

# AFRICANA STUDIES (AFST)

## **AFST 110 — Intro To Africana Studies** Course count: 1

Interdisciplinary introduction to the study, research, and interpretation of historical, cultural, social and political knowledge of African American, African, and Caribbean peoples examining contemporary black identities, politics, and culture, particularly focusing on the role and place of blacks in modern American cities through exploration of international migrations, race relations, and 20th-century cultural movements, including civil rights, social protest music, art and literature. Addresses the cultural, historical, political, economic, and psychological consequences of the dispersal of Africans from their ancestral continent to the United States and the Caribbean and the impact of the cultures of West and central Africa in the United States and the Caribbean, through oral narratives, music, art, festivals, foodways, clothing, hairstyles, dance, and religious belief systems. Introduces literary and political movements including Pan-Africanism, black feminism, Negritude, Harlem Renaissance, and other activities reflecting shared theories, ideologies and political movements of Africans, African Americans and Caribbean blacks.

GPA units: 1

Common Area: Cross-Cultural Studies

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

## **AFST 260 — Black Europe** Course count: 1

Although often considered homogenously white, Europe's population is and always has been racially diverse. This diversity is the culmination of centuries of colonialist interventions around the globe, particularly in Africa and the West Indies. This course will explore the history and contemporary reality of this population diversity, with a particular focus on the African diaspora in Europe. Beginning with Europe's simultaneous expulsion of Jews and Muslims and "discovery" of Caribbean islands in 1492, the students will trace Europe's colonial history in Africa and the West Indies that ultimately resulted in return migration of current and former African colonial subjects to multiple metropolises in Europe. Students will then focus on the experiences of the African Diaspora in Europe, broadly, and in five countries (Britain, France, The Netherlands, Germany, and Italy) before addressing contemporary debates (the racialization of Muslims as the "new Blacks" in Europe, citizenship laws within and across the EU, and anti-racist movements) and concluding with discussion of the future of race and Africans in Europe.

GPA units: 1

Common Area: Cross-Cultural Studies, Social Science

Typically Offered: Alternate Years

## **AFST 300 — Tutorial** Course count: 1

GPA units: 1

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

## **AFST 399-S01 — The Old Neighborhood** Course count: 1

Looking at the development of communities of people of color through the 1920s in Worcester, Boston, Providence & elsewhere in New England.

GPA units: 1

Common Area: Cross-Cultural Studies

## **AFST 399-S02 — Black History & Public Memory in New England** Course count: 1

People of color have a deep and rich, if often overlooked, history in both Worcester and New England as a whole. From the colonial era, when slavery was commonplace, through the American Revolution, in which Black New Englanders fought and pressed new ideas about freedom and equality, and through the movement to abolish slavery, in which Black New Englanders played an important role all of this history became whitewashed over time. Only recently have the contributions of Black New Englanders to the American story been more clearly remembered and more widely discussed in the history field and in the general public. But, how are their stories being told? Who is telling them? And, what can we learn about our region and ourselves by remembering them in a meaningful way? In this seminar, we will read about specific histories, and in addition to at least one field trip, conduct virtual site visits to museums and history trails, and discuss the overlapping history and memory of Black New Englanders. To culminate, students will have the opportunity to participate themselves in the furthering of Black history and public memory in our area. We will conduct and contribute original research, individually and collectively, with each student having a part in telling the story of a site on the Worcester Black History Trail.

GPA units: 1

Common Area: Historical Studies

## **AFST 399-S11 — Worcester - Black History Trail** Course count: 1

How do societies remember their pasts? What stories are memorialized and celebrated and what events are evaded or forgotten? What are the politics of the process? How do Americans remember and represent the countrys racial past, a history that manifestly contradicts the self-evident propositions of liberty and equality enshrined in the founding documents? How do we now remember and represent the history of people of color in New England? Utilizing a combination of primary and secondary source materials, course content will aim to emphasize skills or competencies including: reading and analyzing primary and secondary source documents; acquisition of media literacy through study of photographs and other visual representations; understanding different historical approaches to the study of the people of color in New England; and, constructing historical arguments verbally and in written assignments. Through virtual site visits and reading, students explore community participation in the design and creation of African American heritage trails at Boston, New Bedford, Fall, River, Martha Vineyard, and Newport, Rhode Island and Portsmouth, New Hampshire as well as other locations.

GPA units: 1

Common Area: Cross-Cultural Studies

## **AFST 400 — Tutorial** Course count: 1

GPA units: 1

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring