AFRICAN DIASPORA THEORY (AAAS-161B) SPRING 2018
TUESDAYS: 9 AM–11:50 AM @ 202 PEARLMAN HALL

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
MS 092, 415 SOUTH STREET, WALTHAM, MA 02454
INSTRUCTOR: SALAH M. HASSAN

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Office Hours: Mondays 3:30-4:30PM, Or by Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This upper-level undergraduate/graduate seminar examines the contributions of African and African Diaspora intellectuals to critical theory, cultural studies, and the humanities in general. Considering experiences of enslavement, colonialism, and migration leading to the dispersal of millions of African peoples across the globe, this seminar is premised on the idea of Africa as a global presence rather than a geographic entity. The course explores how African Diaspora theory has been shaped by movements such as Negritude, Afrocentrism, Pan Africanism, and Marxism, among others. It also explores African Diaspora contributions to issues related to feminism, gender, race, and sexualities studies. The course focuses on primary texts by theorists and scholars such as Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire, W.E.B. DuBois, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Edouard Glissant, C.L.R. James, Amilcar Cabral, Sylvia Wynter, and Angela Davis among others.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS:
4) Achieve a command of the theoretical work of African Diaspora intellectuals and activists.
5) Achieve a thorough understanding of the African Diaspora as a theoretical construct through exposure to a range of different intellectual traditions, including Pan-Africanism, Afrocentrism, and Négritude, among others.
6) Learn to critically read and analyze the primary and secondary sources associated with African Diaspora theory.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Class participation is required and individual students will have the chance to lead the discussion on specific dates. All students are expected to keep up with the readings and be ready to discuss them in class on the assigned dates.
2. Each student will write a brief critical response (2-3 pages maximum) to the assigned readings for each class unit.
3. Each student is required to write a final term paper. Paper topics will be discussed with and approved by the instructor. During the second half of the course, each student is expected to present a short summary of his/her paper. The term papers will draw on the archives associated with the Black/Pan-African congresses, as well as the historical magazines and periodicals that have played an important role, as intellectual, literary and artistic platforms, in the context of decolonization and African and African Diaspora struggles for liberation, and as expressions of south-south solidarities. Publications such as Lotus: Afro-Asian Writings; Transition; Présence Africaine; Tri-continental; Black Orpheus; and Black Phoenix, are examples of such periodicals that have helped shape African diaspora studies and critical discourses from a non-western perspective.
WEEKLY TIME COMMITMENT
This is a Four-Credit Course (with 2.5 hours of class-time per week). Success in this 4-credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings and preparation presentations, and final term paper, etc).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
You are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity as stated in Section 4 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/srcl/ Plagiarism and evidence of cheating on exams will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing grade. You may refer to the International Center for Academic Integrity for additional information: http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/home.php

CLASS ROOM CONDUCT:
Your classroom conduct will be a factor in your participation grade. You are expected to arrive to class on time, be attentive (no falling asleep), and focused (no cellphone use). You are expected to maintain the highest standards of collegiality with your classmates. Discussions of the course materials and content must be conducted with awareness that we all bring differing levels of knowledge, experience and perspective to the subject matter. Acts of disrespect will not be tolerated. Repeated disruptive behavior will result in your failure of the course.

DISABILITY POLICY
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, you should contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services (x63470 or brodgers@brandeis.edu.) Letters of accommodation should be presented at the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

GRADING
10% Class participation (including attendance)
30% Critical responses
60% Term Paper

IMPORTANT DATES & NOTICES:
1. Paper topics must be approved by the Instructor.
2. Proposal for Term Paper and Preliminary Bibliography are due March 13, 2018
3. Final Paper Due on the last day of Final Exams Period (MAY 4TH, 2018).

REQUIRED TEXTS:
There is no single book that treats the subject extensively. However, the course reading list is extensive and offers an overview of basic texts and the critical thinkers and movements relevant to African Diaspora theory. All required and recommended texts, and visual resources will be on reserve at the library. Articles and other relevant written material assigned within the syllabus will be prepared posted on LATTE.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH BRANDEIS BOOK STORE OR OTHER OUTLETS:

**SCHEDULE:**

**PART ONE: THEORIZING THE AFRICAN DIASPORA**

1. **TUESDAY JAN 16- JAN 23: UNDERSTANDING BLACK/AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES: ORIGINS AND CURRENT STATE:**

**Readings (Required):**


**Readings (Recommended):**


**Video (Recommended):** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_R71se4h6NE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_R71se4h6NE)
2. JAN 30: AFRICAN DIASPORA AND DECOLONIZATION

Readings (Required):

- *Edwards, Brent Hayes, “The Uses of Diaspora,” Social Text, 66 (Volume 19, Number 1), Spring 2001, pp. 45-73
- *Albert Memi, The Colonizer and the Colonized (Boston; Beacon Press, 1991); pp. all pages.

Readings (Recommended):

Film screening:

- Lumieres Noires (Bob Swaim, France 2006), 55 min, in French with English subtitles: http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/4828/Lumieres-Noires

PART TWO: AFRICAN DIASPORA THEORY: CRITICAL TEXTS


Readings (Required):


***PLEASE NOTE: RECESS: FEB 19-23, 2018

4. FEB 13-FEB 27: AIME CESAIRE: DISCOURSE ON COLONIALISM AND CRITIQUE OF UNIVERSALISM

Readings (Required):


**Readings/Video DVD (Recommended):**

***NOTE: PROPOSAL FOR TERM PAPER PLUS A PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY ARE DUE ON MARCH 13***

**5. MARCH 6-MARCH 13: FRANZ FANON: AFRICAN CULTURES AND COLONIAL VIOLENCE:**

**Readings (Required):**

**Readings (Recommended):**

**Video DVD Screenings:**
• *The Battle of Algiers* (Gillo Pontecorvo, Italy and Yacef Saadi, Algeria, 1966) 123 min.
6. MARCH 20: C.L.R. JAMES: THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION AND THE INVERSION OF MODERNITY:

Readings (Required):

- *Grant Farred, What is My Name: Black Vernacular Intellectuals*, (Minneapolis, London: University of Minnesota Press, 2003), PP. 114-127 (on reserve in the library).

Reading (Recommended):


7. MARCH 27: RICHARD WRIGHT: BLACK COMMUNISM AND INTERNATIONALISM: THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE

Readings (Required):


Readings (Recommended):


***NOTE: SPRING RECESS APRIL 1ST – APRIL 6TH 2018

PART TWO: AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES IN FLUX: CRITICAL TEXTS

8. APRIL 10-APRIL 17: AFRICANA/BLACK FEMINISTS SCHOLARSHIP: COLONIAL, POSTCOLONIAL, AND INTERSECTIONALITY:

Readings (Required):

- Anna Carastathis, “The Concept of Intersectionality in Feminist Theory” *Philosophy*
Compass

Readings (Recommended):

9. APRIL 17-APRIL 24: EDOUARD GLISSANT: CREOLIZATION AND THE POETICS OF RELATIONS:


Film Screening: *Edouard Glissant “One World in Relation.”* A Film by Manthia Diawara. 2010, DVD, 60mins).