AAAD Course Catalog
Fall 2024

Register Now!
Dear Students,

The Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD) is pleased to present this catalog of courses that our faculty will be teaching next semester. Our classes cover a broad geographical, chronological, and thematic range of subject areas, including Africa, the Americas, and Europe, along with Politics and History; Literature; Linguistics; Anthropology; Gender and Sexuality; Pop Culture, Art, and Music; and Law. Thus, if you are interested in African civilizations, Black women’s activism, Caribbean culture, the US Civil Rights Movement, the history of American slavery, the Black Lives Matter movement, or virtually any other topic having to do with people of African descent in nearly any part of the world, we certainly offer courses that would be of interest.

For more about our department, the options for majoring and minoring in AAAD, our renowned African languages program, or information about our faculty’s research, publications, and courses, please visit our website. We look forward to seeing you next semester!

Visit us at: https://aaad.unc.edu/
or 109 Battle Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill
Contact us at: aaad@unc.edu (email)
Follow us on X: @UNC_AAAD
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**AAAD 50: Defining Blackness (FYS)**

**Instructor:** Nadia Mosquera Muriel  

**Meeting Times:** TuTh 3:30PM – 4:45PM

**Description:** (official description) Blackness and whiteness as racial categories have existed in the United States from the earliest colonial times, but their meanings have shifted and continue to shift. Over the semester we will attempt to define and redefine blackness in the United States. Please note: This iteration of the course will take a broader, more transnational approach to understanding Blackness and notions of race.

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**AAAD 58: Health Inequality in Africa and the African Diaspora (FYS)**

**Instructor:** Lydia Boyd  

**Meeting Times:** TuTh 2:00PM – 3:15PM

**Description:** This first-year seminar examines the ways that healthcare access and health itself are shaped by social, racial, and economic inequalities in our society and others. The geographic focus of this course is Africa and the United States. Drawing on research in medical anthropology, sociology, public health, and history, we will gain an understanding of the political, economic, and social factors that create health inequalities.
FALL 2024 | FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

AFRO LATINXS IN THE U.S.

AAAD 89-001 | T/TH | 12:30 - 1:45pm
DR. BERRY

What does it mean to be both racially Black and ethnically Latino in the U.S.?

This course will look at the history, culture, experiences, political struggles, and social dilemmas of “Afro-Latinos”: African-descended peoples from Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean who reside in the U.S.

This course fulfills the following General Education Objectives:
• Global Understanding and Engagement
• Power, Difference, and Inequality.

MAYA.BERRY@UNC.EDU
Instructor: Alicia Monroe

Meeting Times: TuTh 12:30PM – 1:45PM

Description: This course examines constructions of gender and individual and collective responses to developing systems of inequality in the Atlantic world shaped by sex, race, and class. Students analyze and compare how African, European, and American societies constructed the category of ‘woman’ and the constraints and liberties these constructions imposed.

Course participants document and examine how concepts of race and processes of racialization impacted experience for African and African descent women throughout the Atlantic World. Course readings survey societies from the early modern period to the twentieth century focusing on power, kinship, labor, and sexuality in daily life. The course highlights women’s cultures of resistance to interlocking systems of oppression in West and West Central Africa, the Caribbean, and North and South America. Students will engage travel writing, visual art, and historic Afro-Atlantic spiritual traditions as critical source materials.
AAAD 101: Introduction to Africa

Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies
Fall Semester 2024

Course Description:
This course introduces students to the continent of Africa. It surveys historical and contemporary political, economic, and social processes in the continent. Students will explore the African continent's changes over the years due to significant processes from within and without. Readings in this course are drawn from several fields, for example, geography, history, anthropology, literature, economics, language, and education.

