

BLACK STUDIES

The Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies offers a multidisciplinary curriculum that examines the experiences of African, African American, and Caribbean people from the liberal arts perspective. The Black Studies curriculum helps to unify an important area of intellectual investigation, and enhances appreciation of particular disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Courses accommodate the needs of majors and non-majors, providing significant preparation for careers in education, social work, public policy, law, medicine, business, international relations, and advanced research.

A *major* in Black Studies is available through Pitzer, Pomona, and Scripps Colleges. This interdisciplinary major introduces students to the broad range of research and scholarship of African, African American, and Caribbean people.

The Faculty

At Claremont McKenna College - Professor: Shelton

At Pitzer College - Professor: Fairchild; Associate Professors: Basu, and Harris

At Pomona College - Professor: Lytle; Associate Professors: Conrad, Jackson, and Lemelle; Assistant Professors: Holmes, and Thomas

At Scripps College - Associate Professors: Roberts (Chair), and Walker

At Claremont Graduate University - Professor: McHenry

Courses

Art and Art History

53bk. Art Histories of Africa and the African Diaspora.

A critical introduction to the methods and approaches used to understand the arts and cinema emanating from societies across the continent of Africa and from the African Diaspora in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and Canada. Examines the underlying assumption of aesthetic, philosophic, theoretic, and historic interpretation and evaluation of Africana arts. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

140bk. The Arts of Africa.

Survey of African art and architecture, exploring ethnic and cultural diversity. Emphasis on the social, political, and religious dynamics that foster art production at specific historical moments in West, Central, and North Africa. Critical study of Western art historical approaches and methods used to study African arts. Second semester. Jackson

141abk. Seminar: (Re)presenting Africa: Art, History, and Film.

The seminar centers on post-colonial African films to examine (re)presentations of the people, arts, cultures, and socio-political histories of Africa and its Diaspora. The course critically examines the cinematic themes, aesthetics, styles, and schools of African and African Diasporic filmmakers. Second semester. Jackson

141bbk. Seminar: Africana Cinema: Through the Documentary Lens.

The course examines documentary films and videos created by filmmakers from Africa and African Diaspora in the United States, Britain, and the Caribbean. Topics include: history and aesthetics of documentary filmmaking, documentary as an art, the narrative documentary, docu-drama, cinema verite, biography, autobiography, and historical documentary. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

178bk. Black Aesthetics and the Politics of (Re)presentation.

Survey of the visual arts produced by people of African descent in the United States from the colonial era to the present. Emphasis on Black artists and changing relationship to African arts and cultures. Examines the emergence of an oppositional aesthetic tradition that interrogates visual constructions of "blackness" and "whiteness," gender and sexuality as a means of re-visioning representational practices. First semester. Jackson

186jbk. Seminar: Issues in African Diasporic Visual Arts.

This seminar examines the art produced by 20th-century artists of African descent in the United States. The course will center on artistic movements, aesthetic trends, or a specific medium, such as the Harlem Renaissance, the 1960's Black Arts Movement, Afrocentrism, feminism, or photography and Information Age technologies. Second semester. Jackson.

186wbk. Whiteness: Race, Sex, and Representation.

An interdisciplinary interrogation of linguistic, conceptual, and practical solipsisms that contributed to the construction and normalization of whiteness in aesthetics, art, visual culture, film, and mass media. Course questions the dialectics of "blackness" and "whiteness" that dominate in Western intellectual thought and popular culture, thereby informing historical and contemporary notions and representations of race, gender, sexuality, and class. Second semester. Jackson

*History***40bk. History of Africa to 1800.**

History of Africa from the earliest times to the beginning of the 19th century. Attention given to the methodology and theoretical framework used by the Africanists, the development of early African civilizations, and current debates and trends in historiography of Africa. First semester. Lemelle

41bk. History of Africa since 1800.

History of Africa from the 19th century to recent times. Attention given to political and economic aspects of Africa's development process. Methodological and theoretical frameworks utilized by Africanists, as well as current debates and trends in African historiography. Second semester. Lemelle

100ubk. Pan-Africanism and Black Radical Traditions.

