AFRICAN STUDIES (AFST)

* AFST 015a / AFAM 016a / ENGL 015a, South African Writing after Apartheid  Stephanie Newell
An introduction to creative writing published in South Africa from the end of Apartheid in 1994 to the present. Close readings of contemporary fiction with additional material drawn from popular culture, including films, magazines, and music. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* AFST 092b / THST 092b, African Rhythm in Motion  Staff
This first-year seminar traces the transnational migration of the polyrhythms inherent in African dance. Based in movement practice, the course considers the transformation of rhythm through time and space, moving from traditional African dances of the 20th century into the work of contemporary African artists and far-flung hybrid dance forms such as samba and tango. Part dance history, part introduction to the art of dance, the course is open to movers of all backgrounds and physical abilities. The professor works with students who require necessary adaptations of the physical material to meet special needs. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-year Seminar Program.  HU

* AFST 128a / ARCG 128a / EGYP 128a / NELC 129a / RLST 251a, Magic and Ritual in Ancient Egypt and the Near East  John Damnell
Introduction to ancient Egyptian magic and rituals with an overview on the use of magic and discussion of the different rituals and festivals attested in Ancient Egypt and the Near East.  HU

* AFST 135b / PLSC 135b, Media and Conflict  Staff
The theory and practice of reporting on international conflict and war, and its relation to political discourse in the United States and abroad. Materials include case studies of media coverage of war in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

AFST 175a / PLSC 175a, Africa in International Relations  David Simon
This course examines key facets of how African countries interact with the rest of the world, and with other countries on the continent. Focusing mostly on Sub-Saharan African countries, it looks at international economic relations (focusing on aid but also addressing trade, investment, and debt); peacemaking and peacebuilding; and regional governance institutions.  SO

AFST 184a / AFAM 160a / AMST 160a / HIST 184a, The Rise and Fall of Atlantic Slavery  Edward Rugemer
The history of peoples of African descent throughout the Americas, from the first African American societies of the sixteenth century through the century-long process of emancipation.  WR, HU

AFST 220a / HIST 417a / HSHM 220a, Histories of Confinement: From Atlantic Slavery to Social Distancing  Nana Osei Quarshie
This course looks closely at the history of asylums, hospitals, prisons, and schools. It seeks to understand their workings and the interplay between bureaucratic forms, spatial and material organization, and modes of discipline, control, and remediation. It asks, how is institutional power organized, displayed, deployed, and disputed, and what are the limits and contradictions inherent in these efforts? Our readings draw from a range of contexts and disciplines to consider the relationship between the built environment and institutional life.  HU

AFST 272b / ANTH 272b / ARCG 272b, African Prehistory  Jessica Thompson and Roderick McIntosh
Survey of archaeological evidence for the original contributions of the African continent to the human condition. The unresolved issues of African prehistory, from the time of the first hominids, through development of food production and metallurgy, to the rise of states and cities.  SO

* AFST 304a / MMES 304a / PLSC 458a, Modern North Africa in Flux  Staff
Study of the politics of modern North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and to a limited degree, Libya and Mauritania), including colonialism; state-formation and early nationalism; the cultivation of authoritarian regimes; modern authoritarian politics; civil-military relations; democratization; civil society; protest, dissent, social and movement mobilization; oil and rentierism; Islamism and the politics of religion; linkages to the Mashreq; and the dynamics of foreign intervention. Readings and approach to politics are cross-disciplinary, integrating political science, anthropological, historical, religious, as well as gender/race studies.

* AFST 306a / GLBL 306a, Social Enterprise in Developing Economies II  Bo Hopkins
Summer research developed into a case-study project on a topic related to the use of social enterprise in regional economic development.  GLBL 305

AFST 335b / ER&M 325b / HIST 335b, A History of South Africa  Daniel Magaziner
An introduction to the history of southern Africa, especially South Africa. Indigenous communities; early colonial contact; the legacies of colonial rule; postcolonial mismanagement; the vagaries of the environment; the mineral revolution; segregationist regimes; persistent inequality and crime since the end of apartheid; the specter of AIDS; postcolonial challenges in Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique.  HU

* AFST 345a / SOCY 218a / URBN 440a, Space, Time, and the African City  Denise Lim
Definitions of the urban often vary according to country and culture. In the United States, the city is often broadly defined by sociologists as a relatively large and dense human settlement composed of heterogeneous individuals. In some definitions of the urban, these can include spatial constructs of the “town,” “suburb,” “city,” or “megacity” with populations as small as 200 or as large as 10 million people. This seminar aims to explore how culturally-constructed notions of space, time, and the city inform African urban theory and practice. This course delineates sociological theories of urban space and time in the U.S. and Europe, explores how postcolonial theory
challenges Western concepts, and examines six case-studies of contemporary African cities. As spaces with complex colonial legacies and transnational connections, a rich collection of cultural artifacts such as film, the novel, photography, music, and visual art are used to research the spatial and temporal politics of urban life in Accra (Ghana), Cape Town (South Africa), Cairo (Egypt), Lagos (Nigeria), Nairobi (Kenya), and Johannesburg (South Africa). Sophomore Seminar: Registration preference is given to sophomores. Urban studies majors writing their senior essay or African studies students in need of writing supervision are welcome to apply. This course is not normally open to first-year students. WR, SO