Three sections of this course will be offered:

- AAAD 101-001: MW, 3:35 – 4:50pm (Dr. Raphael Birya)
- AAAD 101-002: MWF, 10:10 – 11:00am (Prof. Michael Lambert)
- AAAD 101-003 (remote): TuTh, 7 – 8:15pm (Prof. Matthew Sebastian)
This course introduces students to the concept of the African diaspora and the development of African-descendant communities in the Americas from the inception of the slave trade to emancipation.
AAAD 200: Gender & Sexuality in Africa

Instructor: Lydia Boyd

Meeting Times: TuTh 3:30 – 4:45PM

Description: Introduction to the study of gender and sexuality in African societies. Theoretical questions relating to the cross-cultural study of gender will be a primary focus. Topics include historical perspectives on the study of kinship and family in Africa and the impact of colonialism and other forms of social change.

AAAD 214: Africa through the Ethnographic Lens

Instructor: Michael Lambert

Meeting Times: MW 1:25 – 2:40PM

Description: This course examines the ways by which anthropologists have used ethnographic texts to describe and frame African societies. Among the topics explored through a close textual reading of both classical and contemporary ethnographic texts are systems of thought, politics, economics, social organization and the politics of representation.

AAAD 231: African American History since 1865

Instructor: Brandi Brimmer

Meeting Times: TuTH 9:30 – 10:45AM

Description: This course focuses on the history of African Americans since emancipation.
AAAD 250: The African American in Cinema: 1900 to present

This course will analyze representations of African Americans in cinema from the early 1900s to the present, explore how race is constructed onscreen, and examine how entertainers subverted these distorted representations. This course also serves to enhance students’ analytical lens when examining African Americans in cinematic representations. This course meets the Visual and Performing Arts (VP) requirement.

Instructor: Charlene Regester
Associate Professor, AAAD Department

Fall Semester 2024
Tuesdays, 3:30 – 6:20pm
2080 Peabody Hall
Bonus: Significant Native American history content!

AAAD 252: African Americans in the West
MW 5:45 – 7:00pm, Fall 2024

This course focuses on African Americans living in the western United States from the 1500s to the present. The entire west will be of interest to us, but four states in particular will command our attention: California, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma. While keeping African Americans very much in the foreground, we will also compare and contrast their history with that of Native Americans. Do not miss this opportunity to take a unique class, one that is rarely offered in universities in the western United States and almost never in the eastern.

Class discussions based on exceptionally interesting readings will drive this course. AAAD 252 will provide you a superb opportunity to interact with diverse classmates and learn fascinating information under an enthusiastic instructor, himself originally from the western United States.

Instructor: Robert Porter, winner of multiple teaching awards.
**AAAD 258: The Civil Rights Movement**

**Instructor:** Kenneth Janken

**Meeting Times:** TuTh 9:30 – 10:45AM

**Description:** The modern movements for civil rights of the mid-1950s through the mid-1970s resulted in far-reaching transformations in the history of the United States and led, too, to significant reshaping of African American society. Students in this course will learn a narrative of these movements and the domestic and international contexts in which they emerged, grew, and eventually concluded. Some of the major questions the course will pose – and students will have the opportunity to answer – are:

· How did the mass movements of the 1950s and 1960s get started, and how and why did they gain dominance over earlier iterations of the fights for civil rights?

· What were the demands of the civil rights movement and how and why did they change over time?

· How did the African American mass social movements of the mid-20th century enlarge the concepts and meanings of democracy?

· How did the movement for racial equality interact with the class struggle?

· When and why did the civil rights movement end?

· How have fights for equality continued since the end of the civil rights and black power movements?

**AAAD 260: Blackness in Latin America**

**Instructor:** Nadia Mosquera Muriel

**Meeting Times:** TuTh 11:00AM – 12:15PM

**Description:** The majority of people of African descent in this hemisphere live in Latin America. This course will explore how blackness is understood and reproduced in Latin America, as well as Black history, cultures, experiences, and social movements in the region.
**AAAD 261: Afro-Cuban Dance: History, Theory, and Practice**

**Instructor:** Maya Berry  
**Meeting Times:** TuTh 2:00 – 3:15PM

**Description:** This class will guide students to explore how body techniques produce social meaning, have political effects, and travel over time and space. The course material is grounded in the dance repertoires transmitted by enslaved Africans and their descendants in Cuba. Concepts are conveyed through readings and movement practice.

