World Cultures: The African Diaspora
V55.0532
Monday/Wednesday 9:30-10:45
Silver 714

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Over the course of this semester we will examine the African Diaspora as an historic phenomenon. What aspects of culture, politics, identity, and social formations are illuminated when we think critically about the African Diaspora and the forces that propel it? Beginning with the factors that initiate the early modern contact between Europe and West Africa, we will consider the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the formation of black communities in Europe and the Americas and the impacts of those communities on contemporary figurations of Africa both politically and ideologically.

Required Texts
The following texts are required and are available for purchase at Shakespeare & Co., on Broadway near Waverly Place. They have also been placed on Reserve at Bobst Library.


Various articles and chapters posted on blackboard or accessible through a library search engine.

Please note, when you have a reading from blackboard you are required to print it out and bring it with you to class and recitation. Failing to do so will seriously affect your class participation grade.
Assignments

Our intention in the design of this course is two-fold: You should leave here with an introduction to the overlapping phenomena that comprise the history of the African Diaspora—modern economies, race, cultural practices, religious beliefs, and the mobilizing of power to both construct and oppose racial and economic hierarchies. You should also leave here with a clear understanding of what it means to write and read critically and analytically.

You have a series of written assignments due over the course of the semester. These assignments are designed to support classroom and recitation work and must be handed in on time. It goes without saying that all written work must be original, any plagiarism will result in an “F” in the course.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Please read NYU’s statement on Academic Integrity here: http://www.nyu.edu/cas/map/guidelines/academicintegrity.html, and visit Northwestern University’s website http://www.northwestern.edu/uaac/plagiar.html on avoiding plagiarism for a comprehensive discussion of what plagiarism entails.

Papers must be written using standard Chicago Manual of Style (also known as Turabian) citation form. This form uses footnotes for references, not parenthesis. Any paper that doesn’t follow standard citation guidelines will be returned to you without a grade. Citation format is quite specific—even if you believe that you know how to construct your citations use this website <http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/citing.htm> as a starting point—go to “Turabian Footnotes” on the “citing sources within your paper” link.

We will see a few films this semester. You are required to hand in a 2 page discussion of the film in the recitation following the screening. These discussions should briefly describe the film, and then discuss how the film illuminates or interrupts the readings and lectures that precede it.

The primary source assignments are short papers, 3-4 pages, in which your objective is to describe the document, provide a short contextual overview—which requires you to do a bit of outside work—and then enumerate some of the questions and issues raised in the document.
You will hand in a critical review of *Silencing the Past*. This is a 6-8 page paper in which you outline the work’s main argument, discuss how the author uses sources, and outline some of the questions that the work raises. We strongly suggest, if you have not written a paper of this type or if you’ve had feedback on writing that suggests that you need some extra guidance, that you contact the Writing Center for an appointment, well in advance of the due date on this paper.  
http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/writing_center.html

There will be one final exam. We reserve the prerogative to administer short quizzes, without notice, if we see the need.

Recitation Participation 25%  
Primary Source Papers & film responses 25%  
Critical Review 25%  
Exam 25%

It is your responsibility to keep copies of all written work and to regularly check blackboard for any updates or changes to the course schedule.

Introductions and The Challenge of “Diaspora”  
Jan 17

African Pastas  
Jan 22 and 24  

Encounters and Movement Cultures  
Jan 29 and 31  
http://www.historycooperative.org//journals/wm/60.2

Enslavement—Labor, Power, and Violence  
February 5 and 7

**New World Political Economies (Slavery in the Americas—Crafting a Past)**

**February 12 and 14*Primary Source paper due on February 12th.**

**Radical Enlightenments (Slavery in the Americas—Political Formations)**

**February 19 and 21 Age of Revolutions Review of Truillot due on 19th**
Readings: Michel-Rolph Truillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*.

**February 26 and 28 Abolitionism Primary Source paper due on 26th.**

**Tradition & Metaphysics (Religiosity—Circuits of Practice and Belief)**

March 5 and 7

March 12 and 14th Spring Break
**March 19 and 21** Condomble and Santeria

*Screening:* Bahia: Out of Africa, 1 hour, VCA 7471J.

The Political Thought of Black Modernities (Ideologies)

**March 26 and 28th** Garveyism Primary Source Paper due on 26th, Response to film due in recitation.

*Screening:* Marcus Garvey: Look for me in the Whirlwind, 90 min. VCA 11127
Readings: Amy Jacques-Garvey, *Our Women and What They Think*, Selections. on blackboard; McDuffie, "[She] devoted twenty minutes condemning all other forms of government but the Soviet: Black Women radicals in the Garvey movement and in the Left during the 1920s," 219-50, in *Diasporic Africa*.

April 2 and 4 Black Nationalism

Black Cultural Formations

**April 9 and 11**

*Screening:* In and Out of Africa (59 min) VCA 4139

Legacies of Violence and Remembrance
April 16 and 18 Contemporary Racisms

**April 23 and 25 Struggles over Africa. Primary Source assignment due on 23rd, readings from current NYTimes on African political developments.**
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/south_atlantic_quarterly/v101/101.4hartman.html Other readings TBA.

April 30 Reiterations and Final Thoughts

**Final Exam Wednesday 5/02 8:00AM-9:50AM**