



## African, African American, & Diaspora Studies Center

### African, African American, and Diaspora Studies Minor Fall 2021 Courses

For more information, see our website (<http://www.jmu.edu/africana>) or contact the Minor Coordinators, Dr. Godfrey ([godfrema@jmu.edu](mailto:godfrema@jmu.edu)) and Dr. Muhonja ([muhonjbx@jmu.edu](mailto:muhonjbx@jmu.edu)).

**Course Subject/Number:** AAAD 200

**Course Title:** Introduction to African, African American and Diaspora Studies

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Etana Dinka

**Day/Time:** TuTh 11:20-12:35

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** An introductory survey of basic theoretical concepts to analyze the Black experience, with special focus on the general historical process common to Africa and the African Diaspora. May be used for general education credit.

**Course Subject/Number:** AAAD 400 (cross-listed with LAXC 495, POSC 351, MUS 490, ISAT 480, HON 300, UNST 300E, ENG 302)

**Course Title:** The Antiracist Gen Ed Project (a JMU X-Labs class)

**Section:** 0002

**Professor:** Tolu Odumosu (co-taught by Amy Lewis, Allison Fagan, and Carah Whaley)

**Day/Time:** TuTh 9:40-10:55

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** Join students from across campus to redefine and reimagine “diversity,” “equity,” and “inclusion” in the General Education curriculum. What broad skills does a college graduate in 2026 need to have? *Whose* knowledge should count as important enough to teach to the leaders of tomorrow? Whose stories should we tell? Are you interested in joining a diverse team of multidisciplinary faculty from across campus to critique the syllabi of yesterday and shape the courses of tomorrow? Are interested in rethinking the Gen Ed experience from an anti-racist perspective? If so, join the conversation and sign up for this class. Admission is by instructor permission only. **Apply here by Wednesday, April 14:** <http://bit.ly/GenEdXLabs>

**Course Subject/Number:** AAAD 401

**Course Title:** Internship in African, African American and Diaspora Studies

**Sections:** 0001 (one credit hour); 0002 (two credit hours); 0003 (three credit hours)

**Professor:** Case Watkins

**Day/Time:** TBD

**Modality:** Multiple

**Description:** This internship course provides the student with the opportunity to apply knowledge learned in the classroom in a practical/real-world setting(s). It prepares students for working independently in the field. Any internship experience must be approved by the internship coordinator in advance, and details of supervision and evaluation should be spelled out in advance by the supervising faculty member. If the internship is through an academic unit, it must be approved for credit by the African, African American and Diaspora Studies internship coordinator in advance of the experience. *Students should seek out their own internship opportunities, respond to opportunities posted by the Director of AAAD Internships, and / or work with AAAD faculty and partners to develop internship opportunities.* Questions? Contact Director of AAAD Internships, Dr. Case Watkins, at [watki2ac@jmu.edu](mailto:watki2ac@jmu.edu).

**Course Subject/ Number:** AMST 200

**Course Title:** Introduction to American Studies

**Section:** 0002 / 0003

**Professor:** H. Gelfand

**Day/Time:** MW 3:55-5:10 / MW 5:35-6:50

**Modality:** In Person/Hybrid

**Description:** This course examines representations of the United States in literature, history, philosophy, religion, popular culture, music, and art through the concepts of Identity, Place, and Activism with a strong emphasis on People of Color and people of all abilities, economic backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, and sexualities.

**Course Subject/Number:** EDUC 310

**Course Title:** Teaching in a Diverse Society

**Section:** 0001 & 0003

**Professor:** Diana Meza (0001) & Ruthie Bosch (0003)

**Day/Time:** Section 0001 MW 9:40-10:55 & Section 0003 TuTh 9:40-10:55

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course will examine how personal and professional values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors affect teaching and learning. The pre-service teachers will develop an understanding of similar unique characteristics of Pre-K to 12 grade students and their families, including culture, race, ethnicity, heritage language and learning abilities, gender socialization and sexual orientation.