The course fulfills the following Gen Ed Focus Capacities:

1. Creative Expressions, Practice, and Production  
2. Aesthetic and Interpretive Analysis.

**AAAD 284: Contemporary Perspectives on the African Diaspora in the Americas**

**Instructor:** Joseph Jordan  
**Meeting Times:** TuTh 3:30PM - 4:45PM

**Description:** An interdisciplinary survey of African-descendant communities and the development and expression of African/black identities in the context of competing definitions of diaspora.
AAAD 286: The African Diaspora in the Colonial Americas, 1450-1800

This course explores the experiences of African descended peoples in the Americas, pre-1800, with special attention to Brazil and, in North America, to the 13 colonies, (future) Canada, and Caribbean. Major themes include gender, culture, labor and resistance. Memorable readings, including both primary and secondary sources, will feature prominently. Discussions and class participation are central to this class.

Instructor: Robert Porter, winner of multiple teaching awards

Meeting Times: Tuesday 7:30 – 10:00PM
AAAD 288 - Global Black Popular Cultures

AAAD 288 explores the routes and the intertwined histories, genealogies, and politics of Black cultural practices in the Black Atlantic world. Using an interdisciplinary approach and a close study of foundational concepts, we tackle critical questions around Black identity, identification, and belonging. First, we examine how pioneer scholars have defined Black popular culture in relation to the concepts of blackness, Diaspora, transnationalism, globalization, and postcolonialism. Then, we analyze how these notions and phenomena have characterized the movements and flows of Black mass culture through various cultural practices in the US, Africa, and parts of Western Europe.

INSTRUCTOR: DR. SAMBA CAMARA
Meeting Time: M/W 3:35 - 4:50PM
Islam noir – or “black Islam” – is the term coined by colonial European scholars of Muslim Africa to describe how sub-Saharan Africans had “misappropriated” Islam. The term also contrasted Black practices of Islam with “Arab” Islamic cultures seen as purer. What followed was a decades long scholarship that persisted on portraying Black African Muslims as mere converts and in need of Arab authentication. AAAD 303 explores Islam in Africa beyond this orientalist picture. The course explores how Africans have historically indigenized Islam in ways that did not only transform local black culture, but that also changed the face of Islam in the world. First, we use specific case studies to explore the history of Islamization in Africa. Then, we use an interdisciplinary approach to Muslim African culture to explore the Africanization of Islam through oral tradition, international cultural networking, popular music, literature, film, and visual arts.

INSTRUCTOR: DR. SAMBA CAMARA
Class Time: MWF, 10:10-11:00am
### AAAD 320: Music of Africa

**Instructor:** David Pier  
**Meeting Times:** TuTh, 9:30 – 10:45AM  

**Description:** An introduction to African music new and old, focusing on the continent's distinctive techniques and concepts, and on its musical interactions with the rest of the world. The politics of music making in various historical settings will be explored. Prior musical experience is helpful, but not required.

### AAAD 330: 20th-Century African American Art

**Instructor:** John Bowles  
**Meeting Times:** MWF 12:20PM – 1:10PM  

**Description:** Focus on the historical development of African American art from the Harlem Renaissance of early 20th century through the Black Arts Movement and Feminist Art Movement 1960s and early 1970s.

### AAAD 340: Diaspora Art and Cultural Politics

**Instructor:** Joseph Jordan  
**Meeting Times:** TuTh 12:30 – 1:45PM  

**Description:** Examines the socio-political dimensions of African diaspora art and culture with a focus on African Americans in the 20th century.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AAAD 356: The History of Hip-Hop Culture</strong></th>
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**Instructor:** Chris Massenburg

**Meeting Times:** TuTh 3:30PM – 4:45PM

**Description:** Examines the emergence and impact of hip-hop music and culture and its broad influence in mainstream culture, as a global phenomenon and as a vehicle embodying formative ideas of its constituent communities.
Come join us in AAAD 391 for the Human Development, Sustainability and Rights (HDSR) Minor core course! This course provides a critical introduction to the study of development and sustainability in Africa and the African diaspora. ‘Development’ is a concept with multiple meanings and contextual incarnations. We will examine situated approaches to the concept of development and look at contemporary challenges facing the African continent.

