

<p><b>Course Name</b> Black Diasporic Literatures &amp; Literary Theories</p> <p><b>Contact Hours</b> Lecture: Tuesdays 11:30 am-2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Course Instructor</b> Muna Dahir</p>
<p><b>Course Description</b> This course invites students to read across a wide range of creative and critical works that traverse the Black diaspora. Situated within Black Studies, Anti-colonial Studies, Cultural Studies and Feminist Studies, we will explore how the conceptual turn to <i>diaspora</i> allows for an “account of black transnational formations that attend to their constitutive differences” (Edwards 54). Throughout this course, we will focus on how Black Anglophone writers and scholars differently theorize race, culture, gender and diaspora, as an entry into broader discussions of diasporic encounter, dialogue and exchange. To this end, we will explore various story forms in order to identify overlapping themes, tropes, and aesthetics that emerge across Black Atlantic literary cultures. By bringing together key literary figures, critical theories and cultural movements, we will centralize how different narratives of racial and gendered politics have been represented, contested, and reimagined in this conjuncture. In order to do so, students will develop an interdisciplinary framework for reading and writing that considers unanticipated observations, connections, and tensions between the role of literary production and ongoing global struggles for Black liberation, self-determination and self-definition.</p>	<p><b>Required Course Materials</b> All readings will be made available through the library’s e-reserve</p>
<p><b>Course Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draw connections between race, gender, diaspora and literature,</li> <li>2. Critically examine and identify different historical and theoretical frameworks across Black Literary Studies, Anti-colonial Studies, Cultural Studies, and Black Feminist Thought,</li> <li>3. Develop a set of analytical tools in order to write critically about a wide range of Black literary and cultural production (theory, poetry, speeches and fiction),</li> <li>4. Identify themes, conceptualize arguments and develop a critical citation practice,</li> <li>5. Apply analysis of concepts, themes and methods towards social change,</li> <li>6. Cultivate a practice of close reading that is relational, reflective and collaborative.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Course Evaluation</b></p> <p>Participation: 15 %</p> <p>Critical Reading Portfolio: 25 %</p> <p>Group Poetry Lab: 30 %</p> <p>Final Paper/Creative Project: 30%</p>

## **Topics in Course Outline**

- ⇒ Introduction to the Role of the Writer, The Critic and the Media
- ⇒ Modernism and Mid-century Literary Cultures
- ⇒ Black Atlantic Literature and Diaspora Writing
- ⇒ Black Feminist Criticism, Literary Theories & Methodologies
- ⇒ Black Internationalisms, Anti-colonial Thought & The Role of Culture
- ⇒ Black Poetics I: Poetry, Protest & Resistance
- ⇒ Black Poetics II: Language, Nation & Empire
- ⇒ Time, Memory and Fiction as History
- ⇒ Black Speculative Thought, Fugitive Science & Caribbean Fabulist Fictions
- ⇒ Notes on Citation and Radical Theory Making