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**Spring 2016**

# African American studies

**PROMOTING SCHOLARSHIP AND DIALOGUE ON ISSUES RELATED TO AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA.**

The African American Studies department of The College of New Jersey is an Interdisciplinary teacher-scholar community whose faculty embodies professional excellence, promotes engaged learning, and provides original intellectual contributions to their respective fields. As teachers of the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences, the department promotes the discovery and creation of knowledge, independent and critical inquiry, professional and scholarly activity, and student/faculty/community collaboration.



## ***Exciting News from the Chair! AAS Major to launch Fall 2016 Winnifred Brown-Glaude, Ph.D.***

I am so happy to report that African American Studies has been approved for a new major to begin Fall 2016. This interdisciplinary major will consist of 5 core requirements and 5 elective courses. The core requirements for students declaring a major in African American Studies are 1) AAS 179 African American History to 1865, 2) AAS 180 African American History 1865 to Present, 3) AAS 378 African American Literature 1920-1980, 4) AAS 495 Independent Research Study and 5) a co-requisite course in Methods and Statistics. For a full list of approved courses and to declare the major, please stop in the department office, SSB 317. Remember, if you double-major, **you may cross count up to 3 courses so the AAS major can work very well as a second major.**

## **CONTACT US...**

For more information about the AAS Department, go to:  
[www.african-americanstudies.pages.tcnj.edu](http://www.african-americanstudies.pages.tcnj.edu)

**Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter!**  
“Department of African American Studies at The College of New Jersey” (FB) and TCNJAFAM (Twitter)

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# Benefits of an AAS Minor or Major

Students graduating with an African American Studies minor will embody the following learning objectives: Graduates will be...

- Knowledgeable of the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical models related to African Diaspora courses, scholarship, and issues.
- Able to articulate an enhanced awareness of the socioeconomic and political implications and consequences of a multiracial world.
- Able to explain global constructions of race.
- Have an understanding of the diversity of African and its Diaspora's voices.
- Able to identify women and men central to the history, religious practices, literary traditions, artistic production, intellectual movements, institutional developments, and study of people of African descent.

## AAS Minor Requirements:

AAS 179: African American History to 1865 (formerly AAS 205)  
*1 Course Unit (crosslisted with HIS 179)*

AAS 180: African American History Since 1865 (formerly AAS 206)  
*1 Course Unit (crosslisted with HIS 180)*

Electives: *3 Course Units from AAS courses (or crosslisted sections)*

## Welcome New Faculty members!

This fall, the department of African American Studies was thrilled to welcome two new faculty members to TCNJ, Dr. Leigh-Anne Francis and Dr. Zakiya Adair. Both professors have a joint appointment with AAS and Women and Gender Studies and will teach a variety of courses for both departments.

Zakiya Adair is an assistant professor in Women's and Gender Studies and African American Studies. Dr. Adair attended graduate school at the University of Washington, in Seattle where she earned her Ph.D. in Women's Studies. Her areas of specialization are transnational women's cultural history, African American history and black internationalism with specific focus on early trans-Atlantic expressive culture. She is the recipient of many fellowships; most recently, Dr. Adair was a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Scholar in Residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture 2013. Currently she is working on completing her first book length monograph that will explore the relationship between race, gender and nation in trans-Atlantic and transnational vaudeville, cabaret and music hall in the early twentieth century.



Dr. Zakiya Adair  
Ph.D., University of Washington



Dr. Leigh-Anne Francis  
Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Leigh-Anne Francis holds a Ph.D. in United States and African American History, an M.A. in U.S. and World History, and a B.F.A. in Painting and Illustration. Currently she is working on completing her first book-length manuscript, "Bad Girls: Race, Crime, and Punishment in New York State, 1893—1916," that analyzes the intersections of gender, race and class by exploring crime and punishment, labor and community, through the lens of black women's experiences while offering comparisons with imprisoned native-born and European immigrant white women. As a Rutgers graduate student, she was a volunteer instructor at Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility for Men in New Jersey. When she is not teaching or researching, she enjoys spending time with her spouse, Jenny, and their one-year old twin sons, Rustin and Langston.

