

# CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

## APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: ADD AFST 3354 « Black Women of the Americas » to African American Studies Minor and add to list of Humanities Block Electives.

College: COLART

Department: HISTORY

**PROGRAM INTERIM DIRECTOR- Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Melendez**

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I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.



11-8-2024

Signature

Date

**COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Dr. Selfa Chew-Melendez**

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I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

**COLLEGE DEAN – Dr. Anadeli Bencomo**

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I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature

Date

# CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 10/24/2024

From: Dr. Erika Edwards



Through: African American Studies Program Interim Director, Selfa A. Chew-Melendez



Through: Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Anadeli Bencomo

To: Chair, Dr. Selfa Chew-Melendez, LACC

Proposal Title: ADD AFST 3354: Black Women of the Americas to African American Studies Minor and add to list of Humanities Block Electives

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Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

## Content

☐ New program or ☐ Program Change

☐ Bachelor's

☐ Master's

☐ Doctoral/Professional

☐ Certificate

☐ Fast Track

☐ Minor

☐ Concentration/Track

☒ New Course(s)

☐ Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)

☐ Change

☐ CIP Code

☐ Program/certificate SCH

☐ Course Title

☐ Course Description

☐ Graduate Program Admission Requirements

## COURSE ADD

All fields below are required

Add additional Course Add forms as needed

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College : COLART

Department : African American Studies Program

Effective Term : Fall 2026

**Rationale for adding the course:**

HIST 3354: This proposal seeks to create a new course for history majors within Field III of the History Curriculum. This course fills an important component of comparative histories, transnational histories, and borderlands that will further enhance this department's concentration. Moreover, it will also serve as an additional course for the African American Studies minor that is now held in the History Department. This course will broaden students' knowledge about Black women from the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.

**All fields below are required**

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Subject Prefix and # AFST 3354

Title (29 characters or fewer): Black Women of the Americas, Colonial Latin America, Modern Latin America, Latin America and Film

Dept. Administrative Code : 1450

CIP Code 540101

Departmental Approval Required ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Level ☒ UG ☐ GR ☐ DR ☐ SP

Course will be taught: ☒ Face-to-Face ☐ Online ☐ Hybrid

Course minimum grade: if N leave blank, if Y provide grade

- How many times may course be repeated to satisfy minimum grade requirement? 1

How many times may the course be taken for credit? (Please indicate 1-9 times): 1

Should the course be exempt from the "Three Repeat Rule?" ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grading Mode: ☒ Standard ☐ Pass/Fail ☐ Audit

**Description and 2-3 keywords (600 characters maximum):**

*(Keywords are for Facilitation of course searches and should be words not already included in course title or description)*

HIST 3354: As slaves, subjects, and subversives, black women were integral players in the building of empires and the construction of nations. This course is a comparative history that surveys Black women's experiences, (colonization, enslavement, abolition, motherhood) in British, French, Portuguese, and Spanish Americas from 1500-1900.

Keywords: African Diaspora; Gender; Racial Identity; Slavery

Contact Hours (per week): 3 Lecture Hours Lab Hours Other

Types of Instruction (Schedule Type): Select all that apply

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Lecture | <input type="checkbox"/> H Thesis                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B Laboratory         | <input type="checkbox"/> I Dissertation                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C Practicum          | <input type="checkbox"/> K Lecture/Lab Combined                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D Seminar            | <input type="checkbox"/> O Discussion or Review (Study Skills) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E Independent Study  | <input type="checkbox"/> P Specialized Instruction             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F Private Lesson     | <input type="checkbox"/> Q Student Teaching                    |

Fields below if applicable

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If course is taught during a part of term in addition to a full 16-week term please indicate the length of the course (ex., 8 weeks): 8 weeks

TCCN (Use for lower division courses) :

Prerequisite(s):		
Course Number/ Placement Test	Minimum Grade Required/ Test Scores	Concurrent Enrollment Permitted? (Y/N)

Corequisite Course(s):

Equivalent Course(s):

Restrictions:	
Classification	
Major	

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*The curriculum office recommends consulting with other programs to determine whether there is significant overlap between the proposed course and any existing courses, especially when the course is part of an interdisciplinary program. Evidence of this consultation will facilitate the work of the curriculum committees.*

## **Course Syllabus**

HIST/AFRS 3354

*She Came to Slay:*

Black Women of the Americas 1500-1900

Dr. Erika Denise Edwards

Email: [ededwards@utep.edu](mailto:ededwards@utep.edu)

Office: LART 314

Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 12-2pm

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

As slaves, subjects, and subversives, black women were integral players in the building of empires and the construction of nations. This course is a comparative history that surveys Black women's experiences, (colonization, enslavement, abolition, motherhood) in British, French, Portuguese, and Spanish Americas from 1500-1900. This course will analyze readings pertaining to Black women throughout the African diaspora and engage the present when appropriate.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

In this course students will:

Gain knowledge of the gendered slave and freed experience throughout the British, French, and Portuguese, and Spanish Americas colonial, and republican periods