The course’s aims are to develop critical thinking skills amongst students in the Minor and to explore various ‘problem-spaces’ of development in theory and practice such as:

- the question of sustainability
- urbanization and urban development
- the management of pandemics and disease
- the rise and fall of microfinance
- post-disaster capitalism
What draws together urban struggles over space and rights to access the city in Nairobi and Oakland, across Detroit and Sao Paolo? How might we understand these struggles for the city relationally, even as we seek to imagine and rebuild socially just futures?

Join us in AAAD 392 for a seminar where we examine the contemporary city as a terrain of contestation.

Struggles to shape urban space and create rights to access public space are major issues in both American cities and cities in the Global South. Using a transnational perspective, we focus on selected US cities and cities in Africa and the African diaspora to understand how questions of race and socio-economic inequality affect contemporary urbanism. How is urban space politicized and foreclosed in the contemporary city and how do we understand urban spatial struggles relationally?
Instructor: Eunice Sahle

Meeting Times: TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM

Description: Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Subject matter will vary with each instructor. Each course will concern itself with a study in depth of some problem in African, African American, or diaspora studies.
Do you want to understand, enrich and challenge your thinking on the role of language in society? If your answer is yes, enroll in AAAD 421. By the end of the course, students will better understand and appreciate the language situation in Africa and elsewhere in the world. Fundamental questions considered in this course include: What is language? What happens if languages come into contact? What factors influence language choice in multilingual societies like those in Africa? What is the language policy in these countries? Why do languages die and how can they be preserved and/or revitalized?

Prerequisite: Your interest. NO prior knowledge of linguistics is assumed or required.
**AAAD 430: African American Intellectual History**

**Instructor:** Kenneth Janken  

**Meeting Times:** TuTh 8:00AM – 9:15AM  

**Description:** An examination of major intellectual trends in African American life from the 19th to the early 21st century.

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**AAAD 466: Race and Gender in the Atlantic World**

**Instructor:** Alicia Monroe  

**Meeting Times:** Tuesday, 3:30PM – 6:00PM  

**Description:** This course examines constructions of race and gender in a comparative framework from the fifteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. Students will explore how people across the Atlantic understood visual differences and human diversity in emerging concepts of race. Students will also focus on how inhabitants of Africa, Europe, North America, and South America constructed the category of "woman" and "man" and the constraints and liberties these constructions imposed.
AAAD.490-01: Black Biography*

Fall 2024
Colloquium
Tuesday/Thursday: 11:00am – 12:15pm
Hanes Art Center: RM 0118
Instructor: Brandi C. Brimmer, Associate Professor

Course Description: This course seeks to understand Black lives in the U.S. through the lens of biography. During the semester, students will gain familiarity with a variety of historical methods and archival approaches as they grapple with the messiness of historical analysis. For example, how do scholars uncover the life histories of Black people who did not leave personal papers in traditional archives? How do scholars handle misrepresentations and misremembering by their historical subjects? Spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the course readings deal with the problem of writing about iconic figures in African American history and culture. Required texts: Nell Painter, *Sojourner Truth: A Life a Symbol* (1997); Jacqueline Goggin, *Carter G. Woodson: A Life in Black History* (1997); and Jeanne Theoharis, *The Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks* (2015). Assignments include reading and analysis, oral presentations, and short response papers based on weekly readings and a final research paper.

*AAAD majors can have this course counted as one of the 400-level classes required to fulfill major requirements. Please contact Dr. Kenneth Janken (krjanken@email.unc.edu) for more information.
SWAH 401 is the first part of Elementary Swahili. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of Standard Swahili language and culture. At the end of this course, students are expected to reach Novice High according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency guidelines. The course is designed to help students acquire conversational ability on basic topics necessary for survival in a Swahili setting.