* AFST 35b / ANTH 35b / EAST 35b, China-Africa Encounters  Helen Siu
The history, effects, and implications of Chinese involvement in and with African countries over the past century. Diasporic experiences, with attention to informal economies, cultural strategies, and ethnic and religious tensions; land, finance, and infrastructure; Chinese aid and development in Africa since the late 1960s, including medical aid and charitable groups. SO

* AFST 368a / EVST 369a / HIST 366Ja, Commodities of Colonialism in Africa  Robert Harms
This course examines historical case studies of several significant global commodities produced in Africa to explore interactions between world market forces and African resources and societies. Through the lens of four specific commodities—ivory, rubber, cotton, and diamonds—this course evaluates diverse industries and their historical trajectories in sub-Saharan Africa within a global context from ~1870-1990s. Students become acquainted with the historical method by developing their own research paper on a commodity using both primary and secondary sources. WR, HU

* AFST 396b / HIST 396Jb, Revolutions and Socialist Experiments in Africa  Benedetto Machava
This seminar explores the contours of Africa’s embrace and engagement with the most influential ideology of the twentieth-century. Why, and through which channels, were Africans attracted to socialism? Did particular forms of colonialism and decolonization push African political actors towards revolution and socialist experiments? Is it legitimate, as some scholars have suggested, to speak of genuinely African socialism? If so, what was the nature of these socialisms and how did they differ from the versions of socialism around the world? What political, social, economic, and cultural ends did socialism serve in Africa? And what were the consequences and legacies of African socialist experiments? The seminar addresses these questions. Our goal is to place Africa in the mainstream of conversations about socialism. We begin with the assumption that, like any doctrine, socialism was the object of multiple interpretations, modification, and appropriation from its inception. In so doing, we challenge orthodox understandings of socialism, which hold the European versions as the pure models and the rest as diluted if not populist façades of the ‘true’ doctrine. We begin with theoretical readings that help us situate the major debates about socialism in general and socialism in Africa. We then proceed to examine the overall historical context in which African nationalists adopted socialism. We differentiate the first branch of “African Socialism” from the second wave of “Afro-Marxism.” We also pay close attention to issues of decolonization and political imagination; ideas and experiments of development; gender, morality, and social engineering. WR, HU

* AFST 412b / AFAM 287b / AMST 465b / FREN 412b / LITR 250b, Postcolonial Theory and Literature  Fadila Habchi
A survey of the principal modes of thought that have animated decolonization and life after colonialism, as seen in both theoretical and literary texts. Concentration on the British and French imperial and postcolonial contexts. Readings in negritude, orientalism, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism, and novels. Lectures in English; readings available both in French and in English translation. HU TR RP

* AFST 435b / THST 335b, West African Dance: Traditional to Contemporary  Staff
A practical and theoretical study of the traditional dances of Africa, focusing on those of Burkina Faso and their contemporary manifestations. Emphasis on rhythm, kinesthetic form, and gestural expression. The fusion of modern European dance and traditional African dance. Admission by audition during the first class meeting. HU RP

* AFST 440a / AFAM 449a / ENGL 378a, Challenges to Realism in Contemporary African Fiction  Stephanie Newell
Introduction to experimental African novels that challenge realist and documentary modes of representation. Topics include mythology, gender subversion, politics, the city, migration, and the self. Ways of reading African and postcolonial literature through the lenses of identity, history, and nation. Formerly ENGL 449. WR, HU

* AFST 486a / HIST 374Ja / HSHM 486a, African Systems of Thought  Nana Osei Quarshie
This seminar explores the effects of colonialism and post-colonial power relations on the production of scientific, medical, and embodied knowledge about Africa. The course focuses on three broad themes covered across four units. First, we read debates over the nature and definition of science and tradition. How have colonialism and post-colonial power relations defined the tasks of an African science? What does it mean to decolonize African thought or culture? Second, we examine the nature of rationality. Is reason singular or plural? Culturally-bound or universal? To what extent are witchcraft, African healing practices, and ancestor veneration rational practices? Is there a “traditional” rationality? Third, we explore the relationship between scientific representations, social practices, and local culture. What relationship exists between social practices and culturally shared categories of knowledge? Lastly, we examine the intersection of capital and medical expertise. How have shifting conceptions of value and capital, reshaped scientific and medical authority in Africa? WR, HU

* AFST 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Veronica Waweru
Independent research on the senior essay. By the end of the sixth week of classes, a rough draft of the entire essay should be completed. By the end of the last week of classes (fall term) or three weeks before the end of classes (spring term), two copies of the final essay must be submitted.