An exciting new area of teaching and research, GSL’s subject offerings in African Studies are geared towards cultivating a critical appreciation of the African continent’s cultural diversity and its contribution to global, social, political, and cultural phenomena.
FALL 2019

21G.025 Africa and the Politics of Knowledge
Examines contemporary and historical cultural production on and from Africa across a range of registers, including literary, musical and visual arts, material culture, and science and technology. Employs key theoretical concepts from anthropology and social theory to analyze these forms and phenomena. Uses case studies to consider how Africa articulates its place in, and relationship to, the world through creative practices. Discussion topics largely drawn from Francophone and sub-Saharan Africa, but also from throughout the continent and the African diaspora. Taught in English. HASS-S

21G.346 Contemporary Francophone Africa: Francophonie and Beyond
Starting from a historical perspective we investigate how there came to be a Francophone Africa and how its historical legacy plays out in the contemporary era. We consider the role of the French language in the colonial project and decolonization movements. Delving into the distinctions between francophonie as the use of the French language and francophonie as a political project, we interrogate the place of French in the contemporary African landscape. Students learn to leverage theoretical tools from anthropology and social theory. Topics may include migration, the relationship to the state, creative production, the city, and futurity. HASS-H

More information

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All subjects count towards the SHASS interdisciplinary concentration and minor in African and African Diaspora Studies.

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