AFST (AFST)

Courses

AFST 135. Introduction to Modern African History. 3 Units.
A general introduction to major themes in modern African history, with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Topics include oral tradition and narrative, economic structure and dynamics, religious movements, colonialism, nationalism, and the dilemmas of independent African states. Offered as AFST 135, ETHS 253A and HSTY 135. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 151. Introducing Africana Religions. 3 Units.
This "topics course" offers an introduction to the academic study of Africana Religions. Whether approached through a particular theme or as a general historical introduction, each section of this course provides students with a general introduction to the academic study of religion and basic religious literacy in religions of people of African origins in sub-Saharan African, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Americas and thus will explore forms of these traditions in a diversity of cultural contexts. Section topics could include, but are not limited to: Introducing Africana Religions: The Black Church in the U.S., Introducing Africana Religions: Yoruba Ifa Traditions, Introducing Africana Religions: Orisha Traditions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Introducing Africana Religions: African American Religions, Introducing Africana Religions: U.S. African-derived Religions. Students may repeat the course for credit (up to 6 credits), provided that the two sections are different. Offered as AFST 151 and RLGN 151. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 201. Introduction to Africana Studies. 3 Units.
This course examines the development of Africana Studies as an academic discipline. It traces multiple genealogies and trajectories of both the discipline and the experiences of Black people on the African continent and in the Americas and the Caribbean with a particular focus on the United States. The course explores these genealogies and trajectories through history, sociology, culture, religion and politics. It will focus on the various kinds of technologies and structures Black people have developed, adapted and adopted as they have created resistance strategies, political and religious institutions, addressed medical and health concerns and participated in the construction of national institutions and cultures. The course will cover diverse themes in Black intellectual thought such as gender, race, enslavement, colonialism, music, dance, politics, religious practice and ritual, nationalism, sexuality and blackness. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 202. Race and Ethnic Minorities in The United States. 3 Units.
This is a survey course that looks at the relations between racial and ethnic relations in the United States from an historical and contemporary perspective. This course will look at relations between: European colonists and native Americans; whites and blacks during the period of slavery, Jim Crow, the civil rights era and contemporary period; immigrants at the turn of the 20th and 21st century; Mexicans and Puerto Ricans; and the pan-ethnic groups such as Latinos, Asian Americans, and Arab Americans. We examine the origins of racial/ethnic hierarchies, the social construction of identities, and stratification of racial and ethnic groups. This course will take a macro perspective that examines larger structural forces (e.g., colonization, industrialization, and immigration) to explain inter-group relations, and a constructionist perspective to understand how power manufactures and maintains the social meaning of identities (looking at stereotypes and hegemonic discourse). Students who have received credit for SOCI 302 may not receive credit for SOCI 202. Offered as AFST 202 and SOCI 202. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 222. African-American Religions. 3 Units.
This course is an exploration of the rich diversity of African American religions from the colonial period to the present. Attention will be given to key figures, institutional expressions, and significant movements in African American religious history. Major themes include African traditions in American religions, slavery and religion, sacred music, social protest, Black Nationalism in religion, Islam, African American women and religion, and black and womanist theologies. Course requirements will include field trips to local religious sites. Offered as AFST 222, ETHS 222 and RLGN 222.

