241 Introduction to African Art and Architecture
This course examines the rich heritage of African arts and architecture as they shape and have been shaped by the histories and cultural values (social, political, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic) of African peoples, both past and present, on the continent where humanity began. It includes an historical overview of selected artistic traditions from different parts of the continent from 26,000 BCE to the 21st century and thematic/cultural case studies: artists and aesthetics; textiles, decorative, and personal/body arts; architecture; and individual artists.
Instructor: Henry Drewal
Core Course

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
242 Introduction to Afro-American Art
Historical survey of Afro-American art. Beginning with the African heritage and concluding with creativity of the 1970’s, it examines the evolution of Afro-American art. Attention to the aesthetic sensibilities of diverse styles as well as the social significance of Black art within the art arena.
Instructor: Anthony Black
Extended Core

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
277 Africa: An Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS
477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
Composition, organization, and techniques of agricultural production; economic change and development of agriculture, economic policies, special problems of developing African agriculture.
Instructor: Emilia Tjernstroem
Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS
731 Frontiers in Development Economics 2
Theory and evidence on growth and development in emerging economies, with primary focus on globalization, trade, labor markets and human capital. We use open-economy general equilibrium models to examine welfare implications of global shocks and domestic economic policies.
Instructor: Ian Coxhead
Extended Core

ANTHROPOLOGY
277 Africa: An Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

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ANTHROPOLOGY
321 The Emergence of Human Culture
This course provides a survey of the Paleolithic archaeological record in the Old World, beginning with faint traces of past human behavior over 2.5 million years old in Africa, continuing through the expansion of human populations into Eurasia more than 1.5 million years ago and into the New World before 12,000 years ago, and concluding with the end of the Pleistocene at 10,000 years ago. Lectures present evidence of major developments in human evolution, including the transition from ape-like to more human-like behavior patterns, the discovery of techniques for making and using stone tools, the controlled use of fire, the development of a hunting and gathering lifestyle, the origins of language, and the appearance of stone age art. Lectures are usually illustrated with PowerPoint slides or videos. Some prior knowledge of basic principles of archaeology or a willingness to do some supplementary reading from introductory textbooks (on reserve) on the subject is assumed.
Instructor: Henry Bunn
Extended Core Course

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Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

ART HISTORY
241 Introduction to African Art and Architecture
This course examines the rich heritage of African arts and architecture as they shape and have been shaped by the histories and cultural values (social, political, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic) of African peoples, both past and present, on the continent where humanity began. It includes an historical overview of selected artistic traditions from different parts of the continent from 26,000 BCE to the 21st century and thematic/cultural case studies: artists and aesthetics; textiles, decorative, and personal/body arts; architecture; and individual artists.
Instructor: Henry Drewal
Core Course

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY
630 Sociology of Developing Countries/Third World
Review of problems and prospects of so-called "developing societies." Includes theory of economic/social development, political economic organizations of "developing" societies, history of colonialism/imperialism, attempts to industrialize and results of those attempts.
Instructor: Gay Seidman
Extended Core

DANCE
118 Africa Dance
Technique and practice of several basic African dance forms with study of their musical, historical and cultural contexts.
Instructor: Maya Kadakia
Core Course

ECONOMICS
477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
Composition, organization, and techniques of agricultural production; economic change and development of agriculture, economic policies, special problems of developing African agriculture.
Instructor: Emilia Tjernstroem
Core Course

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ECONOMICS
983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies
This seminar provides a setting for participants to consider Africa – as an idea, a field of study, a place in the world, a subject for teaching – from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics in order to consider not just what to think about the history, cultures, and politics of Africa but also how to think and teach about this part of the world.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES
340 Comparative Education
Examines the socio-cultural, political and economic forces that shape education around the world, including in the U.S. Throughout the semester, we explore a series of essential questions about the means and ends of education. Topics include: the purposes of schooling in different locations; the role of schooling in producing inequality or supporting social change, particularly in relation to class, race, gender, migration, language, and abilities; global educational reform; global educational assessments; curriculum and pedagogy; and teacher education
Instructor: Lesley Bartlett

