



COLLEGE *of* CHARLESTON

AFRICAN AMERICAN
STUDIES PROGRAM

Fall 2017 Newsletter

From the Director

Peace & Blessings,



Kameelah Martin,
Director of the
African American Studies
program

The tumult of our national politics and the recent challenges to hard won civil liberties reminds us well of the relevance of studying and engaging critically the experiences of historically marginalized people. Charleston has long been a battleground upon which issues of social justice, racial equality, and historical memory have faced the gauntlet. The African American Studies program at the College of Charleston has established itself as a beacon for African American thought and expression under the stewardship of the late Consuela Francis and, more recently, Interim Director, Simon Lewis. It is a great privilege to step into my new role as Director and become a part of the African American Studies family here in Charleston. We remain interested and invested in the collective efforts of the community and the campus in ensuring African American history, culture, and intellectual thought mediates from the center of such conflicts, rather than from the margin. I look forward to meeting our circle of faculty affiliates, students, alumni, and community partners and to developing innovative programming and outreach opportunities in the coming academic year. I would like to personally thank everyone for offering such a warm welcome! It is, indeed, good to be here.

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The academic year is now underway and African American Studies invites you to participate in several events we have planned. The African American Studies Film Festival for the fall term will tackle the question of white supremacy and white liberal complicity through a rich selection of films, such as Jordan Peele's blockbuster film, *Get Out*. The *Consuela Francis Emerging Scholars Lecture Series* will present Clifton Granby and Deirdre Cooper Owens to the College in the Spring term and we look forward to two powerfully engaging lectures from these scholars. The fall selection for the African American Studies Book Club is Craig Wilder's *Ebony and Ivy*. Dr. Mari Crabtree will lead the conversation around the rise of Ivy League institutions of Higher Education and their dubious relationships with the peculiar institution of slavery. We also anticipate recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the desegregation of the College of Charleston and participating in several events to mark that transition in the College's history. We also welcome Roneka Matheny back to the program after a few years away. She is our newest adjunct faculty, but no stranger to our students. Please help me in welcoming her back to campus.

We encourage the campus and community to continue to support our efforts to be the hub for African American interests in the Low Country by attending and spreading the word about our planned events. We also invite other organizations to send information about upcoming events that may be of interest to our students, staff, and faculty. In the coming months, it is my hope to shape African American Studies into more than an academic program, but to further our mission by being a leader in diversity, a voice for the community, and a cultural resource. There is an Yoruba proverb that reminds us, "No one is an Enemy to Water." My vision for African American Studies here at the College of Charleston is to be the water for the community at large; to be a source of sustenance and life as we continue to negotiate the politics and power of a complex world. I welcome the opportunity to lead this program into the next stages of its development and to working with a vibrant community in doing so. Here's to a wonderful fall semester for our amazing faculty and students!

Meet the Faculty



Roneka Matheny

Roneka Matheny has returned to the College of Charleston this Fall as an Adjunct Professor of both African American Studies and Political Science. She is a native of Summerville, SC, a quiet suburb located about twenty minutes North of Charleston. She graduated from Fort Dorchester High School with honors in 2001 and went on to Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. After being displaced by a hurricane, she transferred to Emory University in Atlanta, GA, where she earned her B.A. in International Studies and Political Science. She pursued her graduate studies at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, where she earned an M.A. in Political Science. Throughout her academic career, Roneka has shown a passion for addressing social inequality and political injustice. Her early academic work focused on comparing racial attitudes and political participation across the African diaspora. This work won her writing awards

at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and led to her traveling and studying in Brazil in 2007.

After years away from her home and family, Roneka decided to return to Charleston in 2008. She was hired as the first dedicated faculty member in African American Studies at the College of Charleston soon thereafter. She spent four years here at CofC the first time, designing and teaching a number of African American Studies courses and even helping to design the program's major. Her Hip-Hop: Evolution and Impact course gained national attention from MTV and was recognized as the first course of its kind to be taught at a South Carolina college. Her Barbados and the Black Atlantic course in 2012 was the African American Studies Program's first study abroad opportunity and was mentioned in that country's annual report by their Ministry of Tourism.

After leaving the College of Charleston to spend more time with her family, Roneka devised other ways to continue working on her passions. For a time, she focused her efforts on encouraging economic empowerment in her community by becoming a Financial Services Professional at New York Life, where she had the dubious distinction of being the only African American female agent in the state of South Carolina. Later, she began focusing her efforts on political engagement and started a political education blog after the 2016 election called Citizenship101.info.

