NEW Spring 2019 African American Studies Course

African American Studies Course

African Women’s Migration Narratives

AAST 300.05  T/TH 1:40-2:55  PROF. MARI N. CRABTREE

This course takes an intersectional and interdisciplinary approach to analyzing a wide range of Africana women’s narratives of forced and voluntary migration. The novels, autobiographical essays, and scholarly work discussed in the course broach topics ranging from the trans-Atlantic slave trade and immigration to the search for cultural roots and spiritual homegoings. Assigned texts include Saidiya Hartman’s Lose Your Mother, Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing, Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon, Edwidge Danticat’s Breath, Eyes, Memory and Create Dangerously, Paule Marshall’s Praisesong for the Widow, and Chimamanda Adichie’s Americanah. Discussions and essay assignments will provide students with an opportunity to closely analyze these texts while exploring the sociohistorical processes that have compelled black women to embark on journeys to distant shores as well as analyzing how migration has shaped the formation of black women’s identities in Africa and the Diaspora.