**Course Subject/Number:** ELED 310

**Course Title:** Diversity, Equity, and Justice in Elementary Education

**Section:** 003 / 004 / 005

**Professor:** Kara Kavanagh

**Day/Time:** M 11:45-2:30 / M 8:00-10:45 / W 8:00-10:45

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course guides students in critically examining their own perspectives regarding diversity in our society. Through this course, students will expand their awareness and understanding of individuals and groups apparently different from themselves. Students will explore pedagogical issues and practices in the classroom that embrace the whole community of learners and their families.

**Course Subject/Number:** ENG 239

**Course Title:** Studies in World Literature: African Oral Literatures

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Professor: Dr. Besi Muhonja; Grading Faculty: Mr. Dan Levine

**Day/Time:** M/W 2.15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course offers an overview of African oral literatures, exploring form and style, relevance and function in specific genres including folktales, myths and mythology, legends and epics, witticisms, praise poetry, children's games, and songs. Through an exploration of spiritual, social, and political themes and content of oral literature, this introductory course contextualizes orature as part of the world sense and day-to-day structures and operations of African communities. Students will encounter the aesthetics and philosophies of African verbal art as they engage debates on orality, memorialization, and edutainment through a critical African studies lens.

**Course Subject/Number:** ENG 239

**Course Title:** Studies in World Literature: Literatures of Global English

**Section:** 0002

**Professor:** David Babcock

**Day/Time:** TuTh 9:40-10:55

**Modality:** In person/Hybrid

**Description:** This course serves as an introduction to world anglophone literatures since 1945, with special attention to English as a global language with a colonial history. Our texts are produced in places where, historically, English has been the language of imperialism and colonization, ranging from the Indian subcontinent, Africa, the Caribbean, and North America. Keeping in mind this bloody history, we will consider what it means to think in terms of a "global" English literature today, and identify common literary themes, problems, and strategies

that have arisen across different areas of the world. How do postcolonial writers go about using English for their own purposes, occupying a potentially treacherous literary ground?

**Course Subject/Number:** ENG 260

**Course Title:** Survey of African American Literature

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Mollie Godfrey

**Day/Time:** MWF 1:00-1:50

**Modality:** In person/Hybrid

**Description:** This course introduces students to major authors, literary forms, and movements in African American literature. We study the emergence and flourishing of African American literature over the past two centuries, noting common as well as diverging themes, techniques, and arguments over the coherence of African American literature as a genre. Throughout the semester we will explore antebellum, Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights, Black Arts, and contemporary writers in their historical contexts as well as make connections between texts across historical periods. Students can expect to complete in-class reading and comprehension quizzes, group discussion board writing assignments, a midterm and final exam.

**Course Subject/Number:** ENG 335

**Course Title:** African American Children's Literature

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Danielle Price

**Day/Time:** TuTh 2:40-3:55 pm

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course studies the conventions and history of African American children's literature. We begin with the overarching question of what exactly is African American children's literature and then consider its history and expression in various genres including the picture book, poetry, historical fiction, realistic fiction, and the graphic novel. We will also discuss the position of African American literature within the wider world of children's books, book publishing, and popular culture.

**Course Subject/Number:** ENG 385

**Course Title:** Race in Hollywood

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Mollie Godfrey

**Day/Time:** MW 2:15-3:30; optional film screening F 2:15-4:45

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** Since its inception at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the American film industry has fostered ideals and images of American identity, often via its fortification or interrogation of America's Black/white color line. Indeed, from the rise of film through the Civil Rights

movement, Black Power, and the rise of independent Black cinema, representations of Blackness and whiteness have proven crucial both to the content of American films and also to the perspectives from which they are made and viewed. This course will investigate the conceptualization of race and both the perpetuation of and resistance to racism in popular American culture by examining representations of Black and white Americans in Hollywood films—as well as the public reception of those films—from the birth of film to the present day.