Why study Swahili? Swahili is a Bantu language spoken in East and Central Africa in countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Burundi, Rwanda and The Democratic Republic of Congo. Knowledge of Swahili language is therefore important to anyone travelling to East and Central Africa to do research, conduct business, or provide services to local communities. Further, the growth of Swahili as a language of wider communication in Africa and a fast-growing international language with many second language speakers and learners around the world cannot be overemphasized. Moreover, after learning Swahili, you will be in a good position to learn hundreds of other Bantu languages spoken in Africa.
Two sections of SWAH 401 will be offered in Fall 2024, including:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Meeting Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWAH 401-001</td>
<td>Raphael Birya</td>
<td>MoWeFr 10:10AM - 11:00AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWAH 401-002</td>
<td>Mohamed Mwamzandi</td>
<td>MoWeFr 12:20 – 1:10PM</td>
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**SWAH 403: Intermediate Kiswahili III**

**Description:** Prerequisite, SWAH 112 or 402. This course is the first part of Intermediate Swahili. Students taking this course are assumed to have taken Swahili Elementary I & II where basic elements of Standard Swahili language and culture are introduced. The course is designed to further help students improve their fluency with emphasis on reading, writing, speaking and listening. Further, students make some comparisons between their cultures and the culture of Swahili speaking people and the East African people in general.

Two sections of SWAH 403 will be offered in Fall 2022, including:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWAH 403-001</td>
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<td>MoWeFr 12:20 – 1:10PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWAH 403-002</td>
<td>Mohamed Mwamzandi</td>
<td>MoWeFr 10:10AM -11:00AM</td>
</tr>
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**SWAH 405: Advanced Kiswahili V**

**Instructor:** Mohamed Mwamzandi

**Meeting Times:** MoWeFr 9:05 – 9:55AM

**Description:** Prerequisite, SWAH 404. Advanced Swahili aims at developing fluency and proficiency in Swahili language and students' understanding of the social, economic, and political situation and activities of the East African people. Further, the course is designed to develop the students' ability to describe events, express opinions, and compare what they learn in class with personal experience and knowledge in their respective fields of specialization using structured arguments.

**WOLO 401: Elementary Wolof I**
**Instructor:** Samba Camara  
**Meeting Times:** MoWeFr 9:05AM - 9:55AM

**Description:** WOLO 401 (Elementary Wolof I) is appropriate for beginners with no background in the language.

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**WOLO 403: Intermediate Wolof III**

**Instructor:** Samba Camara  
**Meeting Times:** TBA

**Description:** Prerequisite, WOLO 402. WOL 403 is appropriate for learners who have completed (or successfully placed out of) Elementary Wolof 2.

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**YORU 403: Intermediate Yoruba III**

**Instructor:** TBA  
**Meeting Times:** TBA

**Description:** Intermediate Yoruba III is a continuation of Elementary Yoruba. It is the first of two intermediate level courses of the language. Students taking this course are assumed to have taken Yoruba Elementary I & II where basic elements of Yoruba language and culture are introduced. Emphasis is placed on reinforcing the basic structures learned in Elementary Yoruba I and II through oral and aural activities and increasing the level of active vocabulary.
The curriculum of the Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies emphasizes the histories, cultures, cultural linkages, and contemporary sociopolitical and economic realities of Africa and the African diasporas in the context of a globalizing world. The major offers a concentration in African studies or a concentration in African American and Diaspora studies.

The Department also offers a minor in African Studies, a minor in African American and Diaspora Studies, and a minor in Human Development, Sustainability, and Rights in Africa and the African Diaspora.

Prospective majors should contact the Department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Kenneth Janken (krjanken@email.unc.edu), for more information and guidance.

**Honors in African, African American, and Diaspora Studies**

Students with an overall grade point average of 3.3 or higher at the beginning of their senior year, and who have already completed AAAD 395, are encouraged to apply for candidacy for the B.A. with Honors. Students interested in undertaking honors research and the writing of a thesis should consult with the Department’s Honors Coordinator no later than their junior year to discuss the process of applying to the program.

