

**African and African American Studies (AAAS)
&
the Center for Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity
present**

**AAAS 101
Distinguished Race & Faith Lunch & Lecture Series
Spring Quarter 2009**



Course Coordinator

Professor Michele Elam
Offices: Bldg 460, Rm 319 (English)
Bldg 360, Room 362C (AAAS)
650-723-3782 (office)
650-723-8528 (fax)
<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/AAAS>
Email: melam@stanford.edu
Office Hours: Th 10-12 in 460-319

Teaching Assistant:

Douglas A. Jones, Jr.
Office: Bldg 360, Rm 362B
Email: dajones@stanford.edu
Office Hours: Fridays: 11 AM – 1 PM
(and by appointment)

Lecture Meeting Time and Location: Noon – 1 PM, Quad Building 200-002

Section Meeting Time and Location: TBD

The Program in African and African American Studies, in collaboration with Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Religious Studies, The Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford Center for Buddhist Studies, the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, the Black Community Service Center, and the Center for African Studies, among many others across campus, is devoting this year to exploring the intersections of race and faith. This year's presidential campaign offers just one vivid example of how commitments to race, ethnicity, religion, faith, belief systems and spiritual practices wield powerful influence in both public and private spheres of

everyday experience. This year AAAS examines the many dynamic intersections and tensions between these potent motivating forces in the US and internationally, from the 19th century to the contemporary moment.

African and African American Studies 101 is a course designed to accompany our public lecture series. This quarter, the series will interrogate the intersections of “Race & Faith” as part of the RACE FORWARD Initiative <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/AAAS/raceforward/index.html>. Each week, a distinguished scholar will examine the rich complexities of race and faith in artistic expression, culture, history, language, literature, music, politics, religion, and society among different groups of people and over different periods of time. In our section meetings, we will have the opportunity to explore questions raised in the lectures and readings through discussion and writing assignments.

Course Requirements:

1 unit

- ~1 Attend all lectures
- Sign attendance sheet at the lecture

2 units

- Attend all lectures and participate in all section meetings
- ~1 Complete weekly 1-2 pp (dbl spaced) response papers

3 units

- Attend all lectures and participate in all section meetings
- ~5 Complete weekly 1-2 pp (dbl spaced) response papers
- ~5 Submit a final paper of 6-8 pp 5pm June 9th + 1-pg paper proposal 5pm May 6th

Response Papers:

Hard copies of all response papers are due at the beginning of section meetings. These analytical response papers should be thoughtful, 1-2 pp double-spaced reaction papers directly related to the lectures and assigned section reading. Your TA, Doug Jones, will post a guiding question on coursework no later than the Friday before each section meeting. Your response paper should respond explicitly to this question, using the reading that is assigned for that week, as well as to your choice of the prompts in the guidelines. Specific guidelines handed out in class the first day as well as by email to registered students.

Final Papers:

For those of you who are taking the course for three units, you will have the chance to either synthesize some of the course themes that most interested you into a final paper (6-8 pp., MLA format). We will propose several paper topics in Week 6 but you should feel welcome to develop your own focused topic in conversation with either the TA or Professor.

We ask that you email Doug Jones a short paper proposal by 5pm on May 6. This proposal is 1-page double-spaced description of the paper you intend to write with a provisional thesis and line of argument. That is, you should have a précis of the proposed paper with your major claims, not just the topic or idea for the paper.

Towards the end of the quarter, your TA will hold optional writing workshop sessions for your papers, and both your TA and Professor will be available during office hours, workshops, and informal chats to help you with your critical writing and thinking this quarter.

Attendance The structure and nature of this course require special attention to attendance and punctuality for several reasons: 1) we are hosting renowned scholars from across the country, and you will only have a short

period of time interact with them: we want you to be able to take full advantage of this opportunity 2) a delicious free lunch will be available immediately prior to the lecture (from 11:50-12:15) and we want to make sure that you are well-fed *and* seated by the time we begin promptly at 12:15, 3) as with all your professors, we owe respect for these scholars--most of whom are coming across country just for our course--and do not want to have people wandering in once they have begun speaking.

A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each lecture and section at the front door; be sure to sign it. If for some reason it does not get to your aisle or passes you by, please be sure to sign it immediately after lecture or we won't be able to count you there for the day.

Because we only meet once weekly, more than one absence from a lecture or, if you are taking the class for 2 or more units, more than one absence also from section, will negatively affect your final grade.