This semester, Roneka is teaching introductory-level courses in both African American Studies and Political Science. She is excited to be back at the College of Charleston and back in the classroom. Every day, she is doing her part to create more informed and engaged students.



AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES BOOK CLUB

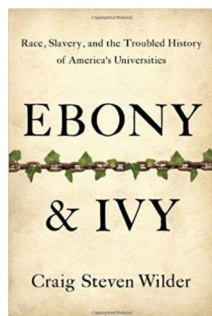
The African American Studies Book Club brings together faculty and students to encourage informal discussions of significant texts in the field of African American Studies. The selections for the 2017-2018 academic year are Craig Steven Wilder's *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of American Universities* (Fall 2017) and Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric* (Spring 2018).



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The African American Studies Book Club is open to all members of the College of Charleston community, including students, staff, and faculty. We meet two to three times per semester to discuss that semester's book selection.

If you would like to participate, please contact Professor Mari Crabtree at crabtree@m@cfc.edu by September 4 (Fall) and January 22 (Spring). A limited number of free copies of the books are available to participants.



Fall 2017 Book Club

The African American Studies Book Club brings together faculty and students to encourage informal discussions of significant texts in the field of African American Studies. The selection for Fall 2017 is Craig Steven Wilder's *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of American Universities*.



**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
FALL 2017**

**FILM
FESTIVAL**

**6:00 PM
MAYBANK HALL 100
169 CALHOUN STREET**

DISCUSSIONS OF THE FILMS FACILITATED BY A FACULTY MEMBER WILL FOLLOW EACH SCREENING.



**Guess Who's
Coming to Dinner**
October 9



**Night of the
Living Dead**
October 23



Get Out
October 30



**I Am Not Your
Negro**
November 6

Fall 2017 Film Series

"The Whiteness of Whiteness: White Supremacy and White Liberal Complicity"

6:00 pm in Maybank Hall 100

Monday, October 9: *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*

Monday, October 23: *Night of the Living Dead*

Monday, October 30: *Get Out*

Monday, November 6: *I Am Not Your Negro*

Fall 2017 Events

October

9th Film Screening & Discussion of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*
Maybank 100 @ 6pm

23rd Film Screening & Discussion of *Night of the Living Dead*
Maybank 100 @ 6pm

30th Film Screening & Discussion of *Get Out*
Maybank 100 @ 6pm

November

6th Film Screening & Discussion of *I Am Not Your Negro*
Maybank 100 @ 6pm

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER

The Avery Research Center hosts a wide variety of lectures, brown bag discussions, art exhibits, and other programs exploring African American history and culture. A calendar of Avery's programs can be found at <http://avery.cofc.edu/programs/>.

For more information on these events or the African American Studies Program,
Check out the website at <http://african-american-studies.cofc.edu/>.

Fall 2017 Course Offerings

Core:

AAST 200	Intro to African American Studies	MW	2:00	Crabtree
AAST 200	Intro to African American Studies	MW	3:25	Crabtree
AAST 200	Intro to African American Studies	TR	12:15	Matheny
AAST 200	Intro to African American Studies	TR	1:40	Matheny
AAST 200	Intro to African American Studies	TR	1:40	Ofunniyin
AAST 250	Readings in Social Science Research	TR	10:50	Greene
AAST 381	African American Studies Internship			Crabtree
ENGL 313	African American Literature	MWF	10:00	Frazier
HIST 216	African American History to 1865	MWF	12:00	Powers

Electives:

(Majors must complete at least 4 additional courses from Elective offerings for the degree at least 3 or the 4 courses must be at the 300 level or above.)

AAST 300	ST: Race and Sports in America	TR	9:25	Greene
AAST 300	ST: Ancestries of Enslavement	TR	1:40	Martin
AAST 300	ST: Black Masculinity & Manhood	TR	8:00	Greene
FYSE 102	The Gullah Community: Ethnographic Research in Gender & Identity	TR	10:50	Ofunniyin
HIST 304	HIST US: Civil War and Reconstruction	MW	2:00	Domby
HIST 366	Compar. Slavery in America	MWF	1:00	Powers
HONS 381	ST: A People's History of Charleston & the Civil Rights Movement	TR	9:25	Hale
MUSC 222	ST: Like a Rolling Stone: History & Development of Rock Music	Online		Vassilandonakis
POLI 330	Southern Politics	TR	9:25	Knotts
RELS 270	African-American Religions	TR	1:40	Cressler
THTR 316	African American Theatre	TR	12:15	Vandervort-Cob