Examination of the historical evolution of the Pan-African concept and its political, social, and economic implications for the world generally and for Black people in particular. Discussion of the 20th-century writers of Pan-Africanism, and especially of Padmore, DuBois, Garvey, Nkrumah, Malcolm X, and Toure (Carmichael) in terms of the contemporary problems of African Americans. Prerequisites: lower division Black Studies course and permission of instructor. Second semester. Lemelle

111abk. African Diaspora in the United States to 1877.

Grounded in a transnational comparative approach, this course connects the diverse and complex experiences, belief systems, and institutions of Blacks in the United States with those of others in the Diaspora. Beginning with pre-European contact in West and central Africa, we will examine the multifaceted nature of distinct cultures, forms of nationalism, significance of protest, and gender and class relations across time and space. First semester. Roberts

111bbk. African Diaspora in the United States since 1877.

This is the second half of the African Diaspora in the United States survey. This course connects Black emancipation and post-emancipation political struggles throughout the Diaspora. Other topics include nationalism, civil rights, and contemporary feminist theory. History 111a is not a prerequisite for History 111b. Second semester. Roberts

143bk. Slavery and Freedom in the New World.

Survey course covering the history of Africans and their descendants in the Americas from the epoch of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade until the end of the 19th century. Divided into two general sections: the slave epoch, and the emancipation (and aftermath). First semester. Lemelle

149bk. Industrialization and Social Change in Southern Africa.

Survey course in southern African history from the 17th century to the present. Emphasis on the last two centuries – the period of rapid industrialization and social change. Examination of the political, economic, and sociocultural ramifications of changes on southern African societies. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

171bk. African American Women in the United States.

Exploration of the distinctive and diverse experiences of women on West African ancestry in the United States from the 17th century to the present. Topics, including labor, activism, feminism, family, and community, are examined within the theoretical framework. Narratives, autobiographies, letters, journals, speeches, essays, and other primary documents constitute most of the required reading. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

176bk. The Modern Civil Rights Movement in America.

Mainly through primary readings, films, and guest lectures, this course explores the origins, development, and impact of the modern African American struggle for civil rights in the United States.

Particular emphasis is placed on grass-roots organizing in the Deep South. History 111b recommended. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

Interdisciplinary

10bk. Introduction to Black Studies.

Interdisciplinary exploration of key aspects of Black history, culture, and life in Africa and the Americas. Provides a fundamental, intellectual understanding of the global Black experience as it has been described and interpreted in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Second semester. Fairchild

50bk. Caribbean Society and Culture.

Examines the complexity and diversity of the Caribbean in terms of its socioeconomic reality, the lives of its people, and its artistic and intellectual products. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

152bk. Black Women Feminism(s) and Social Change.

Introduction to the theoretical and practical contributions of African American feminists who maintain that issues of race, gender, sexuality, and social class are central, rather than peripheral, to any history, analysis, assessment, or strategy for bringing about change in the United States. First semester. Jackson

Literature

12bk. Introduction to African American Literature.

This course is a survey of major periods, authors, and genres of the American literary tradition. This is the second half of a two-semester course offered through Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies faculty. This course covers the major literature produced from the turn of the 20th century to the contemporary period. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

42ebk. Girl-Worlds: Female "Coming of Age" Literature.

Through fiction, autobiography, film, popular culture, and feminist theory, this course examines representations of young women of diverse color/class/sexual identities in "coming of age" narratives of post-World War II U.S.A. context. In exploring the intersections of ethnicity/race, class, sexuality, gender, and intellectual/creative agency in the narratives, we examine how the author/female protagonists revise and resist prescriptive notions of female "coming of age." (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

117bk. Novel and Cinema in Africa and the West Indies.

Examination of works by writers and filmmakers from French-speaking countries of Africa (Senegal, Cameroon, van Burkina Faso) and the Caribbean (Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Haiti). Special emphasis will be placed on questions of identity, the impact of colonialism, social and cultural values, as well as the nature of aesthetic creation. Prerequisite: French 44 or equivalent. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

121bk. Studies in Poetry: Love and Revolution: Black Women's Poetry/Song in the 20th Century.