Late Policy for Students taking 101 for 2-3 Units

Written work that comes in any time after the very beginning of the section it is due will be marked down a grade per diem so please do be sure to turn all work in on time. So, for instance, if you turn in your reaction/close reading analysis a half hour after the section begins, an A grade will become an B grade. If it comes in the next morning, that A grade will become a C and so on. It is not worth the penalty! So manage your time and make sure you have that writing in hand when you come to section. "My printer was not working" is not an acceptable excuse; you need to make sure you have printed it out in time to account for any unseen printer challenges. We use your writing in section so it is very important to bring a hard copy.

COURSE SCHEDULE WITH READINGS

4/1	Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., Princeton University "Publics, Prosperity, and Politics: the Changing Face of African American Christianity and Black Political Life" Reading: Walton
4/8	Evelyn Alsultany (PhD' 05), University of Michigan "Racing and Unracing Islam: The Contested Place of Muslims in the U.S. Post-9/11" Reading: Asultany
4/15	Vijay Prishad, Trinity College "The Dharma of The Mensch: Long-distance nationalism and multi-cultural liberalism" Reading: Prashad
4/22	James K. Lee, University of Santa Barbara "Loathing and Redemption: Race, Religion, and the Virginia Tech Shootings" Reading: Brandzel and Desai
4/29	Todd Ramón Ochoa, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill "Promises Made: Cuban-Kongo Praise of the Dead and the Overcoming of Fated Debt" Reading: Ochoa
5/6	John L. Jackson, Jr., University of Pennsylvania Yah Power: Black Hebrewism, Afrocentrism, and the Silences of African-American Studies" Reading: Jackson

5/13	David Carrasco, Harvard University “Crossings of the Mexican Color Lines: Loco-Baroque in Latino/a Representations” Reading: Carrasco
5/20	Joycelyn C. Moody, University of Texas, San Antonio “‘I hadn’t joined church yet, and I wasn’t scared of anybody’: Violent Masculinity in Early African American Christian Narratives” Reading: Moody
5/27	J. Kameron Carter, Duke University “The Riddle of Religion: Du Bois, Empire, and the Modern Theological Condition” Reading: DuBois (ed. Sunquist)
6/3	Charles Ogletree (BA ’75, MA ’75), Harvard University (Note: St. Clair Drake Lecture in Bechtel Conference Center) “Dr. St Clair Drake’s narrative dialogue with Barack Hussein Obama: Traveling the road from Cambridge to Kenya and back!”

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** All readings should be done *before* the section meeting and lecture of that week, as they will form the basis of your response papers and our discussions.



Citations of Assigned Readings

- Asultany, Evelyn. "Selling American Diversity and Muslim American Identity through Nonprofit Advertising Post 9/11." American Quarterly 59:3 (2007): 593-622.
- Brandzel, Amy L. and Jinga Desai. "Race, Violence, and Terror: The Cultural Defensibility of Heteromale Citizenship in the Virginia Tech Massacre and the Don Imus Affair." Journal of Asian American Studies. 11:1 (2008): 61-85.
- Carrasco, David. "Preface" for Race and Classification: The Case of Mexican America. Eds. Ilona Katzew and Susan Deans-Smith. Stanford: Stanford University Press, forthcoming.
- DuBois, W.E.B. "Darkwater: Voices from within the Veil." (1920) *The Oxford WEB Du Bois Reader*. Ed. Eric J. Sunquist. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996, 483-523, 608-619.
- Jackson, John L. Jr., "African Hebrew Israelites: American Black Community Finds Spiritual Home in the Negev." My Jewish Learning. March 2009.
http://www.myjewishlearning.com/israel/Contemporary_Life/Society_and_Religious_Issues/African_Hebrew_Israelites.shtml
- Moody, Joycelyn. "Silenced Women and Silent Language in Early Abolitionist Serials." Technology, Textuality, Subjectivity: Histories of Print, Manuscript, and Performance in America. Eds. Sandra Gustafson and Caroline Sloat. Forthcoming.
- Ochoa, Todd Ramón. "Versions of the Dead: *Kalunga*, Cuban-Kongo Materiality, and Ethnography." Cultural Anthropology. 22:4 (2007): 473-500.
- Prashad, Vijay. "How the Hindus became Jews: American Racism after 9/11." The South Atlantic Quarterly 104:3 (2005): 583-606.
- Walton, Jonathon. Watch This!: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism. New York: New York University Press, 2009.