Course description
Angela Rickford writes that in the New World things African are usually associated with the unusual and the exotic. While this might be said about some things, e.g. drums, it might not necessarily be said about others because they have become so familiar. In the same way, while some things like the voodoo religion might still be considered exotic, the same might not be said of jazz. So what are the African elements in the Americas? This course addresses the issue, beginning with the first Africans to set foot on the continent and tracing the African influence from that period to the modern day.

Course Requirements

Quizzes (3) 60%
Topic paper: A 6-page (double-spaced) discussion of Africanism 30%
Classroom presentation of the same topic to be graded by the class 10%

Required Textbook

Week 1. August 21 – 25: Introduction and History

Monday, Aug 21: Introduction
- The debate

Wednesday, Aug 23: History 1
Africa and Europe at the first contact between the Portuguese and Africans

Friday, Aug 25: Societies with Slaves vs Slave Societies
The era of farmstead economy and the era of plantation economy

Week 2. August 28 – September 1: Agriculture
Monday, Aug 28: Animal husbandry

Wednesday, Aug 30: Rice production in West Africa and Carolina

Friday, Sep 1: Rice production in West Africa and Carolina

Week 3. September 6-8: Folktales & Religion


Friday, Sep 8: The case of voodoo in New Orleans
**Week 4. September 11-15: Religion (continued)**

**Monday, Sep 11:** African-derived religions in Brazil  

**Wednesday, Aug 30:** Sacrificial Practices in Santeria, an African-Cuban Religion in the United States  

**Friday, Sep 1:** African religious retentions in Florida  

**Week 5. September 18 – 22: Music**

**Monday, Sep 18:** Traditions preserved: Neo-African Music  

**Wednesday, Sep 20:** North American Strains: From spirituals to Blues  

**Friday, Sep 22:** U.S. Black Dance Music: “People” Music becomes “classical”  

**Week 6. September 25 – 29 Rhythms & Performances**

**Monday, Sep 25:** The emergence of Brazilian Popular Music

**Wednesday, Sep 27:** African rhythm instructions by Dr. Elikem Nyamuame

**Friday, Sep 29:** African rhythm instructions by Dr. Elikem Nyamuame

**Week 7. October 2 – 4: Dance**

**Monday, Oct 2: Transgressive National Dances**

**Wednesday, Oct 4: Tia Ciata’s House (Rio de Janeiro)**

**Week 8. October 9 – 13: Dance (Continued)**

**Monday, Oct 9: Marxixe, Milonga, Danzon**

**Wednesday, Oct 11: The Podesta Brothers’ Circus (Buenos Aires)**

**Wednesday, Oct 19: Failde’s Orchestra (Havana)**

**Language**

**Week 9. October 16 – 20: Food & Art**

- **Topic 5: Language**
  - The creolist theories
  - Suriname creole

• **Topic 5 Language (continued)**

• **Topic 6: Cuisine**

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**Week 8. Feb 22 – 26**

• **Topic 7: Language- closer home**
  - The Gullah dialect
  
  - African American English

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**Week 15 November 27 – December 1: Presentations**

**Week 16 December 4 - 6**

Presentations

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**NOTE**

• For your paper/discussion, choose one of the topic papers covered in this syllabus and argue for African retention or hybridity. The papers should be handed to me by April 21st.

• You will find the required text book at the University Bookshop
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Grading Scale

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Please note that minus grades are calculated into your GPA according to the Registrar’s formula:

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