

# Black Studies

The Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies (IDBS) offers a multidisciplinary curriculum that examines the experiences of African, African American, and Caribbean people from the liberal arts perspective. Faculty members from all undergraduate colleges are members of the faculty of IDBS. Other faculty members teach Black Studies courses.

The Black studies curriculum helps to unify an important area of intellectual investigation, and enhances appreciation of particular disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Courses accommodate the needs of majors and non-majors, providing significant preparation for careers in education, social work, public policy, law, medicine, business, international relations, and advanced research.

A *major* in Black studies is available through Pitzer College, Pomona College, or Scripps College. The interdisciplinary major introduces students to the broad range of research and scholarship of African, African American, and Caribbean people.

## The Faculty

*CMC Faculty:* Shelton, A. Bradley.

*Claremont Graduate University Faculty:* McHenry.

*Pitzer College Faculty:* Basu, Fairchild, and Harris.

*Pomona College Faculty:* Lemelle, Lytle, and Thomas.

*Scripps College Faculty:* Roberts, and Walker (chair).

## Courses

### ART AND ART HISTORY

#### 140bk. The Arts of Africa. *P. Jackson*

Survey of African art and architecture exploring ethnic and cultural diversity. Emphasis on the social, political,

and religious dynamics that foster art production at specific historical moments in West, Central, and North Africa. Critical study of Western art historical approaches and methods used to study African arts. Offered every other year.

#### 141abk. (Re)presenting Africa: Art, History, and Film (seminar). *P. Jackson*

The seminar centers on post- colonial African films to examine (re)presentations of the people, arts, cultures, and socio-political histories of Africa and its Diaspora. The course critically examines the cinematic themes, aesthetics, styles, and schools of African and African Diaspora filmmakers. Offered every other year.

#### 141bbk. Africana Cinema: Through the Documentary Lens (seminar). *P. Jackson*

The course examines documentary films and videos created by filmmakers from Africa and African Diaspora in the United States, Britain, and the Caribbean. Topics include: history and aesthetics of documentary filmmaking, documentary as an art, the narrative documentary, docu-drama, cinema verite, biography, autobiography, and historical documentary. Offered every other year.

#### 144abk. Black Women Feminism(s) and Social Change. *P. Jackson*

Introduction to the theoretical and practical contributions of African American feminists who maintain that issues of race, gender, sexuality, and social class are central, rather than peripheral, to any history, analysis, assessment, or strategy for bringing about change in the United States. Offered every other year.

#### 144bbk. Daughters Africa: Art, Cinema, Theory, and Love. *P. Jackson*

The course examines visual arts and cultural criticism produced by women from Africa and the African Diaspora (North American, Caribbean, and European). Students identify and analyze aesthetic values, key representational themes, visual conventions, symbolic codes, and stylistic approaches created from feminism's love of Blackness, Africaness, and justice. Offered every other year.

#### 178bk. Black Aesthetics and the Politics of (Re)presentation. *P. Jackson*

Survey of the visual arts produced by people of African descent in the United States from the colonial era to the present. Emphasis on Black artists and changing relationship to African arts and cultures. Examines the emergence of an oppositional aesthetic tradition that interrogates visual constructions of "blackness" and "whiteness," gender and sexuality as a means of re-visioning representational practices. Offered every other year.

#### 186bk. Critical Race Theory Representations and Law. *P. Jackson*

Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Critical Race Feminism (CRF) examine the role of law in constructing and

maintaining racialized, gendered, and classed disparities of justice. The course examines the intellectual, aesthetic, and political convergences of critical jurisprudence with representational practices in the visual arts. Offered every other year.

**186wbk. Whiteness: Race, Sex, and Representation.** *P. Jackson*

An interdisciplinary interrogation of linguistic, conceptual, and practical solipsisms that contributed to the construction and normalization of whiteness in aesthetics, art, visual culture, film, and mass media. The course questions the dialectics of “blackness” and “whiteness” that dominate in Western intellectual thought and popular culture, thereby informing historical and contemporary notions and representations of race, gender, sexuality, and class. Offered every other year.

**ECONOMICS**

**116po. Race and the U.S. Economy.** *Staff*

Examination of the impact of race on economic status from Jim Crow to present; historic patterns of occupational and residential segregation; trends in racial inequality in income and wealth; economic theories of discrimination; and strategies for economic development. Offered every other year.

**HISTORY**

**34bk. The Caribbean: Crucible of Modernity.** *Staff*

Caribbean histories and cultures from the 15th century to the present. The course will cover these themes in the Spanish-, French-, and English-speaking Caribbean, with a particular focus on Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica. Offered occasionally.