ENGLISH
491 Ethnic & Multicultural Literature: Black Women Dramatists
The course is an introduction to dramatic writings by African and African American women. We will study the content and style of our selected plays and explore their possible meanings. We will investigate if there are similarities and/or differences in the dramatists’ thematic and stylistic orientations, and critically speculate on the reasons why—be the reasons dramaturgic, cultural, political, or ideological. Ultimately, we will explore the exciting possibility of constructing a cross-cultural and cross-continental black female dramatic tradition. Some of the playwrights we would study include Lorraine Hansberry, Ama Ata Aidoo, Ntozake Shange, Efua Sutherland, Suzan-Lori Parks, Malika Ndlovu, Lynn Nottage, and Sindiwe Magona.
Instructor: Tejumola Olaniyan
Extended Core

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
339 Environmental Conservation
Examines major environmental conservation approaches in the U.S. and developing countries and how they are influenced by sociopolitical factors, cultural values and scientific understandings of nature. Historical and contemporary cases are explored with emphasis on biodiversity and climate change issues.
Extended Core
FOLKLORE
210 The African Storyteller
*The oral tradition and the written word; the composition of stories, relationship between performer and audience, and transmission of tradition in various African societies. All coursework is online. There are no meetings or official office hours. Students read stories and introductory hypertext, watch lectures featuring Harold Schueb, complete quizzes, participate in discussion forums, and compose weekly practice essays. Coursework is synchronous, meaning that, while there is a great deal of flexibility, students must meet weekly deadlines. Major assessments include a midterm essay and a final research essay.
Instructor: Matthew Brown
Core Course

FOLKLORE
103 Introduction to Music Cultures of the World
An introductory ethnomusicology course providing a variety of ways to approach musics typically not covered in music history courses. Active engagement with these musics within their larger world contexts.
Instructor: Nadia Chana
Extended Core

GEOGRAPHY
277 Africa: An Introductory Survey
* African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

GEOGRAPHY
339 Environmental Conservation
Examines major environmental conservation approaches in the U.S. and developing countries and how they are influenced by sociopolitical factors, cultural values and scientific understandings of nature. Historical and contemporary cases are explored with emphasis on biodiversity and climate change issues.
Extended Core

GEOGRAPHY
983 Interdepartmental Seminar in Africa Studies
This seminar provides a setting for participants to consider Africa – as an idea, a field of study, a place in the world, a subject for teaching – from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics in order to consider not just what to think about the history, cultures, and politics of Africa but also how to think and teach about this part of the world.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

HISTORY
277 Africa: An Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

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This seminar provides a setting for participants to consider Africa – as an idea, a field of study, a place in the world, a subject for teaching – from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It is available to graduate students as African Cultural Studies 983, Anthropology 983, Economics 983, Geography 983, History 983, or Political Science 983. The course will explore a variety of themes and topics in order to consider not just what to think about the history, cultures, and politics of Africa but also how to think and teach about this part of the world.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

MUSIC
103 Introduction to Music Cultures of the World
An introductory ethnomusicology course providing a variety of ways to approach musics typically not covered in music history courses. Active engagement with these musics within their larger world contexts.
Instructor: Nadia Chana
Extended Core

POLITICAL SCIENCE
277 Africa: An Introductory Survey
African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

Religious Studies
370 Islam: Religion and Culture
The emergence and development of Islam; schism; theology; asceticism; speculative and popular mysticism; literatures in diverse Islamic languages.
Instructor: Anna Gade
Extended Core Course

SOCIOMETRY
170 Population Problems
Social, economic, and political problems affected by birth and death rates, population size and distribution, voluntary and forced migration. World ecology, limits to growth, economic development, international conflict, environmental quality, metropolitan expansion, segregation by age, race, and wealth. Policies affecting reproduction, nuptiality, morbidity, mortality, migration.
Instructor: Jenna Nobles
Extended Core
**SOCILOGY**

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey

*African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.*

Instructor: Neil Kodesh
Core Course

**SOCILOGY**

630 Sociology of Developing Countries/Third World

*Review of problems and prospects of so-called "developing societies." Includes theory of economic/social development, political economic organizations of "developing" societies, history of colonialism/imperialism, attempts to industrialize and results of those attempts.*

Instructor: Gay Seidman
Extended Core

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