For more information about majoring or minoring in AAAD, please visit our website (https://aaad.unc.edu/).
Maya J. Berry (Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Social Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin): Latin American/Hispanic Caribbean Racial & National Formation; Cuba; Cultural Diplomacy; New Social Movements; Critical Feminisms; Black Radical Performance & Theory; Yoruba Philosophy.

Raphael Birya (Teaching Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Communication, Indiana University of Pennsylvania): Swahili language and culture; media in Africa; language and social media.

Lydia Boyd (Associate Professor; Ph.D., Anthropology, New York University): African ethnography and social history; gender and sexuality; medical anthropology; visual anthropology; ethnographic film; urban Africa; religion; Uganda, East Africa.

Brandi Brimmer (Associate Professor and Morehead-Cain Alumni Scholar; Ph.D., History, University of California at Los Angeles): History of enslaved and free Black people in the American South; slavery, emancipation, and Reconstruction; Black women’s political thought; African Americans and the Law (legal culture); African American marriage and family; African American biography; and archival methods.

Samba Camara (Teaching Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Arts, Ohio University): African literature and performance, Islamic Africa, black popular culture, African popular music, West African migration, Wolof and Pulaar/Fula (Senegal) languages and cultures.

Claude Clegg (Distinguished Professor; Ph.D., History, University of Michigan): African American history; modern U.S. history; migrations & diasporas; nationalism; and social movements.

Shakirah Hudani (Assistant Professor; Ph.D., City and Regional Planning, University of California at Berkeley): African cities, post-conflict urbanism, transitional justice; Rwanda and the Great Lakes region; Kenya and East Africa.

Kenneth Janken (Professor; Ph.D., History, Rutgers University): Civil Rights Movement; the art, literature, and politics of the Harlem Renaissance; African American intellectual history; and African American autobiography.

Joseph Jordan (Teaching Associate Professor; Ph.D., African Studies, Howard University): African diaspora cultures, Black internationalism, interethnic contacts between African Americans and indigenous communities in the United States and abroad.

Michael Lambert (Associate Professor; Ph.D., Social Anthropology, Harvard University): Ethnography of Africa, West Africa, and political conflict.

LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant (Professor; Ph.D., Religious Studies, Emory University): religion, anthropology, art, music, and media; how Black women throughout the Diaspora engage religion and spirituality to navigate the contours of life.
Alicia Monroe (Teaching Assistant Professor; Ph.D., History, Emory University): Afro-Atlantic visual and material culture; constructions of race in the Iberian-Atlantic world; urban slavery and emancipation; popular Catholicism; and African diasporic religious practices.

Nadia Mosquera Muriel (Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK): Race and Blackness, Afro-Latin American Feminism, Social Movements, Politics of Culture, Black Geographies, Afterlives of Slavery; Venezuela, Colombia and Latin America.

Mohamed Mwamzandi (Teaching Associate Professor; Ph.D., Linguistics, University of Texas at Arlington): African linguistics and Swahili language and culture; pragmatics, morpho-syntax, corpus linguistics, and computational linguistics.

David Pier (Associate Professor; Ph.D., Music [Ethnomusicology], Graduate Center of the City University of New York): African music; politics of cultural production in Africa; history and culture of Uganda; ethnomusicology; music of African diasporas; jazz and Afro-American art music.

Robert Porter (Teaching Assistant Professor; M.A., History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): African American History; African Americans in the West; African diaspora.

Charlene Regester (Associate Professor; Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction Design, Educational Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): African American cinema; black entertainers; race and melodrama.

Eunice Sahle (Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Studies, Queen’s University, Canada): International development; urban politics; environmental politics; democratization and constitutionalism; human rights; women and politics in Africa; immigration and diaspora formation; NGOs in contemporary Africa.

Petal Samuel (Assistant Professor; Ph.D., English, Vanderbilt University): Caribbean literature, black feminist studies, the racial politics of noise.

*The list above includes only the primary faculty of AAAD.*