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, politically and ideologically. 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?

**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.

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/uacc/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, 4-5 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 6-8 page paper in which you will discuss Africa and the Obama campaign—the assignment will be further discussed in class.

We strongly suggest, if you have not written papers 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%
6-8 page paper 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”
September 3

African Pasts
September 8 and 10

Encounters and Movement Cultures
September 15 and 17

New World Political Economies (Slavery in the Americas—Crafting a Past)
** September 22 and 24
Primary Source paper due on September 24
Equiano, Interesting Narrative

Enslavement—Labor, Power, and Violence
September 29 and October 1 Slave Labor
Radical Enlightenments (Slavery in the Americas--Political Formations)
October 6 and 8 Age of Revolutions
Review of Truillot due October 8

**October 15 [no class on 13th] Abolition**

Tradition & Metaphysics (Religiosity—Circuits of Practice and Belief)
October 20 and 22nd
African Retentions in the New World—Chinua Thelwell lecture
Readings: Herskovitz and Frasier [on blackboard TBA]

The Political Thought of Black Modernities (Ideologies)
**October 27 and 29** Garveyism—Dacia Mitchell lecture
*Primary Source Paper due on 27th, Response to film due in recitation.*
Screening: Marcus Garvey: Look for me in the Whirlwind, 90 min. VCA 11127

November 3 Black Nationalisms

November 5 Election Results?

**November 10 and 12 Black Nationalisms Continues**
Screening: *In and Out of Africa* (59 min) VCA 4139
Blackboard.

November 17 and 19 Constructing Contemporary Diasporas
Condomble and Santeria
Nov 17 Screening: Bahia: Out of Africa, 1 hour, VCA 7471J.
Nov 19 Marcelo Penha Lecture

**Legacies of Violence**
November 24 and 26 Genocides and Civil Wars
Nov 24-Blood Diamonds
Nov 26 Seeing Genocide

December 1 and 3 AIDS and Aid

December 8 and 10th Nostalgia and Commerce

**Final Exam**
Wednesday 12/17 8:00AM-9:50AM