**40bk. History of Africa to 1800.** *Lemelle*

History of Africa from the earliest times to the beginning of the 19th century. Attention given to the methodology and theoretical framework used by the Africanists, the development of early African civilizations, and current debates and trends in historiography of Africa. Offered every other year.

**41bk. History of Africa since 1800.** *Lemelle*

History of Africa from the 19th century to recent times. Attention given to political and economic aspects of Africa’s development process. Methodological and theoretical frameworks utilized by Africanists, as well as current debates and trends in African historiography. Offered every other year.

**100ubk. Pan-Africanism and Black Radical Traditions.** *Lemelle*

Examination of the historical evolution of the Pan-African concept and its political, social, and economic implications for the world generally and for Black people in particular. Discussion of the 20th-century writers of Pan-Africanism, and especially of Padmore, DuBois, Garvey, Nkrumah, Malcolm X, and Toure (Carmichael) in terms of the contemporary problems of African Americans. Prerequisites: lower division Black Studies

course, and permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

**111abk. African Diaspora in the United States to 1877.** *Roberts*

Grounded in a transnational comparative approach, this course connects the diverse and complex experiences, belief systems, and institutions of Blacks in the United States with those of others in the Diaspora. Beginning with pre-European contact in West and central Africa, we will examine the multifaceted nature of distinct cultures, forms of nationalism, significance of protest, and gender and class relations across time and space. Offered every year.

**111bbk. African Diaspora in the United States since 1877.** *Roberts*

This is the second half of the African Diaspora in the United States survey. This course connects Black emancipation and post-emancipation political struggles throughout the Diaspora. Other topics include nationalism, civil rights, and contemporary feminist theory. History 111a is not a prerequisite for History 111b. Offered every other year.

**114bk. Slave Women in Antebellum America.** *Roberts*

This course examines the role of power and race in the lives and experiences of slave women in antebellum United States mainly through primary and secondary readings. Topics include gender and labor distinctions, the slave family, significance of the internal slave trade, and regional differences among slave women’s experiences. The course ends with slave women’s responses during the Civil War. Offered every other year.

**122bk. Black Intellectuals and the Politics of Race.** *Roberts*

This course explores the varied ways in which scientific racism functioned against African Americans in the United States from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries, and addresses African American intellectuals’ responses to biological racism through explicit racial theories and less explicit means such as slave narratives, novels, essays, and films. Offered every other year.

**143bk. Slavery and Freedom in the New World.** *Lemelle*

Survey course covering the history of Africans and their descendants in the Americas from the epoch of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade until the end of the 19th century. Divided into two general sections: the slave epoch, and the emancipation (and aftermath). Offered every year.

**145bk. Afro-Latin America.** *Staff*

This course examines the social and political effects of racial and ethnic categorization for people of African descent in Latin America, with a particular focus on Cuba, Brazil, Colombia, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico. We will look at the social organization of difference from a theoretical and historical perspective as it relates to colonialism,

economic systems of production, such as slavery, issues of citizenship, national belonging and government services, and access to resources. Offered occasionally.

**171bk. African American Women in the United States.** *R. Roberts*

Exploration of the distinctive and diverse experiences of women on West African ancestry in the United States from the 17th century to the present. Topics, including labor, activism, feminism, family, and community, are examined within the theoretical framework. Narratives, autobiographies, letters, journals, speeches, essays, and other primary documents constitute most of the required reading. Offered every other year.

**176bk. The Modern Civil Rights Movement in America.** *R. Roberts*

Mainly through primary readings, films, and guest lectures, this course explores the origins, development, and impact of the modern African American struggle for civil rights in the United States. Particular emphasis is placed on grassroots organizing in the Deep South. History 111b recommended. Offered every other year.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY**

**10bk. Introduction to Black Studies.** *Basu, Fairchild*

Interdisciplinary exploration of key aspects of Black history, culture, and life in Africa and the Americas. Provides a fundamental, intellectual understanding of the global Black experience as it has been described and interpreted in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Offered every year.

**195bk. Special Topics in Black Studies.** *Staff*

Topics change from year to year. Offered every Spring semester.

**LITERATURE**

**12bk. Introduction to African American Literature.** *Harris*

This course is a survey of major periods, authors, and genres of the American literary tradition. This is the second half of a two-semester course offered through Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies faculty. This course covers the major literature produced from the turn of the 20th century to the contemporary period. Offered every other year.

**42ebk. Girl-Worlds: Female "Coming of Age" Literature.** *Harris*

Through fiction, autobiography, film, popular culture, and feminist theory, this course examines representations of young women of diverse color/class/sexual identities in "coming of age" narratives of post-World War II U.S.A. context. In exploring the intersections of ethnicity/race, class, sexuality, gender, and intellectual/creative agency in the narratives, we examine how the author/female protagonists revise and resist prescriptive notions of female "coming of age." Offered occasionally.