Develop analytical skills to make clear and concise arguments through small writing assignments, quizzes, and essays

## **REQUIRED BOOKS:**

Berry, Dania Ramey and Leslie M. Harris eds. *Sexuality and Slavery: Reclaiming Intimate Histories in the Americas* (Athens: University of Georgia Press) 2018. (BH)

Erica Ball, Tatiana Seijas, and Terri Snyder *As If She Were Free: A Collective Biography of Women and Emancipation in the Americas* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) 2020 (BSS)

<b>Assignments:</b>		
Attendance/Participation		50
Journal	@20	100
Papers	@ 200	400
Quizzes	@100 each	200
Final Exam		350
Total		1100

### GRADING SCALE

90% - 100% A

80% - 89% B

70% - 79% C

60% - 69% D

59% - 0% F

**A) Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and participation is expected in this course. Everyone's views and ideas are welcomed, and I encourage you to get to know your classmates.

**B) Readings/Assignments:** Success in this course requires familiarity with the readings. I will not cover all the material in the text. However, **you are responsible for all reading materials assigned.** You should read all assigned readings as I will not cover all the information in the lecture notes provided.

**C) Examinations:** There will be 2 quizzes. They will consist of short answer questions. **There is no make-up quizzes permitted in this course.**

**D) Journal Entries:** Throughout the semester you will turn in short writing assignments that address the theme of the week. They will take place during class.

**E) Final Exam:** Instructions for the final paper will be provided midway through the semester.

**F) Email Etiquette:** Please allow up to 48 hours for me to respond to your email

**G) Note on Medical Absences-** In the case of an unforeseen medical emergency or illness that might prohibit you from completing any papers on time, or causing you to miss an exam or quiz, you must submit documentation from a medical professional.

**H) Professional Integrity:** Laptop and device use must be limited to notetaking and only if absolutely necessary. On occasion I may ask you to close laptops during certain activities and film clip viewings. The recording of lectures is prohibited. Keep cell-phone ringers off.

**I) Academic Integrity and Honesty:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You must submit your work only. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy (<http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadint.htm>).

**J) Students in need of Accommodations and Support Services:** If you need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if necessary, authorize accommodations for students.

**K) Class Schedule:** There are two key dates that a student must keep in mind.

Add Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Withdrawal Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.

#### Course Schedule:

Week 1: August 22 and August 24

#### Black Women and the Historical Record

When the Archive Imitates Life: Research in Argentina

<https://abwh.org/2020/02/05/when-the-archive-imitates-life-research-in-argentina/>

Readings:

Introduction: (BH)

Week 2: Aug 29 and Aug 31

#### The Slave Trade

"How the discovery of the Clotilda informs U.S. history"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAlzo3ParMA>

Readings:

Chapters 1 "Why did Europeans Buy African Slaves" and Chapter 2 "Why did Africans Sell Slaves?"  
Lisa Lindsey *Captives and Commodities* (provided by the professor)

## **Journal Entry: 1**

Week 3: Sept 5 and Sept 7

Sept 5: No Class

### **African Settlers: Black Slaves**

"She was captured, Enslaved and She Survived"

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/nation/2019/10/16/slaverys-history-angela-first-recorded-african-woman-jamestown/3895860002/>

Readings:

Erika Denise Edwards, Chapter 1, "Miscegenation, Marriage, Manumission" (EDE)

Week 4: Sept 12 and Sept 14

### **Black Women and Community**

Readings:

David Wheat "Nharas and Morenas Horras: A Luso-African Model for the Social History of the Spanish Caribbean, c. 1570-1640" *Journal of Early Modern History*, *Journal of Early Modern History*, vol 14, 2010, 119-150.

Pablo Sierra "Afro-Mexican Women in Saint-Domingue: Piracy, Captivity, and Community in the 1680s and 1690s" *Hispanic American Historical Review* 100: 1 2020

Quiz 1 (Weeks 1-3) Monday

Week 5: Sept 19 and Sept 21

### **Views and Regulations of the Black Female Representations**

Readings:

Chapter 1 "Early European Views of African Bodies" (BH)

Danielle Terrazas Williams "Finer Things: African descended Women, Governance Sumptuary Laws, and Governance in Early Spanish America" *Journal of Women's History*

## **Journal Entry 2**

Week 6: Sept 26 and Sept 28

### **Gendered and Racialized Slavery**



## **Readings:**

Elizabeth Key, 17<sup>th</sup> century VA (BSS)

Jennifer L. Morgan *Partus sequitur ventrem: Law, Race, and Reproduction in Colonial Slavery* Small Axe (2018) 22 (1 (55)): 1–17.

