

**Introduction to Pan African Studies (PAS 301):**

This course provides a survey analysis of Africans and their impact on shaping and changing the culture, religion, language, and customs of all the societies impacted by the African Diaspora. It looks, at cultural legacies found in African Americans, Afro-Caribbean's, and Africans in other parts of the world. The primary focus of this course is on African Americans and the way they have helped shape American culture. We also explore the degree to which Africa has helped shape what African Americans do.

This course is very important for understanding and linking African Americans to their pre-slavery past. It helps explain the culture, practices, and beliefs of African Americans. It also helps us link our history and heritage to Africans in other parts of the world. This course will trace the way Africa has helped shape the culture, language, and heritage of cultures all over the world.

**Directed Studies on the Black Experience in Education (PAS 471, Independent Study):**

Students conduct research and produce scholarship on academic, social, economic, and historical issues that impact the Black experience in educational settings. Students may also participate in service learning activities to broaden their understanding of the Black experience in education and apply their knowledge in the community.

**African American History 1492-1877 (HIST 311):**

This course looks at African American History from the age of discovery through the reconstruction period. It provides students with a chance to analyze the historical concerns, interest, lives and problems confronting African Americans from their initial contact with Europeans in Africa through their enslavement in the Americas all the way through the Civil War, freedom and reconstruction. This course will also examine the impact African Americans have had on the shape, nature, and direction of the American democracy during the early republic.

This class is very important for anyone who wants to understand American History. African Americans had profoundly shaped this nations history. We will look at the African American community to gain an understanding of slavery, freedom, resistance, abolition and community development. We will also look at how African Americans have shaped the U.S. political, social, and economic landscape through reconstruction.

**African American History 1877-Present (HIST 312):**

African American History from 1877 - present provides students with a chance to analyze the historical concerns, interest, and problems confronting African Americans from reconstruction through the modern age. This course will also examine the impact African Americans have had on the nature and direction of American life and culture during the 20th century.

This class is very important for anyone who wishes to understand American History. America is a made up of diverse cultures and anyone who wishes to understand American History must be thoroughly grounded in the history of all those who make up our culture. No other minority group has so profoundly affected American History like African Americans. We will look at the African American community stressing heritage and history, discussing their search and struggle for equality, freedom, justice, human rights, and identity in the United States. We will also look at how African Americans have shaped the U.S. political, social, and economic landscape.

**The African Experience in Latin America (HIST 394):**

From Conquest to Carnaval, this course is an examination of the changing place of Africans and African cultures in Latin America. Attention will be paid to local religion, self-identification, nationalist thought, and popular culture.

**The American City (HIST 400):**

This course is designed to give students a general history of the U.S. from the end of Reconstruction through the modern age. It examines the forces, which worked to create the urban, economic, political, industrial, agricultural and social make up of this nation. It will familiarize the students with the pertinent issues, ideas, and trends, which have occurred. This course emphasizes such concepts as expansion, colonization, freedom, justice, liberty, capitalism, and democracy.

This course is also designed to introduce students to the numerous people and cultures, which have shaped the U.S. We will look at the influence of immigration and migration on shaping the America society. We will also investigate to decipher the difference between the American ideas and the American reality looking at Civil Rights and political self-determination. This course is invaluable to any student who is interested in learning about the various people places and things, which have worked together to create this nation. It takes both a critical and analytical look at this country's history to open student's minds up to the responsibilities of US citizenship.

**African American Religion (REL 311):**

This course is a survey of the various religions that have flourished among African Americans, including the history of Christian churches and denominations, forms of Islam, and Afro-Caribbean religions. (This course is taught in alternate years)

**American Literature 463 – Special Topics in American Literature  
(Spring 2007)****Representing Slavery**

*NOTE: I would welcome and happily accommodate any student from any department who is ready for an advanced literature class.*

Rutherford Calhoun, a free black sailor featured in Charles Johnson's novel, *Middle Passage*, speaks of computers even though Calhoun is supposedly living in the 1850s. What on earth was Johnson getting at? Why would he mix 20<sup>th</sup> century language into a novel about the slave trade? This course will examine how and why various writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have sought to represent the slave experience. Through the reading of several novels, the viewing of a handful of films, and the consideration of a number of historical and theoretical texts, we will look to how 20<sup>th</sup> century texts (films, poetry, prose, and fiction) are in conversation with the 19<sup>th</sup> century texts that preceded them.

**PROBABLE TEXTS** - *Misc. 19<sup>th</sup> century poets, Frederick Douglass' Autobiography; Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin; Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl; Morrison's Beloved; Octavia Butler, Kindred; Ishmael Reed, Flight to Canada; Charles Johnson, Middle Passage; Valerie Martin, Property.*

**REQUIREMENTS:** relentless, sophisticated, and informed participation, a research paper (with \*required\* drafts to be turned in along the way), a midterm exam, and more than occasional

reading quizzes. This is an advanced capstone class in American Literature so be prepared for a meaty and substantial reading load.

**American Literature 823:  
(Spring 2007)**

**Slavery and the Literary Imagination**

**NOTE:** AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR, I WOULD WELCOME AND DO MY BEST TO ACCOMMODATE GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Why does knowing about the post-emancipation world prompt writers to reenact slavery and its social, poetic, and cultural implications in ways that seem to demand particular notions of the modern or the post modern? Through the reading of several novels, the viewing of a handful of films, and the consideration of a number of historical and theoretical texts, this seminar shall explore how the systems of enslavement that organized the social world of the Americas, are shaped by artists to speak with contemporary issues in many of these neo-slave novels. How are the notions of "Liberty" for the 20<sup>th</sup> century dependent upon the notions constructed from experiences of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Why do the modern novels turn from the 19<sup>th</sup> century literary forms of sentimentalism, melodrama, and realism towards pastiche, parody, and surrealism? We will address these questions by attending to, during the early weeks, 19<sup>th</sup> century productions but during the later weeks of the semester we will concern ourselves solely with 20<sup>th</sup> century materials.

**PROBABLE TEXTS** - *Various abolitionist poets, Frederick Douglass' Autobiography; Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin; Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl; Morrison's Beloved; Octavia Butler, Kindred; William Faulkner, Go Down, Moses; Ishmael Reed, Flight to Canada; Gayl Jones, Corregidora; Charles Johnson, Middle Passage; Valerie Martin, Property. Various critical and theoretical essays will be read in conjunction with each creative work.*

**REQUIREMENTS:** *relentless, sophisticated, and informed participation, a major scholarly research paper, an encyclopedia article submission for possible publication, and a class presentation with accompanying written report.*