**117bk. Novel and Cinema in Africa and the West Indies.** *Shelton*

Examination of works by writers and filmmakers from French-speaking countries of Africa (Senegal, Cameroon, van Burkina Faso) and the Caribbean (Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Haiti). Special emphasis will be placed on questions of identity, the impact of colonialism, social and cultural values, as well as the nature of aesthetic creation. Prerequisite: French 44 or equivalent. Offered every other year.

**121bk. Studies in Poetry: Love and Revolution: Black Women's Poetry/Song in the 20th Century.** *Harris*

This course offers an exploration of language, imagery, and themes concerned with the sexual and racial politics of love and revolution as conceived in 20th-century black women's poetry/song. In addition to reading, writing, and oral presentations about poets/singers such as Johnson, Grimke, Smith, Brooks, Holiday, Sanchez, Jordan, Lorde, and Jones, students write poetry/song reflective of what/why/how/where/when notions of love and revolution are articulated in this body of work as values/weapons/ desires for social justice and change. Juniors and seniors only. Prerequisite: one Black studies course, or permission of instructor. Offered occasionally.

**125cbk. Introduction to African American Literature: In the African-Atlantic Tradition.**

*Thomas*

Survey of 18th- and 19th-century Black Atlantic literary production, including oral and song texts, slave and emancipation narratives, autobiographical writing, early novels and poetry, with attention to cultural and political contexts, constructs of race, gender, and class, aesthetics of resistance, and African-centered literary motifs. Offered occasionally.

**126bk. 20th-Century Black Poetics.** *A. Bradley*

This course explores major figures and forms in black American poetry from the Harlem Renaissance to the present. Topics will include vernacular versus "standard" English; the influence of the blues, hip hop, and other black musical forms; poetry as protest; the spoken word movement; and the representation of racial identity in verse. Special consideration will be given to the poetry of Jean Toomer, Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton, Amiri Baraka, Rita Dove, Etheridge Knight, and Yusef Komunyakaa. Offered every other year.

**130bk. Topics in 20th-Century African Diaspora Literature.** *Thomas*

Topic for Spring 2008: *Afrofuturism*.

Interdisciplinary study of Black science fiction, speculative fiction, and futurist philosophy.

**132bk. Black Queer Narrative, Autobiography, and Documentary.** *Harris*

This course examines the cultural productions of black queer artists and scholars whose focus on race and sexuality at the intersections of black, feminist, and queer

history and thought shape the content and form of black queer narrative in the latter 20th century (approximately 1985-2005). Offered every other year.

**134bk. Harlem Renaissance.** *Harris*

This course is a survey of African American literature and culture produced during or linked to the 1920s Harlem Renaissance. Central to the course is an ongoing survey and analysis of popular cultural forms such as the blues, social dance, film, and musical theater. Offered every other year.

**140bk. Literature of Incarceration: Writings from No Man's Land.** *Thomas*

Focusing on writing by women within prison systems worldwide, including the United States and South Africa, the course seeks to frame and analyze their confrontations and experiences where conflicts of gender, ethnicity, class, and state authority produce inmates of policed and criminalized landscapes. Offered occasionally.

**160bk. African and Caribbean Literature.** *Shelton*

Reading and analysis of works of fiction, poetry, and drama representing the most important trends in African and Caribbean literatures. Offered every other year.

**165bk. Writing Between Borders: Caribbean Writers in the U.S.A. and Canada.** *Shelton*

Examination of works by women writers from the Caribbean who live in the U.S. and Canada. Seeks to uncover the complex nature of cross-cultural encounters. Explores the strategies used by these writers to define themselves both inside and outside the body politic of two societies. Attention given to questions of identity, exile, history, memory, and language. Authors include Jean Rhys, Paule Marshall, Maryse Conde, Jamaica Kincaid and Michelle Cliff. Prerequisite: upper-division literature course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

**170jbk. Special Topics in American Literature: Toni Morrison.** *Thomas*

A seminar on Morrison's contributions to African-American literature, the Western canon, Black feminist discourse, and promoting African Diaspora literacy. Students will examine Morrison as a writer of fiction, literary criticism, essays, short stories, cultural criticism, and editorial commentaries. Offered every other year.

**196bk. Major Figures in 20th-Century American Literature: James Baldwin.** *Thomas*

This course explores the work of one of America's greatest writers whose importance resides in part in his calling into question national practices and injustices in regards to race, sexuality, religion, civil rights struggles and other political matters. Baldwin was a frequent expatriate with an enormous literary talent for capturing the pathos of being American across a range of social identities and issues. This course examines the themes and nuances of Baldwin's essays, novels, and plays. Offered occasionally.

