

Black and Latinx Performance and Digital Cultures (LCS 01:595:412 /Africana Studies 01:014:301)

Instructor: Dr. Omaris Z. Zamora (omaris.zamora@rutgers.edu)

Open to Juniors and Seniors

Fulfills Capstone and Upper-Level Elective for LCS Major, Upper-Level Elective for LCS Minor

Fulfills Upper-Level Elective for Africana Studies Major and Minor

In this course students will use their skills of textual analysis and critical thinking in their approach to Black and Latino performance: poetry, dance, voguing, performance text/movement, social media, videos, podcasts and other digital and sonic productions. Specifically the course will explore how black experiences are represented, embodied, performed, and theorized in the works of Cardi B, Elizabeth Acevedo, Solange Knowles, Amara La Negra, VH1's *Love and Hip Hop*, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, among others.

Furthermore, this course takes an alternative turn for engaging Black and Latino digital studies and the public humanities in its praxis. Students will read and engage in discussions in class and online through social media platforms, such as Instagram. Highlighting the importance of what it means to think through the body, the visual and intersections of the digital. Their skills will be expanded into developing content for a Podcast episode using Audacity software and learning how to write a script for a podcast based on scholarly research. Students will come to understand the ways in which race, gender, sexuality, class, and migration are central to discussions of Blackness and engage with the context of diaspora, belonging, and the future of Black and Latino Studies. By the end of the course students will have engaged in social media conversations around Black Latino Studies and engage the theories of the course as frameworks for their essays to provide depth to their analysis of cultural production. The class will work collectively on the final podcast project which centers student-centered practices of crafting public and digital humanities scholarship and engagement.

Course Learning Goals

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- gain the new skill of podcasting by learning how to research, outline, script, record/edit and produce a podcast—a useful skill!
- be familiar with Black diasporas through the context of performance and the digital
- gain critical thinking skills for thinking about contemporary Black and Latino popular culture

Required Reading*

Readings and other materials are on Canvas.

Consult Rutgers Barnes & Noble for current books for the course.

Evaluation*

20 points Participation

20 points Instagram Discussion

15 points Presentation

15 points Critical Essay

30 points Collective Final: Podcast Research Project (annotated bibliography, outline, draft, recording/editing)

100 points

*This synopsis is intended for informative purposes only; it is provisional and subject to change before the beginning of the semester.