# Offered AAS Classes—Spring 2016

## **AAS 179 / HIS 179 : African American History to 1865 (\*formerly AAS 205)**

Dr. Christopher Fisher

*Tuesday/Friday from 2:00pm - 3:20pm*

An examination of the history of African Americans from their ancestral home in Africa to the end of the United States Civil War. The course encompasses introducing the cultures and civilizations of the African people prior to the opening up of the New World and exploring Black contributions to America up to 1865.

## **AAS 180 / HIS 180 : African American History 1865 to Present (\*formerly AAS 206)**

Dr. Mekala Audain

*Monday/Thursday from 9:30am - 10:50am (Section 01) or 12:30pm - 1:50pm (Section 02)*

An examination of the history of African Americans from the end of slavery in the United States to the civil rights revolution of 1950s and 1960s. This course is designed to explore the history of African Americans since the Reconstruction and their contributions to the civil rights revolution of the present era.

## **AAS 240 / MUS 245: History of Jazz**

Dr. Gary Fienberg

*Tuesday/Friday from 9:30am - 10:50am*

An introduction to jazz music through an examination of its content, history, and cultural legacy. The course begins with the emergence of jazz out of early African American musical forms, and considers the profound connection between the African American experience and the development of jazz. It is an examination of how jazz evolved through artistic and technological innovations as well as through cultural, commercial, and political forces. The course engages students in critical listening and research-based writing skills.

## **AAS 252 / WGS 252: Gendering the Harlem Renaissance: Black Paris**

Dr. Zakia Adair

*Tuesday/Friday from 11:00am - 12:20pm*

This course will focus on performance, literature and intellectual creation during the period known as the Harlem Renaissance, 1920-1935. Departing from scholarship that locates the Harlem Renaissance in a fixed geographical or historic time frame this course will explore the ways the Harlem Renaissance took place outside of Harlem as well as explore the ways that the Harlem Renaissance was an international phenomenon that incorporated black political, intellectual and creative production from throughout the diaspora. Additionally this course will explore popular gender tropes in performance production. A main focus of this course will be on the intersection of socially construed identities and the ways that race, gender and sexuality were constructed during the Harlem Renaissance. Queering the Harlem Renaissance includes analysis of the ways spaces and performances were queer spaces for transgressive possibilities, the uses by black women of the international in theme and practice to create greater economic and career opportunities for women.



# Offered AAS Classes—Spring 2016

## **\*NEW COURSE\***

### **AAS 270: Topics in African American Studies— LGBTQ Communities of Color in U.S. History, 1600s to present**

**Dr. Leigh-Anne Francis**

***Monday/Thursday from 11:00am - 12:20pm***

This course is a history of “bulldaggers”, “fairies”, “femmes”, “studs”, “aggressives”, “crossdressers”, “drag queens”, “drag kings”, and “quare” people of color in the United States – people whose experiences, while rarely visible in dominant culture beyond crude stereotypes and fleeting trends, have a long, dynamic, influential, and vital history in the nation. This course provides a history of the lgbtq communities more well-known figures, such as Laverne Cox, Margaret Cho, Ricky Martin and RuPaul – its less well-known figures such as Sylvia Rivera, Bayard Rustin, Christos and Cheryl Clarke – and unknown, everyday, ordinary people, such as Taja Gabrielle de Jesus and CeCe MacDonald, whose day-to-day lives embody the core struggles and continued endurance of the broader lgbtq people of color communities.

LGBTQ People of Color in U.S. History draws on Latino/a and Chicano/a, Asian American and Asian Pacific Islander, Indigenous/First Nations, Arab American, African American History/Studies and Whiteness Studies in order to engage students in an inclusive exploration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (lgbtqi) people of color’s experiences in the United States from the 1600s to the present. The History of LGBTQI Communities of Color in the U.S. departs from traditional gay and lesbian history courses by centralizing communities of color and requiring intersectional analysis of primary and secondary sources. In this course, students examine the ways in which discourses on sexuality and gender are fundamentally and inextricably enmeshed with race, class, ability, ethnicity, national identity, immigration status, and religion. They consider the extent to which gender, sex, sexuality, and sexual desires are socially constructed and biologically rooted.