AFST 258. History of Southern Africa. 3 Units.
A survey of southern Africa from about 1600. Topics include the social structure of pre-colonial African societies, the beginnings of European settlement, the rise of Shaka, the discovery of minerals and the development of industry, Zimbabwe's guerrilla war and independence, and the rise and apparent demise of apartheid. Offered as AFST 258, ETHS 258 and HSTY 258. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 260. U.S. Slavery and Emancipation. 3 Units.
Begins with the African encounter with Europeans during the emergence of the modern slave trade. Students are introduced to the documents and secondary literature on the creation and maintenance of slavery, first in colonial America, and then in the United States. The course concludes with the destruction of slavery. Offered as AFST 260, ETHS 260 and HSTY 260. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 261. African-American History 1865-1945. 3 Units.
Explores the fashioned of a modern African-American culture between emancipation and the end of World War II. Emergence of a northern-based leadership, the challenge of segregation, emergence of bourgeois culture, the fashioning of racial consciousness and black nationalism, the shift from a primarily southern and rural population to one increasingly northern and urban, the creation and contours of a modern African-American culture, the construction of racial/gender and racial/class consciousness. Offered as AFST 261, ETHS 261 and HSTY 261. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 262. African-American History Since 1945. 3 Units.
Completes the three-term sequence of the African-American history survey (although the first two courses are not prerequisites for this course). Explores some of the key events and developments shaping African-American social, political, and cultural history since 1945. Offered as AFST 262, ETHS 262 and HSTY 262. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 265. Malcolm and Martin. 3 Units.
An examination of the lives, religious thought, and ideological frameworks of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. The course will investigate Malcolm X and Martin King's religious beliefs and activist strategies; the ideas and strategies of other civil rights and Black Nationalist leaders who influenced and challenged Martin and Malcom's ideas on race, gender, class, and sexuality; and the historical antecedents for these strategies within nineteenth-century black religious, social, and political movements. Their impact on modern African American religious thought, American political culture, and international human rights movements will also be explored. Offered as AFST 265, ETHS 265 and RLGN 265. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.
AFST 302. The Lemonade Class: Religion, Race, Sex and Black Music. 3 Units.
Charles Long suggests that black musical forms are creative responses to the particular circumstances of black peoples’ presence in the U.S and black notions of the sacred. In April of 2016, Beyoncé released her visual album Lemonade two days after the death of Prince. This course is organized around the album’s title cuts and links these two artists together in an examination of religion and musical performance as creative response to the racial and gendered conditions of black life. The course investigates how both artists have used music as a platform to explore issues of race, gender, commerce, sexuality, power and divinity. The course also looks at examples from the works of earlier artists who address similar themes such as Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Muddy Waters, Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Little Richard, James Brown, Marvin Gaye, and Aretha Franklin. Offered as AFST 302, ETHS 302, MUHI 316, RLGN 302, RLGN 402, and WGST 302. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 304. Representations of Black Women and Religion in Film. 3 Units.
In this course we will explore cinematic representations of black women and religion in film. Each week we will view a film in class. We will begin the class with the film imitation of Life and then the course with The Help. Throughout the course we will analyze the ways in which notations of gender, sexuality, intimate violence, and modern notions of race and color, have informed representations of black women and religion in film. In addition, we will discuss how these representations, in turn, have influenced cultural ideas about black women in the Americas. Offered as AFST 304, RLGN 304, RLGN 404, WGST 304, and ETHS 304. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 311. Representations of Black Religion in Film. 3 Units.
In this course we will explore cinematic representations of black religion in the Americas and the Caribbean. Each week we will view a film representing diverse religious traditions such as Christianity, Candomble, Santeria, Vodou, and Islam. Films will include Cabin in the Sky, The Color Purple, Black Orpheus, The Serpent and the Rainbow, Malcolm X, Eve’s Bayou, and The Princess and the Frog. Throughout the course we will analyze the ways in which notions of gender, the history of colonialism, modern notions of race, and geographical landscapes have informed representatives of black religion in film. In addition, we will discuss how these representations, in turn, have influenced cultural ideas of black religion in the Americas. Offered as AFST 311, ETHS 311, RLGN 311, and RLGN 411. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 318. History of Black Women in the U.S.. 3 Units.
Chronologically arranged around specific issues in black women’s history organizations, participation in community and political movements, labor experiences, and expressive culture. The course will use a variety of materials, including autobiography, literature, music, and film. Offered as AFST 318, ETHS 318, HSTY 318, and WGST 318.