Week 7: Oct 3 and Oct 5

### **Gendered and Racialized Freedom: Black or Indian**

Readings: Chapter 5: Hannah Manena McKenney, Late 17<sup>th</sup> and Early 18<sup>th</sup> century Bermuda and New Providence (BSS)

Chapter 8 Sarah Chauquim, 18<sup>th</sup> century Rhode Island and Connecticut (BSS)

Erika Denise Edwards Hiding in Plain Sight: Black Women the Law and the Making of a White Argentine Republic (EDE) Chapter 5

Week 8: Oct 10 and Oct 12

### **Sexual Violence and Abuse of Black Women**

Readings: Chapter 6: Rethinking Sexual Violence in the Marketplace of Slavery: White Women, the Slave Market, and Enslaved People's Sexualized Bodies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century South" (BH)

"Conceived in violence: enslaved mothers and children born of rape in nineteenth-century Louisiana" *Slavery Abolition*

## **Journal Entry 3**

Week 9: Oct 17 and Oct 19t

### **Love, Convenience, or Coercion: Black Women in "Amorous" Relationships**

## **Readings:**

Chapter 9 What's Love Got to do with it? (BH)

Erika Denise Edwards Hiding in Plain Sight: Black Women the Law and the Making of a White Argentine Republic (EDE) Chapter 3

Week 10: Oct 24 and Oct 26

### **Slave Rebellion/Resistance I**

"They were the world's only all-female army. Their descendants are fighting to recapture their humanity"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/08/26/amazons-dahomey-benin/>

## **Readings:**

Hall, Rebecca, *Wake: The Hidden History of Women Led Slave Revolts* Simon& New York: Schuster, 2022.

## **Journal Entry 4**

Week 11: Oct 31 and Nov 2

### **Slave Rebellion/Resistance II**

Readings:

Chapter 4: As If she Were My Own: Love and Law in the Slave Society of 18<sup>th</sup> century Peru (BH)

Chapter 22: Emma Lane Coger: 19<sup>th</sup> century Illinois, Iowa, Missouri (BSS)

### **Paper I**

Week 12: Nov 7 and Nov 9

### **Escaping One's Blackness**

Chapter 11: Juana Ramirez, 18<sup>th</sup> century Oaxaca, New Spain

Erika Denise Edwards Hiding in Plain Sight: Black Women the Law and the Making of a White Argentine Republic (EDE) Chapter 4

## **Journal Entry 5**

Week 13: Nov 14 and Nov 16

### **The Limits of Freedom: A Mother's Sacrifice**

Readings:

Chapter 3: Reytory Angola, 17<sup>th</sup> century Manhattan (BSS)

Chapter 6: Juana de Godinez, 17<sup>th</sup> century Lima, Peru (BSS)

Chapter 10: Ana María Lopes de Brito, 18<sup>th</sup> century Minas Gerais (BSS)

Week 14: Nov 21 and Nov 23

### **Black Women and Advocacy during Abolition**

Readings: Chapter 14: Bessy Chambers, 19<sup>th</sup> century Jamaica (BSS)

Chapter 15: Minerva, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Tejas and Louisiana (BSS)

Chapter 17: Mary Ellen Pleasant, 19<sup>th</sup> century Massachusetts and California (BSS)

### **Paper II**

Week 15: Nov 28 and Nov 30

**Black Women and Education**

Edwards, Erika Denise *Hiding in Plain Sight: Black Women, the Law, and the Making of a White Argentine Republic* Chapter 6

Chapter 23 Laura E. Davis Titus, 19<sup>th</sup> century Norfolk VA (BSS)

Week 16 Dec 5 and Dec 7


**Final Exam Due**

# Degree Plan

Code	Title
Required Courses:	
<a href="#">AFST 2300</a>	Intro-African Amer Studies
<a href="#">AFST 3303</a>	Theories in African Amer. Stud
<a href="#">AFST 3390</a>	Topics in African/Amer Studies
Electives:	
Select three courses, with at least two being upper-division	
The courses below are recommended but not required; students may choose from full course listing to satisfy electives	
<a href="#">AFST 3300</a>	African Ame Lead of the 20 Cen
<a href="#">AFST 3301</a>	The Modern Civil Rights Mov
<a href="#">AFST 3302</a>	Afr Ame Wom&the Black Free Mov
<a href="#">AFST 3354</a>	<a href="#">Black Women of the Americas</a>
Course List	

## CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

**Date:** 11/15/24

**From:** Erika Edwards 

**Through:** Ernesto Chavez, Chair, Department of History

**Through:** Anadeli Bencomo, Dean, College of Liberal Arts

**To:** Selfa Chew-Melendez, Interim Director, African American Studies Program

**Proposal Title:** Updates: Block Elective

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**Course name and number**  
**AFST 3354 Black Women of the Americas**

**Course category**

- ☐ Fine and Performing Arts
- ☒ Humanities
- ☐ Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Action Needed**

- ☒ Add course(s) to Block Electives
- ☐ Remove course from Block Electives

**Proposed Effective Date**

Fall 2026

**Rationale**

The addition of this course to Block Electives will enhance the variety of courses that students can choose from within the historical discipline. These classes also fulfill the history department's goal to provide transnational and comparative historical studies.