### **AAS 282 / HIS 190: U.S. Race Relations**

**Dr. David McAllister**

***Monday from 5:30pm - 8:20pm***

A socio-historical examination of race as a category in the United States. The course approaches the United States as a multiracial society and discusses how the various racial groups negotiate their differences politically, economically, intellectually, socially, and culturally.

## **\*NEW COURSE\***

### **AAS 370 / LIT 370: African Human Rights**

**Dr. Mindi McMann**

***Wednesdays from 5:30pm-8:20pm***

This course explores how African texts have dealt with the thorny task of defining terms like “human,” “rights,” and “justice.” We will be situating narratives from Nigerian, Rwandan, and South African traditions, among others within the 20th-century concept of human rights. Throughout the course, we will be developing a shared vocabulary and understanding of what human rights are, and what is left out of this idea. We will be considering questions such as: How do these narratives de-center or align with European discourses of human rights? What effect does being a postcolonial state have on how human rights narratives are articulated? What role do literature, film, and political essays play in resisting human rights atrocities such as apartheid and genocide?

# Offered AAS Classes—Spring 2016

## AAS 376 / WGS 361 / HIS 365: African American Women's History

Dr. Leigh-Anne Francis

*Monday/Thursday from 12:30pm - 1:50pm (Section 01) or Monday 3:30pm-6:20pm (Section 02)*

A study of the experience of African American women in the United States, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Through a survey of critical time periods, key social institutions, and crystallizing experiences, the course will explicate the role of African American women in shaping present American society. Readings, lectures, discussions, recordings and movies will be used to present a comprehensive and cohesive understanding of African American women.

## AAS 378 / LIT 378 : Early African American Literature 1920-1980

Dr. Piper Kendrix Williams

*Tuesday/Friday from 11:00am - 12:20pm (Section 01) or 2:00pm - 3:20pm (Section 02)*

A study of literature in the African American tradition, focusing on the realist and naturalist writings of the this period, as well as the prose, poetry, essays and speeches of the Harlem Renaissance and Black Arts Movement. We will interrogate how the social matrices of competing definitions of black identity are reflected in and through writing produced by African Americans, while we trouble notions of authenticity, representation, and essentialism. Works by Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Lorraine Hansberry, Toni Morrison, and others will be included. The course will also explore the canon of African American Literature, its literary tradition, and the intersections with and diversions from the canon of American Letters.

## **\*\*WINTER & SUMMER STUDY ABROAD COURSES\*\***

The following two faculty led study abroad courses will count towards the AAS major/minor - interested students should speak with the affiliated faculty or visit the Center for Global Engagement in Green Hall 111.

### **SOUTH AFRICA: History and Literature of Apartheid** [Program Information](#)

This course offers student a unique opportunity to study the history and literary output of apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa in two of the largest urban areas in that country – Johannesburg and Cape Town. As an interdisciplinary topics course, it is designed to give students a background on the literature, history, and culture of South Africa. There are no prerequisites to enroll and the course will count for Social Change in Historical Perspectives, Global Perspectives, and Literary, Visual and Performing Arts liberal learning requirements (and under review to count for Race and Ethnicity). **Offered Winter 2016**

Program Directors:

- Dr. Matthew Bender, Associate Professor of History and Director, International Studies Program
- Dr. Mindi McMann, Assistant Professor of English

### **CUBA: Race, Gender and Nation** [Program Information](#)

This faculty-led, short-term, study-abroad course seeks to ground students' understanding of contemporary Cuba by exploring how Cuban writers, photographers, visual artists, musicians, and others have told their own stories about 'who they are' and 'what it means to be Cuban'. Set in Havana, there are no prerequisites to enroll and the course will count for Literary, Visual and Performing Arts, Global liberal learning requirements (and under review to count for Race and Ethnicity). **Offered Summer 2016**

Program Directors:

- Dr. Winnifred Brown-Glaude, Chair, African-American Studies
- Dr. Alvin Joaquín Figueroa, Associate Professor of Spanish
- Dr. Marimar Huguet-Jerez, Associate Professor of Spanish