AFRIC 708

Critical Literary Theory:

* Cultural Roots of African & African Diaspora Studies
* Literary Theory *

TUESDAYS | 2PM-4:40PM

DR. ANIKA WILSON

This course examines African diaspora-centered literary theory and cultural studies which have been central to the formation of the discipline of Black Studies. The examination of expressive cultures of the African diaspora in their myriad forms has been from the outset a means to assert the humanity and genius of peoples of African descent against forces that would deny them these qualities. Black Studies seek to discover the contours of African diasporic identities and subjectivities through the analysis of cultural productions. In doing so, the field of Black cultural studies disrupts the dominance of traditional disciplines and offers alternate visions of the world as well alternate epistemological and methodological frameworks. Black cultural studies both draws upon and generates theories of race (social construction, intersectionality, racial identity construction, structural discrimination, etc.) in analyses African and African diasporic oral traditions, folkways, fiction, poetry, slave narratives, visual arts, film, corporeal performance, religious expression, social media, music and more.