AFST 328. Urban Sociology. 3 Units.
The goal of this course is to acquaint the student with the realities and the possibilities of our urban society. Theories and applications of urban sociology interpreting city life and structure are reviewed. The transformation of the urban landscape, the emergence of cities, urban life, urban problems, and urban planning are explored. Issues related to finances, schooling, transportation, the infrastructure of the city, growth and decline, urban poverty, the homeless, crime, pollution, as well as the policy issues and questions such concerns provoke are studied. Key aspects of social science theories and research findings about the nature of spatial, economic and social relationships in cities in developed and developing countries will be analyzed, illuminating some of the processes of urban growth, social transition, and change. Offered as AFST 328, SOCI 328 and SOCI 428. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 363H. African-American Literature. 3 Units.
A historical approach to African-American literature. Such writers as Wheatley, Equiano, Douglass, Jacobs, DuBois, Hurston, Hughes, Wright, Baldwin, Ellison, Morrison. Topics covered may include slave narratives, African-American autobiography, the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Aesthetic, literature of protest and assimilation. Maximum 6 credits. Offered as AFST 363H, ENGL 363H, ETHS 363H, WLIT 363H, ENGL 463H, and WLIT 463H. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement. Prereq: ENGL 150 or passing letter grade in a 100 level first year seminar in FSCC, FSNA, FSSO, FSSY, FSTS, or FSCS.

AFST 365N. Topics in African-American Literature. 3 Units.
Selected topics and writers from nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century African-American literature. May focus on a genre, a single author or a group of authors, a theme or themes. Maximum 6 credits. Offered as AFST 365N, ENGL 365N, ETHS 365N, WLIT 365N, ENGL 465N, and WLIT 465N. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement. Prereq: ENGL 150 or passing letter grade in a 100 level first year seminar in FSCC, FSNA, FSSO, FSSY, FSTS, or FSCS.

AFST 366. Racial Inequality and Mass Imprisonment in the US. 3 Units.
This course examines the relationship between racial inequality and mass imprisonment in the U.S. It begins by exploring the role of prisons in the Jim Crow south, with a particular focus on convict-leasing practices, and then turns to the north to examine the social forces that created the black urban ghetto and concentrated black urban poverty. The course also examines the impact that these same social forces have had on Puerto Ricans. We will then explore a series of topics including urban poverty and crime, the war on drugs, the politics of mass incarceration, the prospects that mass incarceration has become the new Jim Crow, and the effects that mass incarceration has had on voting rights, urban communities, families and children. We will conclude with a discussion of varying decarceration arguments, strategies, movements, and achievements. Offered as AFST 366 and SOCI 366.
AFST 386. Race and Racism. 3 Units.
Race and Racism will discuss the classical and contemporary understandings of the concepts of race and racism. We will begin by taking an historical approach, delving into processes of racialization and the first instances where distinctions in human race were noted. We will survey theories of race and use a social constructions approach to examine how sociologists approach the study of racial and ethnic group difference. We will examine how definitions of racial groups have evolved over time and differ across contexts, as well as some of the underlying social and structural processes that create racial hierarchies. At the end of the course students should have a strong understanding of the mechanisms that reproduce systems of racial classification. The course will also examine patterns and trends in racial and ethnic inequality over recent decades, centering our discussion on the legacies of racism, current discrimination, and new processes that are currently unfolding to reproduce inequality. While the course’s main focus is to examine understandings of race and racism in the United States, we will devote some attention to how race and ethnicity emerge in different environments by examining race and racism in an international context. Offered as AFST 386, SOCI 386 and SOCI 486. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 393. Advanced Readings in the History of Race. 3 Units.
This course examines the concept of race as a social construction that carries political and economic implications. We begin by examining the histories of the early racial taxonomists (e.g., Bernier, Linnaeus, and Blumenbach among others) and the contexts that informed their writings. We then assess how the concept of race changed from the nineteenth to the twentieth century in the United States. We conclude by evaluating how the ideology of race has influenced U.S. domestic life and foreign policy at specific historical moments. Offered as AFST 393, HSTY 393, HSTY 493, and ETHS 393. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

AFST 399. Advanced Readings in Black History. 3 Units.
This is an advanced readings course that may change from semester to semester. This course will provide students with an opportunity to more deeply explore special themes and theoretical issues in the field of black history that are often quickly and briefly covered in broad survey courses. Readings may be organized around specific topics such as resistance and social protest, black intellectual history, black nationalism and identity, black film and historical literacy black cultural forms and politics, black urban history, or some such other combination. Students may take this course more than once and receive credit as long as the course topic differs. Students should contact the History Department for more details on course content during any given semester. Offered as AFST 399, ETHS 391, HSTY 399 and HSTY 499.