AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AFAM)

AFAM 501: Seminar in African American Studies
3 Credits

A survey of the academic field of African American Studies.

AFAM 502: Blacks and African Diaspora
3 Credits

Seminar in the theory and history of Blacks in the African Diaspora.

AFAM 503: Sexual and Gender Politics in the African Diaspora
3 Credits

A seminar in the theory and history of sexual and gender politics in the Black Diaspora from the Colonial Era forward.

Prerequisite: AF AM501

AFAM 520: Readings in African History
3 Credits

AFR 520 is a graduate seminar that gives students an overview of key literatures, methodologies, and debates in recent scholarship concerning various areas of precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial African history. Its broad temporal framing reflects the long, diverse histories of African peoples and their relations to Europe, the Americas, and Asia, while also allowing for examination of more recent and localized histories. Beginning in the era of transatlantic slavery and continuing to the present day, the selected texts constitute a sweeping examination of African history. In addition to covering a wide geographic scope-with works situated in North, East, South, and West Africa-the books engage with themes including slavery, health and healing, gender, religion, colonialism, nationalism, postcolonialism, and China’s work on the continent. In addition to covering more recent additions to African historiography, course readings and assignments will encourage students to refine their research questions, interrogate the craft of history, strengthen their analytical writing, and expand the contours of their own fields. Graduate students will be prepared to: teach on the most recent studies of North and Sub-Saharan African history; more efficiently read and review academic texts; and carefully consider how they would frame, market, and detail their prospective dissertations as a potential book. This course is open to graduate student across departments.

Cross-listed with: AFR 520

AFAM 544: Race and American Politics
3 Credits

In this seminar, we will explore what race is, why it matters, and how it shapes attitudes, behaviors, policies, and institutions. While this is a political science course, the seminar draws ideas and insights from a broad array of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. It demonstrates that an explicit consideration of race is needed to fully comprehend American politics. Students emerge from the course with an understanding of the scholarly approaches and key substantive debates.