This course offers an exploration of language, imagery, and themes concerned with the sexual and racial politics of love and revolution as conceived in 20th-century black women's poetry/song. In addition to reading, writing, and oral presentations about poets/singers such as Johnson, Grimké, Smith, Brooks, Holiday, Sanchez, Jordan, Lorde, and Jones, students write poetry/song reflective of what/why/how/where/when notions of love and revolution are articulated in this body of work as values/weapons/desires for social justice and change. Juniors and seniors only. Prerequisite: One black studies course, or permission of instructor. First semester. Harris

125cbk. Introduction to African American Literature: In the African-Atlantic Tradition.

Survey of 18th- and 19th-century Black writers including slave narratives, early novels and poetry with attention to cultural and political contexts. First semester. Thomas

130bk. Topics in 20th-Century African American Literature: Black Women Writing Resistance and Activism.

This course closely examines Black women's constructions of self, family, community, and political consciousness in literature. We will also explore the diverse methodologies and theoretical architecture of Black female voices across genres including poetry, fiction, memoir, essays, autobiography, music, sermons, speeches, drama, and film. Our discussions will consider historical and social contexts of Black women's literary production, including attention to the politics of space and geography, traditions of resisting the intersecting oppressions of race, sex, class, and gender, and interrogating the politics of language. First semester. Thomas

132bk. Black Queer Narrative, Autobiography and Documentary.

This course examines African American writers and film and video makers whose focus on race and sexuality shape the content and form of a queer black narrative. The class will explore relationships between queer black artists, and black, feminist, and queer canons. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

134bk. Harlem Renaissance.

This course is a survey of African American literature and culture produced during or linked to the 1920s Harlem Renaissance. Central to the course is an ongoing survey and analysis of popular cultural forms such as the blues, social dance, film, and musical theater. First semester. Harris

160bk. African and Caribbean Literature.

Reading and analysis of works of fiction, poetry, and drama representing the most important trends in African and Caribbean literatures. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

165bk. Writing Between Borders: Caribbean Writers in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Examination of works by women writers from the Caribbean who live in the U.S. and Canada. Seeks to uncover the complex nature of cross-cultural encounters. Explores the strategies used by these writers to define themselves both inside and outside the body politic of two societies. Attention given to questions of identity, exile, history, memory, and language. Authors include Jean Rhys, Paule Marshall, Maryse Conde, Jamaica Kincaid and Michelle Cliff. Prerequisite: upper-division literature course or permission of instructor. First semester. Shelton

196bk. Major Figures in 20th-Century American Literature: James Baldwin.

This course explores the work of one of America's greatest writers whose importance resides in part in his calling into question national practices and injustices in regards to race, sexuality, religion, civil rights struggles and other political matters. Baldwin was a frequent expatriate with an enormous literary talent for capturing the pathos of being American across a range of social identities and issues. This course examines the themes and nuances of Baldwin's essays, novels, and plays. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

*Psychology***12bk. Introduction to African American Psychology.**

Includes perspectives, education, community, life-span development, gender, and related issues. Emphasizes the critical examination of current research and theory. Students are expected to contribute orally and in writing. Prerequisite: Introductory psychology courses or permission of instructor. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

75bk. African American Mental Health.

Introduces students to selected topics involving the mental health of African Americans. Examines issues in the definition and assessment of mental health, and addresses special topics such as spirituality, stress and hypertension, delivery of mental health services, and controversies in the psychoanalytic literature. Examines empirical, theoretical, and therapeutic approaches to African American mental health. First semester. Holmes

180pbk. Seminar: Psychological Aspects of Black Women's Sexuality.

This course will explore the theoretical, qualitative, and quantitative psychological literature pertaining to Black women's sexual experiences in the United States. Topics include sexual stereotypes of Black women, body image and sexuality, risk factors leading to early sexual initiation, HIV risk and protective factors in black communities, the abortion issue as it affects Black communities, and the social context of adolescent childbearing. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

182bk. Special Topics in African American Psychology.

This course explores a variety of contemporary issues in African American psychology. Specific subject area varies from year to year. (Not offered in 2003-2004.)

188bk. Seminar in African American Psychology.

Critically examines contemporary literature in African American psychology. Emphasizes the ideas of leading theorists (e.g. Na'im Akbar, Wade Nobels, Linda Myers) and the research literature on contemporary problems (e.g. teen pregnancy, gangs). Prerequisites: introductory Black studies psychology course or permission of instructor. First semester. Holmes