

SST 2501 (Section 1442) & LIN 4930 (Section 06AB):

African Elements in the Americas

Fall 2017

Period: MWF 6th Period

Location: AND 0032

Instructor: Dr. James Essegbey

Office: 342 Pugh Hall

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 1-2pm, and by appointment

Office phone: (352)8462431

E-mail: essegbey@ufl.edu

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

Joseph E Holloway (ed.) (1991): *Africanisms in American Culture*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press

Week 1. August 21 – 25: Introduction and History

Monday, Aug 21: Introduction

- The debate

Joseph E Holloway (ed.) (1991): *Africanisms in American Culture*. Bloomington and

Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. Pp ix-xxi

Wednesday, Aug 23: History 1

Africa and Europe at the first contact between the Portuguese and Africans

Michael L. Conniff and Thomas J. Davis (1994): *Africans in the Americas: a history of the Black diaspora*. Caldwell: The Blackburn Press pp1-30

Friday, Aug 25: Societies with Slaves vs Slave Societies

The era of farmstead economy and the era of plantation economy

Ira Berlin (1998): *Many thousands gone: the first two centuries of slavery in North America*.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. pp. 17-28 & 95-108

Week 2. August 28 – September 1: Agriculture

Monday, Aug 28: Animal husbandry

Peter H. Wood (1974): *Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stone rebellion*. New York: Knopf. Pp 13-34

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

Judith A. Carney (2001): *Black rice: the African origins of rice cultivation in the Americas*.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. Pp1-106

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

Judith A. Carney (2001): *Black rice: the African origins of rice cultivation in the Americas*.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. Pp1-106

Week 3. September 6-8: Folktales & Religion

Wednesday, Sep 6: Lawrence W. Levine (1977): *Black culture and black consciousness: Afro-American Folk thought from slavery to Freedom*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp 81-135

Friday, Sep 8: The case of voodoo in New Orleans

Joseph E Holloway (ed.) (1991): *Africanisms in American Culture*. Bloomington and

Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. Pp 34-68

Week 4. September 11-15: Religion (continued)

Monday, Sep 11: African-derived religions in Brazil

Peter Fryer (2000): *Rhythms of resistance: African Musical Heritage in Brazil*. Hanover: Wesleyan University Press. Pp 13 – 18

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

Joseph E Holloway (ed.) (1991): *Africanisms in American Culture*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. Pp 119-147

Friday, Sep 1: African religious retentions in Florida

Joseph E Holloway (ed.) (1991): *Africanisms in American Culture*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. Pp 98-118

Week 5. September 18 – 22: Music

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

John Storm Roberts (1998): *Black music of two worlds: African, Caribbean, Latin, and African American traditions*. Belmont: Thompson Learning Inc. pp 1-36

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

John Storm Roberts (1998): *Black music of two worlds: African, Caribbean, Latin, and African American traditions*. Belmont: Thompson Learning Inc. pp 157-211

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

John Storm Roberts (1998): *Black music of two worlds: African, Caribbean, Latin, and African American traditions*. Belmont: Thompson Learning Inc. pp 213-256

Week 6. September 25 – 29 Rhythms & Performances

Monday, Sep 25: The emergence of Brazilian Popular Music

Peter Fryer (2000): *Rhythms of resistance: African Musical Heritage in Brazil*. Hanover: Wesleyan University Press. Pp 134 – 153

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

John Charles Chasteen (2004): *National rhythms, African roots: the deep history of Latin American popular dance*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque. Pp 1-17

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

John Charles Chasteen (2004): *National rhythms, African roots: the deep history of Latin American popular dance*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque. Pp 17-32

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

Monday, Oct 9: Marxixe, Milonga, Danzon

John Charles Chasteen (2004): *National rhythms, African roots: the deep history of Latin American popular dance*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque. Pp 33-50

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

John Charles Chasteen (2004): *National rhythms, African roots: the deep history of Latin American popular dance*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque. Pp 51-70

Wednesday, Oct 19: Failde's Orchestra (Havana)

John Charles Chasteen (2004): *National rhythms, African roots: the deep history of Latin American popular dance*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque. Pp 71-88

Language

Week 9. October 16 – 20: Food & Art

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

Jacques Arends, Pieter Muysken and Norval Smith (eds). (1994): *Pidgins and Creoles*.

Amsterdam: John Benjamins. Pp 3-14, 219-232

- **Topic 5 Language (continued)**

Ian Robertson (1993): The Ijo element in Berbice Dutch and the pidginization/creolization process. In Salikoko Mufwene (ed.) *Africanisms in Afro-American Language Varieties*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press. Pp 296-316

- **Topic 6: Cuisine**

Jessica B. Harris (1995): *The welcome table: African-American heritage cooking*. New York: Simon & Shuster pp17-35

Week 8. Feb 22 – 26

- **Topic 7: Language- closer home**

- The Gullah dialect

Lorenzon Dow Turner (2002 [1949]): *Africanisms in the Gullah dialect*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

- African American English

Molefi Kete Asante (1991) African Elements in African American English, In Joseph E Holloway (ed.) *Africanisms in American Culture*. Pp 19-33

Week 15 November 27 – December 1: Presentations

Week 16 December 4 - 6

Presentations

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

A 93-100	A- 90-92		
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82	
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72	
D+ 67-69	D 63-66	D- 60-62	
E less than 60%			

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

A 4.0	A- 3.67		
B+ 3.33	B 3	B- 2.67	
C+ 2.33	C 2.0	C- 1.67	
D+ 1.33	D 1.0	D- .67	
E 0			
WF 0			

I 0

NG 0

S-U 0