**Course Subject/Number:** ENG 496

**Course Title:** Advanced Creative Writing: Life Writing

**Section:** 0004

**Professor:** Joanne Gabbin

**Day/Time:** TT 9:40-10:55

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** Creative life writing class organized around readings in memoirs and autobiographies written by Black American authors, including Maya Angelou, Richard Wright, Barack Obama, James McBride, Jesmyn Ward, and Edwidge Danticat.

**Course Subject/Number:** HIST 263

**Section:** 0001

**Title:** Introduction to African History

**Professor:** David Owusu-Ansah

**Day/Time:** MWF 8:00-8:50

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** History 263 introduces students to topics in the African past. The course begins with presentations about the African past as evidenced in paleoanthropological discoveries and continues through the colonial period. Particular attention is given to the development of political structures, religious concepts/institutions, and socio-economic patterns within the continent. Contacts with the outside world—the Arabia world and Europe—examine Africa in global history.

**Course Subject/Number:** HIST 341

**Course Title:** A History of Modern Africa

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Etana Dinka

**Day/Time:** TuTh 4:20-5:35

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course examines selected key themes in the history of modern Africa. It explores historical transitions and challenges in society, economy and politics in the 19th and 20th centuries. The major themes of the course include the 19th-century transformations in the west and southern Africa, East Africa and the Indian ocean, Islam in Africa, conquest and

colonialism, Africa and the two world wars, the process of decolonization and the eventual departure of European colonial rule in parts of tropical Africa, and independent Africa's politics and economies. The course is organized chronologically and thematically, providing students with a broad knowledge of modern Africa that will prepare them for further in-depth learning of the continent's contemporary history. Lectures, class discussions, films, and historical significance issues in selected African countries from different geographical zones will be employed to illustrate the key themes of discussions in the course.

**Course Subject/Number:** HIST 355

**Course Title:** African American History to 1865

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Andrew Witmer

**Day/Time:** TuTh 11:20-12:35

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** A survey of the experience and changing status of African Americans in the United States from 1619 through the Civil War, with attention to the West African background, cultural developments, social and political movements, slavery and the slave trade, dual-consciousness, and emancipation.

**Course Subject/Number:** IDLS 395/ ENVT 300

**Course Title:** Environmental Thought and Activism

**Section:** 0003

**Professor:** H. Gelfand

**Day/Time:** Th 4:20-6:50

**Modality:** In person/Hybrid

**Description:** This course examines the development of environmental thought in the United States, including environmental protection, environmental activism, environmental justice, urban adaptations to environmental degradation and poverty, land use, ecopoerty, and the impacts of resource extraction and refining, with a particular emphasis on People of Color and economically challenged populations.

**Course Subject/Number:** JUST 355

**Course Title:** Solutions to Global Poverty

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Daniel Beers

**Day/Time:** W 6:30-9:00pm

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course will analyze the root causes of global poverty and critically examine a range of approaches designed to improve conditions for the world's poor. Topics include nutrition and agriculture, healthcare, education, gender equality, water and sanitation,

environmental management, and microfinance. Throughout the course, we will read policy documents, work with poverty-related data, and analyze a variety of real-world case studies to illustrate key ideas. Prerequisites: JUST 200 and one other 200-level JUST course, not including JUST 225. (Limited availability; pre-reqs waived for AAAD students).

**Course Subject/Number:** JUST 357

**Course Title:** Environmental Justice

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Case Watkins

**Day/Time:** TuTh 2:00-3:15

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course provides students with an interdisciplinary introduction to environmental justice. Emphasizing how contemporary environmental issues are profoundly rooted in social, political, and economic conditions, students will apply principles and conceptions of justice to ecological challenges and sustainability efforts in local, national, and global contexts. Class Notes: Students are divided into subgroups and attend alternating face-to-face and remote classes on a schedule set by their instructor. Enrollment Requirements: Prerequisites: JUST 200 and one other 200-level JUST course, not including JUST 225. (Limited availability; pre-reqs waived for AAAD students).