## **POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT**

**125bk. African Politics.** *McHenry*

The focus of this course will be democracy in Africa. More specifically, it will involve an examination of the struggles over the forms democracy takes, a review of democracy's internal and external advocates, a study of the relationship between democracy and development, and an analysis of the factors which led to the adoption, and demise, of forms of democracy in a variety of African countries. Offered every other year.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

**12bk. Introduction to African American Psychology.** *Fairchild*

Includes perspectives, education, community, life-span development, gender, and related issues. Emphasizes the critical examination of current research and theory. Students are expected to contribute orally and in writing. Prerequisite: introductory psychology course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

**75bk. African American Mental Health.** *Staff*

Introduces students to selected topics involving the mental health of African Americans. Examines issues in the definition and assessment of mental health, and addresses special topics such as spirituality, stress and hypertension, delivery of mental health services, and controversies in the psychoanalytic literature. Examines empirical, theoretical, and therapeutic approaches to African American mental health. Offered occasionally.

**150bk. Psychology of the Black Experience.** *Hurley*

Designed to facilitate students' understanding of the Afro-American psychological experience, the course begins with a critical review of historical and traditional approaches to the psychological study of Black people. We will next examine the careers and contributions of the first three generations of Black psychologists who set the foundations for the current (4th) generation. We conclude with a look at Black psychology today and its influence on the mainstream of the field. Offered every other year.

**188bk. African American Psychology (seminar).** *Fairchild*

Critically examines contemporary literature in African American psychology. Emphasizes the ideas of leading theorists (e.g. Na'im Akbar, Wade Nobels, Linda Myers) and the research literature on contemporary problems (e.g. teen pregnancy, gangs). Prerequisites: introductory Black studies psychology course, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

**194bk. Seminar in Social Psychology.** *Fairchild*

This seminar explores an area of longstanding concern in social psychology: racism. It does so by reviewing the works of leading social psychologists' theory, research and praxis in this area of concern. An important component of the course is the incorporation of international

and interdisciplinary perspectives to the study of racism. Offered occasionally.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**142bk. The Problem of Evil: African-American Engagements with(in) Western Thought.** *D. Smith*  
 This course thematically explores some of the many ways African Americans, in particular, have encountered and responded to evils both as part of and apart from the broader Western tradition. We will see how the African-American encounter with evil troubles the distinction often made between natural and moral evil, and

highlights the tensions between theodicies and ethical concerns. Offered every year.

**SOCIOLOGY**

**71bk. Sociology of Popular Music.** *Basu*  
 This course concentrates primarily (but not exclusively) on reggae, dancehall, hip hop and house. Through them we examine the societal conditions in which music emerges; authenticity and appropriation; the production, representation, and consumption nexus; and the tensions between the local and global in the music making process. Offered occasionally.

# Chicana/o – Latina/o Studies

The Intercollegiate Department of Chicano Studies offers a curriculum with a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary curriculum broadly relating to people of Latin American descent within the hemisphere, in particular within the United States and the wide diaspora. Chicana/o – Latina/o studies is the “umbrella name” for distinct and important academic inquiries which began to converge in the last twenty years. The discipline emerged as a product of educational and social movements of the 1960’s. These movements led to the initial creation of the program at The Claremont Colleges in 1969, making the program the second-oldest in the nation. More recently, Latina/o studies has emerged as an field of inquiry relating to Latin Americans in the hemisphere, transcending area studies and ethnic studies.

As a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary field of study, Chicana/o – Latino/a studies contributes to every field of study in the humanities and social sciences, including professional programs like medicine, law and social work. Courses in the program take into account the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, culture, gender, and sexuality. The courses are open to all

students of The Claremont Colleges.

*A major* in Chicano studies is available through Pitzer, Pomona, and Scripps Colleges.

**The Faculty**

*Pomona College Faculty:* Buriel (chair), Mayes, Ochoa, Summers Sandoval, and Tinker Salas.

*Pitzer College Faculty:* Calderón, Pantoja, and Soldatenko.

*Scripps College Faculty:* Alcalá.

*Adjunct Faculty at Pomona:* Botello, and Gálvez

## Courses

**CHICANO STUDIES**

**60ch. Introduction to Chicano/a Studies.** *Buriel*  
 The introduction to central concepts and historical experiences which define Chicano/a culture, from exploring indigenous roots to examining current trends. Emphasis on the diversity of the Chicano/a experience through multi-disciplinary perspectives. Intended for students not previously enrolled in Chicano Studies. Offered every year.

**GENDER/FEMINIST STUDIES**

**61ch. Contemporary Issues of Chicanas and Latinas.** *Soldatenko*  
 Examines the contemporary experiences of Chicanas and Latinas in the United States, addressing issues of culture, identity, gender, race, and social class. Provide historical background for in-depth exploration of the latest exemplary works in Chicana Studies. Attention is given to