

Tennessee State University
Department Languages, Literature, and Philosophy

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Office Hours: **MWF 1:30-4:00** and by appointment

<p style="text-align: center;">FALL 2012 SYLLABUS FRENCH 4300: AFRO EUROPE AND THE FRANCOPHONE CULTURE</p>

This course, titled **Afro Europe and the Francophone Culture**, relates to studying the unique experience of the African Diaspora in Europe. While the hyphenated noun “African-American” conveys a reality and identity well recognized and celebrated, the label “Afro-European” refers to a relatively new identity marker, still in the making and not quite acknowledged. What is Afro-Europe? Are there any significant commonalities between Afro-Europeans and African Americans? Is Francophone culture in Europe a monolithic concept or does it manifest differently based on ethnic background? These questions and many more will find their answers in this course. We will organize discussions of the concept of African Diaspora around cultural representations of Europe and Blackness and against the historical backdrop of slavery, the World Wars, colonization, and immigration. Reading from *Black Europe and the African Diaspora* (2009) and *The Color of Liberty* (2003) will provide the theoretical framework for the course while screenings of documents and films will present diverse accounts of the Afro European experience. The reading assignments will touch upon such literary and cultural movements as the Harlem Renaissance (Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes), and the Negritude (David Diop, Aimé Césaire, Leopold Sédar Senghor). The course is articulated around the following interests:

1. From Africans to Afro-Europeans: Historical Perspectives on Afro-Europe (Slavery / World Wars / Colonization / Immigration)
2. Blackness in Perspective: Stereotypes, Racism and Alienation
3. Afro French: Contemporary Black/Beur Identities in the Making

At the end of this course, it is expected that students will be able to:

- Understand and enumerate the main historical components of the African Diaspora in Europe,
- define types of contemporary connections existing between Africa, Europe and America,
- describe aspects of group or individual identity formation specific to people of African descent in Europe.

Evaluation:

Journal : 30%

Oral Presentations: 20%

2 Essays @ 10% each = 20%

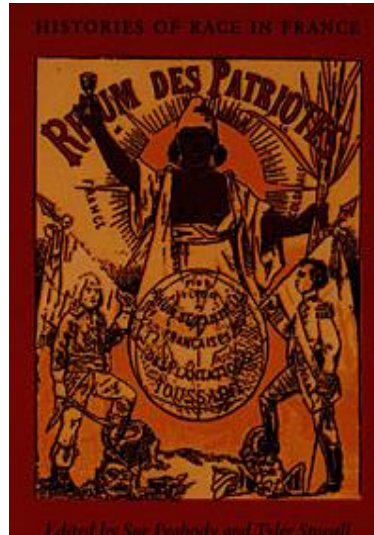
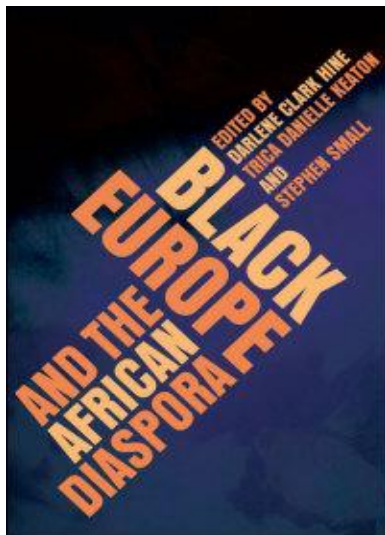
Attendance and Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 20%

*** There will be unannounced oral or written quizzes that will count toward Oral Presentations or Participation.**

Required books:

- *Black Europe and the African Diaspora*. Darlene Clark Hine, Trica Danielle Keaton, and Stephen Small, eds. University of Illinois Press, 2009.
- *The Color of Freedom: Histories of Race in France*. Sue Peabody and Tyler Stovall, eds. Duke University Press, 2003.



- Supplemental reading documents are available on [Banner](#).

Films will include:

La Noire de... (Sembène Ousmane)
Pièces d'identités (Mweze Ngangura)
The Josephine Baker Story (HBO)
Indigènes (Rachid Bouchareb)
Aimé Césaire (Euzhan Palcy)

For each reading assignments as noted on the syllabus, students will write and turn in a one-page, double spaced, journal entry. One paragraph of the journal entry will make a succinct summary of the reading while the remainder of the entry will discuss the student's thoughts on the reading material. Each student will be given the opportunity to share their journal entry with the whole class. Due dates for journal entries are to be respected scrupulously. All the student's entries will constitute his/her Journal at the end of the semester (the journal counts for 30% of the grades). The MLA Style will be used

for references in all written assignments. **YOUR WORK MUST BE TYPED. NO HANDWRITTEN ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Grade Scale: **90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 59 or below = F**

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. You will receive daily participation grades. For those days on which you are absent without an excuse, your participation grade will be zero. Two instances of tardiness equal an absence. Leaving class early without prior approval of the instructor will be recorded as an absence (get instructor's approval to leave early before class starts). If you are more than 5 minutes late, you will be recorded as being absent. Disruption behavior will result in your being asked to leave early, and your participation grade will also be zero.

This is a 3-credit hour course. University policy defines "excessive absences" as "one class in excess of the number of registered hours." Therefore, having more than four unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. For each unexcused absence beyond the fourth, the final grade will be lowered by one percentage point, for example, from 70 to 69. Bear in mind that even excused absences can make it harder to keep up in class.

For those students with no absences or tardiness, the lowest daily participation grade is dropped.

Plagiarism and cheating:

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to any other disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the general institutional procedures as a result of the academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign a ZERO for the exercise or examination, or to assign an F in the course. If the student believes that he or she has been erroneously accused of academic misconduct, and if his or her final grade is affected as a result, the student may appeal the case through the appropriate institutional procedures. (First the instructor, if not satisfied, then the head of the Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy, then the Dean of Arts and Sciences, then the Vice President for Student Affairs).

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS:

The use of electronic devices like beepers, cellular phones, or radios is not allowed in class. Turn them off and put them away before you come to class. **Do not leave the classroom to use these devices during class. Cameras are not allowed in the classroom without the prior approval of the instructor.**

PER UNIVERSITY POLICY, NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN CLASSROOMS. NO SLEEPING OR WORKING ON WORK FOR OTHER CLASSES DURING THIS CLASS.

You are expected to be respectful to all persons in the class at all times. Rude or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Your instructor reserves the right to determine what is considered to be rude or disrespectful behavior.

Disability:

The Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy in conjunction with the Office of Disabled Student Services, makes reasonable accommodations for qualified students with medically documented disabilities. If you need an accommodation, please contact Dan Steely of TSU's Disabled Student Services Office at 963-7400 (phone) or 9634-5051 (fax), preferably by the fourth day of class.