**Course Subject/Number:** POSC 340

**Course Title:** Politics of Development

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Melinda Adams

**Day/Time:** TuTh 11:20-12:35

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** What is development and what strategies successfully promote it? This course examines questions related to development--what it is, what factors promote or obstruct it, and the ways that academic and practitioner-based approaches to it have changed over time. Throughout the semester, we will pay significant attention to issues of governance, institutions, strategies of development and poverty alleviation, and foreign aid and conflict.

**Course Subject/Number:** POSC 341

**Course Title:** Social Movements in the US & Abroad

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Kristin Wylie

**Day/Time:** MW 2:15-3:30

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** In recent decades, social movements have mobilized people concerned about issues ranging from the rights of ethno-racial minorities, women, sexual minorities, and immigrants to

the environment, human rights, and world peace. This course will examine the origins, modes of action, and impact of such movements. We will apply the comparative method to analyze social movements in the United States and abroad, investigating how different socioeconomic and political contexts shape social movements based on common issues. The course will emphasize how social movements emerge and function within and alongside existing structures of formal politics.

**Course Subject/Number:** PSYC 402

**Course Title:** Independent Readings in Black in America

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Pam Gibson

**Day/Time:** M 11:00-12:15

**Modality:** Synchronous Online

**Description:** This course reads and discusses 7 books and 2 reports by black authors that deal with being Black in the United States. Some emphasis is put on identity and students will write a paper on their racial identity. Students will also explore their own implicit biases with an exercise designed by the instructor. Books will include: *When They Call You a Terrorist* by Patrisse Kahn-Cullors (co-founder of Black Lives Matter); *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander; *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin; *Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, “Overpoliced, and Underprotected”* by Kimberle Williams Crenshaw with Priscilla Ocen and Jyoti Nanda (African American Policy forum [www.aapf.org](http://www.aapf.org) and Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies. [www.intersectionality-center.org](http://www.intersectionality-center.org)); “Say Her Name Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women.” African American Policy forum. On Canvas and at [www.aapf.org](http://www.aapf.org); *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Daniel Tatum; *Whistling Vivaldi* by Claude M. Steele; *White Rage* by Carol Anderson; and *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This course is handled via override. Please email instructor at [gibsonpr@jmu.edu](mailto:gibsonpr@jmu.edu).

**Course Subject/Number:** REL 300

**Course Title:** Race and Religion

**Section:** 0001

**Professor:** Emily Gravett

**Day/Time:** MW 9:40-10:55AM

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** Both race and religion are interwoven into who we are and how we inhabit our various worlds, even if we don't think of these as important or relevant parts of our lives. This class will explore the complicated and long-standing intersection of these two concepts, wondering: What do they each mean? How have these terms functioned, throughout history? How do race and religion interact? How has one informed or shaped our understanding of the other? When differing racial and religious identities converge for individuals and communities,

what happens? With the foundation provided by the course and our time together, you will also have the opportunity to explore your own various identities as well as case study of your choosing that involves an intersection of race and religion.

**Course Subject/Number:** SCOM 248

**Course Title:** Intercultural Communication

**Section:** 0001/0002

**Professor:** Kathryn Hobson

**Day/Time:** TuTh 11:20-12:35 / 1:00-2:15

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** The study of human communication in a variety of cultural settings and contexts. Emphasis on developing understanding and analytical skills regarding communication between people from different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds in both domestic and international settings. Consideration of relevance and application to social, business, and political environments.

**Course Subject/Number:** WGSS 200

**Course Title:** Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Section:** 0002

**Professor:** Dr. Besi Muhonja

**Day/Time:** MW 9.40 a.m.-10:55 a.m.

**Modality:** In person

**Description:** This course offers an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies from a critical, transnational, intersectional and cross-cultural perspective. Participants will interrogate intersections of gender, nationality, class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, age, and other identities through the lenses of production and reproduction, public and private concepts/spheres, margins and centers, privilege and subordination, cultural realities, resistance, colonialisms, decolonial knowledges, globalization and neo-colonialisms.