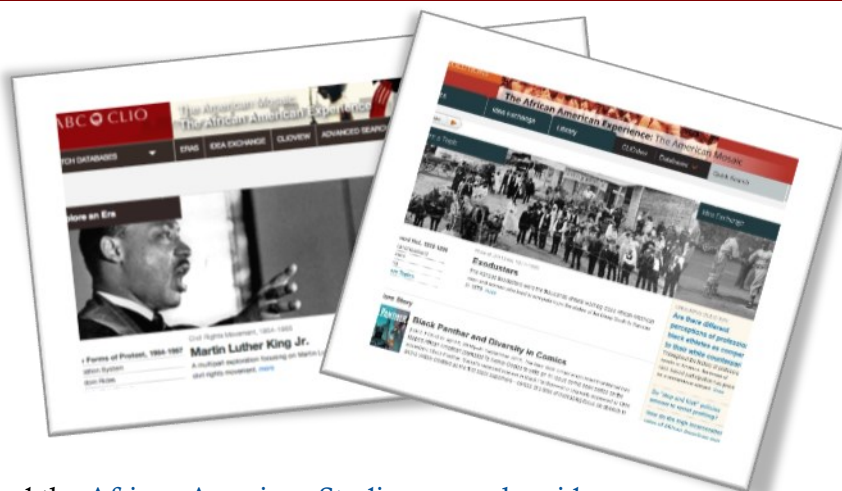
ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

South Carolina residents who are over 60 years old are eligible to enroll in regular College of Charleston courses on a space-available basis for a fee of \$25 for the semester. Permission of the instructor is required for African American Studies courses. Call 843.953.5620 for details.

Resources in AAST @ CofC

[The African American Experience](#)

is a database in The American Mosaic series of databases created by ABC-CLIO, an information services company. The database is a searchable, full-text, online encyclopedia of historical and current information, scholarly essays on contemporary issues, primary sources, and current and historical statistics. Students and faculty can access *The African American Experience* through the library's web site on the [Article Databases](#) page and the [African American Studies research guide](#).



The main content in *The African American Experience* is organized into 14 historical eras beginning with “Africa and the Atlantic, 500-1500” and continuing through “New Millennium, 2001-present.” Each era is further subdivided into shorter time periods and topics of historical significance. Each subdivision contains an overview of the period; encyclopedic articles highlighting the people and events that define the time period; primary source documents; media and visuals; and (sometimes) a glossary of terms. The articles include citations of books and articles for further reading relevant to the subjects covered. Users can browse the database by era or conduct keyword searches. There is a quick search feature and an advanced search interface. Users can print or email documents from the database, and each item comes with exportable citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago citation styles.

Another interesting portion of the database is the Idea Exchange feature. Here users can read essays authored by scholars on a wide range of important questions of today such as “How do African Americans, American Indians, and Latinos challenge racism differently?” and “What are the enduring factors that have led to a persistent overrepresentation of African Americans in crime and incarceration rates?” Each essay is thoughtfully composed and well-documented with footnotes and references and is followed by biographical information about the author.

Moreover, *The African American Experience* is also a source of statistical information. The CLIOView portion of the database allows users to find and compare state and national stats concerning a number of measures including African American population, employment, education, income, marriage, poverty, voting and voter registration, health insurance coverage, and military service. Users can choose to make bar graphs, line graphs, and pie charts based on the statistics found.

For more information about *The African American Experience* database, contact Steven Profit, reference librarian, at profits@cofc.edu.

With the International African American Museum coming to Charleston soon we are excited for the growth of African American Studies in the Charleston area as well as throughout South Carolina. The Museum will serve as a hub for regional heritage, sending visitors out across Charleston and South Carolina to access additional African American sites and experiences.

As we began the start of this new academic year the African American Studies program at the College of Charleston has offered its services as a clearing house for news of events relevant to African American Studies. We have currently created a calendar and listings-service drawing attention to African American-related events happening across the state. The calendar is on our website and will be providing information on events that we are aware of. To keep our calendar up to date with the latest events we invite you to submit events that you believe would be beneficial to this calendar. If you would also like to be added to our African American-related Events email list please contact Casey Smith at smithcn1@cofc.edu.

The **Event Calendar** can be found here:

<http://african-american-studies.cofc.edu/events/index.php>

Where Are You Now?

Let Us Know What You're Up To

For 20 years the African American Studies Program at the College of Charleston has educated students in African American history and culture. We would love to hear what those students are up to now. Let us know about the exciting professional and personal milestones you've reached since leaving the College. You can email Dr. Lewis with the details at lewiss@cofc.edu.



not just in february

African American Studies

College of Charleston
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