The Black Atlantic
AAAS 329
ARTHIST 383
ICS 226S-01

Thursdays, 10:15am-12:45pm

Professor Richard J. Powell, Instructor

Introduction to Course

Readings, from an assortment of books, journals, and a dissertation.
Thursday, September 2: Kongo & the Making of the Black Atlantic

Thursday, September 9: Yoruba/Fon

Left: Yoruba artist (attributed to Adugbologe, Nigeria), Ancestor/Hunter headdress (Ere Egungun Olode), before 1922. Wood, paint, iron. Above: Fon artist (Republic of Benin), Snake charms (gbo), late 19th century. Iron.
Thursday, September 16: Ejagham/Mande/Akan


Thursday, September 23: Midterm Exam.
Thursday, September 30: Harriet Jacobs & Slavery in North Carolina

Friday, October 1: Fall Break begins.

Wednesday, October 6: Classes resume.
Thursday, October 7: Jonkonnu

Winslow Homer, *Dressing for the Carnival*, 1877. Oil on canvas.
Wednesday, October 13: Nasher Museum of Art courtyard check-ins about student introductions/PowerPoint presentations.
Thursday, October 14: Field Trip 1/ Horton Grove, Bahama, NC

Slave quarters, Horton Grove, Stagville Plantation, Bahama, Durham County, NC, 1850s.
Thursday, October 21: Student introductions/PowerPoint presentations.

Thursday, October 28: Student introductions/PowerPoint presentations.
Thursday, November 4: Field Trip 2/Post-emancipation Creations

Clockwise from lower left: Hayti Heritage Center (former St. Joseph’s AME Church), Durham, 1891. Deliverance Temple Holy Church (formerly Emmanuel AME Church), Durham, 1888. Bricks made by Durham brickmaker Richard Burton Fitzgerald (c. 1843-19018).
Thursday, November 11: Architecture

Mother Bethel AME Church, Philadelphia, 1890.
Thursday, November 18: Field Trip 3/The North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, NC

Tuesday, November 23: Thanksgiving recess.

Monday, November 29: Classes resume.

Thursday, December 2: Final Exam review.

Friday, December 3: Undergraduate classes end.

Saturday–Tuesday, December 4–7: Undergraduate reading period.

Sunday, December 12, 2pm–5pm: Final Exam.
What is Black Atlantic culture?
Film still from *Beyoncé: Black is King* (2020), with a copy of Robert Farris Thompson’s *Black Gods and Kings* (1971).
Upper right: Central court design for the Edo Museum of West African Art, Benin City, projected for 2025. Lower right: Architect David Adjaye.
The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking at the March in Washington for Jobs & Freedom, August 28, 1963.
Right: Wayne Miller, South Siders watching the Bud Biliken Parade, Chicago, IL, 1947. Photograph.

Childish Gambino (Donald Glover) performing in the music video *This is America* (Hiro Murai, 2018).
Film still from Steve McQueen’s *Lovers Rock* segment of *Small Axe* (2020).
Zion Williamson scoring during the Duke versus Syracuse basketball game, March 15, 2019.
The Jamaican Women’s Relay Team celebrating after their victory at the Tokyo Olympics, August 2021.