AFR 381: African Diaspora Anthropology
Dr. Maria Franklin and Dr. Edmund Gordon
W 9-12pm
This seminar is designed to introduce students to the variety of ideas that underlie the articulation of the construct of the “African diaspora.” Students will explore the ways scholars have conceptualized and theorized the “diasporadic condition” of Black peoples, and how the community is imagined.

AFR 387: Property in American Culture
Dr. Shirley Thompson
M 11-2pm
In historical and contemporary usage, the term “property” has conveyed rights in persons, places, things, and ideas to individuals, collectivities, corporations, and other entities. This course explores American conceptions of property over a wide range of economic transformations from the mercantile to the digital age. We will interrogate the spoken and unspoken investments our nation has had in the idea of property over the course of American history, paying special attention to how property resonates in the reflections of those who have traditionally been less able to define the stakes of ownership—those such as women, African Americans, Native Americans, and the poor, among other groups.

AFR 387D: Ritual, Theatricality, and Race in Brazil (taught in Portuguese)
Dr. Niyi Afolabi
TTH 11-12:30pm
In an era in which racial and violent acts of domination persist (albeit camouflaged) under the pretext of operating in a fallacious “multicultural,” “miscegenated,” and “post-racial” society, ritual performance, or what Wole Soyinka calls “The Fourth Stage”, brings about restorative justice in the midst of cosmic chaos. In the Afro-Brazilian context, ritual performance captures those strategies through which the oppressed liberate themselves from the fangs of slavery and its disempowering aftermath. Drawing upon the theories of Augusto Boal (Poética do oprimido) and Anatol Rosenfeld (O mito e o herói no moderno teatro brasileiro), as well as from the objectives of the Teatro Experimental do Negro (TEN) as propounded by Abdias Nascimento, this seminar examines the relationship between race and theatrical practices in post-1945 Brazil.
AFR387D: Black Cultural Trauma
Dr. Lisa Thompson
TH 10-1pm

This course considers how African American cultural critics and cultural producers theorize and represent past as well as current racial trauma. The class will begin by exploring recent scholarship that places the African American experience in the US within trauma studies. The second section of the course will examine the strategies and narratives that artists, writers and filmmakers deploy in their representations of significant historic traumas—specific tragedies, brutalities, and horrors, such as slavery, lynching, rape, and riots—as well as repetitive, soul crushing, quotidian slights and micro-aggressions. We will also discuss the ways these cultural producers register visible as well as invisible (or less visible) psychic injuries. Situated at the intersection of theatre, literature, art history, trauma studies and African American history, this course asks participants to analyze how literary, artistic and theatrical interventions present contemporary black subjectivity in light of destabilizing experiences. We will conclude by pondering the role that theatre, literature, film and other art play in representing collective traumatic memory during an era increasingly labeled as “post-race.”

AFR387D: Jazz and Politics
Dr. Joao Vargas
TH 2-5pm

The relationship between jazz music and politics as related to Black communities.

AFR387D: Literature and Media in the Spanish Caribbean (taught in Spanish)
Dr. Jossianna Arroyo
T 9-12pm

El Caribe insular contemporáneo, sus cuerpos en circulación y sus economías son el eje principal en la definición de los discursos sobre migración, diáspora, hibridez, raza y etnicidad en nuestro contexto global. En el Caribe, las desigualdades económicas figuran las definiciones de estos cuerpos en procesos complejos de intercambio y valor. Este curso es un análisis de las definiciones y transformaciones del Caribe contemporáneo a partir del modo en que los cuerpos se insertan, o no, en estos imaginarios de la globalización.

AFR388: Erotic Subjectivity in the African Diaspora
Dr. Lyndon Gill
W 3-6pm

This multi-disciplinary course explores various notions of black ‘selfhood’ through the lens of the erotic. We will consider sex/intimacy/desire alongside political and spiritual consciousness in our assessment of the relationship between subjectivity and Eros. (While the course is being offered at the graduate level, advanced undergraduates may be admitted at the discretion of the instructor.)

*Please Note: This course deals with aspects of gender and sexuality in a candid and explicit manner at times. Students who do not feel comfortable with this approach should not take the course. If you choose to take this course, you have agreed to respect our classroom as a safe space. Racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, or- of course- ‘erotophobia’ of any sort will not be tolerated.
African & African Diaspora Studies

The University of Texas at Austin

AADS is committed to interdisciplinary scholarship and creative production that explores questions of social justice around the globe. Our scholarship, cultural creativity, and pedagogical practices reflect our investment in comparative and transnational approaches, intersectional analyses, and critical theoretical frameworks. They also reflect our collective commitment as scholars, artists, teachers, and students to bridging the perceived gap between scholarly and artistic work, and political engagement.

AFR388: Feminist Theories

Dr. Joy James

W 10-1pm

Introduction to the feminist theories and methods used in various disciplines; the ways these theories can inform interdisciplinary perspectives in the student’s own field of study.

AFR 388: Gender and Sexuality in Caribbean Literature

Dr. Omise’eke Tinsley

M 12-3pm

Explores the methodological, conceptual, aesthetic, and political gains emerging from various strands of black feminist and black queer studies perspectives. Special attention is given to the advantages and limitations of key concepts within these bodies of work, including experience, standpoint theory, and intersectionality.

For more information about these and other AADS graduate courses please contact:

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