

Duke in Ghana Program  
Duke University

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First Summer Session 2008  
AAAS 102.01  
CultAnth 100.01

**Back to Africa: A history of an Idea**

The idea of "Africa" as a geographical imaginary, a concrete locale, or an influence on contemporary African American culture has been and continues to be a salient and contested aspect of the black experience. This course explores how the idea of Africa, with all of its ambiguity, has been employed and deployed as a place to relocate African Americans, as an historical agent that has shaped contemporary African American culture, and as a mythical entity that one needs to "reclaim."

We will also explore how many African Americans view the continent as a source of pride, power, and unity while west Africans often do not share the same sense of unity nor sense of identity. The readings do not try to be comprehensive, but touch on a range of issues from pan-Africanism to anti-colonialism to the idea of a modern blackness in a transnational word.

The format will be a seminar where we will reflect and discuss the readings while living in Ghana. Ghana, for a variety of reasons, has played a special role in shoring up, articulating, and catering to the idea of Africa to African Americans in the U.S. We will take the opportunity to critically evaluate and celebrate, explore and critique the many dimensions and ways ideas about Africa play into shaping the history and identity of black experiences. The week's readings sort of line up with the excursions that we will be undertaking, so your "classroom" will not be limited to a room per se and you will be asked to incorporate your observations into your discussions of the readings. Each week you will reflect in your journal about the week's readings. I am specifically looking for your ability to integrate discussions in class, the reading material, and any observation you make in Ghana.

Documents are available at  
<http://www.duke.edu/~ldbaker/classes/backtoafrica/documents/>

Assignments include participant observation, discussion, and reader response essays written each week in your journal. Essays are due Friday mornings before noon.

The reader responses should address some of these specific questions:

1. How does the author engage the idea of history, politics, and identity?
2. What was the general argument or point the author or editor made?
3. What major premises, themes, and concepts of culture or race, did the author employ?
4. What evidence did the author use? (i.e. scientific, ethnographic, personal experience)
5. How were ideas about Africa engaged?
6. Who was the audience, why was that audience chosen, and how was it received?

Part of the "credit" for this class will be based on your research paper. We will take time during each class to review various research methods and ethics, strategies, and approaches of each project under taken. You may work with a partner on your research project. Be sure to choose your partner wisely. You will each

receive the same grade on the paper, so make sure that your partner will be willing to share in both the research and writing process.

**Required Text:** *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route.*  
Saidiya Hartman [Due Date May 20].

**Week ONE: May 20, 21, 22**

**Back to Africa: A Colonial Project?**

Richard Blackett. 1977. Martin R. Delany and Robert Campbell: Black Americans in Search of an African Colony *Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 62, No. 1. pp. 1-25.

Charles H. Wesley. 1919. Lincoln's Plan for Colonizing the Emancipated Negroes *Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 4, No. 1. (Jan), pp. 7-21.

George E. Brooks, Jr. 1974. The Providence African Society's Sierra Leone Emigration Scheme, 1794-1795: Prologue to the African Colonization Movement *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 2., pp. 183-202.

**Week TWO May 27, 28, 29**

**The Idea and Ideal of Africa in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Lee D. Baker. 2000. Research, Reform, and Racial Uplift: The Mission of the Hampton Folklore Society 1893-1899. *Excluded Ancestors, Inventible Traditions: Essays Toward a More Inclusive History of Anthropology*, Richard Handler, ed. (*History of Anthropology* 9:42-80).

Yekutiel Gershoni. 2001. Common goals, different ways: The UNIA and the NCBWA in West Africa - 1920-1930;; *Journal of Third World Studies, Americus*; Vol. 18, Iss. 2; pg. 171, 15 pgs

Fitzgerald, Michael W. 1997 "We Have Found a Moses": Theodore Bilbo, Black Nationalism, and the Greater Liberia Bill of 1939 . *Journal of Southern History* 63(2):293-320.

**Week THREE June 3, 4, 5**

**The Idea of Africa and African American Identity**

'African-American' Becomes a Term for Debate

Rachel L. Swarns. *New York Times*. (Late Edition (East Coast)). New York, N.Y.: Aug 29, 2004. pg. 1.1

Elizabeth Pleck. 2001. Kwanzaa: The making of a black nationalist tradition, 1966-1990; *Journal of American Ethnic History*, New Brunswick; Summer 2001; Vol. 20, Iss. 4; pg. 3, 27 pgs

Lee D. Baker. 2000 Afrocentricity and the American Dream. In *Dispatches From the Ebony Tower: Intellectuals Confront the African American Experience*, Pp. 224-35. Manning Marable, ed. New York: Columbia University Press.

Kevin K. Gaines. *American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 2006 Chapters 5-6.

**Week FOUR June 10, 11, 12**

**Coming “home” or going abroad: Heritage Tourism in Ghana**

Rites of passage, routes of redemption: Emancipation tourism and the wealth of culture

*Jennifer Hasty*. Africa Today. Bloomington: Fall 2002. Vol. 49, Iss. 3; p. 46

Alicia Jefferson. 1997. Memoirs: Our journey home; Alicia Jefferson; Essence, New York; Jun 1997; Vol. 28, Iss. 2; pg. 128, 1 pgs

Paula Ebron. Tourists as Pilgrims: Commercial Fashioning of Trans Atlantic Politics; 2000. American Ethnologist 26(4):910-932.

Edward M Bruner. 1996. Tourism in Ghana; American Anthropologist, Washington; Jun 1996; Vol. 98, Iss. 2; pg. 290, 15 pgs

**Week FIVE June 17, 18, 19**

**Identity, Locality, and the Reason we Go!**

*Read the first two articles, and then choose one of the remaining that interest you.*

Alyssa Cymene Howe. 2001 Queer pilgrimage: The San Francisco homeland and identity tourism; Cultural Anthropology, Washington; Feb 2001; Vol. 16, Iss. 1; pg. 35-62.

Andrea Louie. 2000. Re-territorializing transnationalism: Chinese Americans and the Chinese motherland;; American Ethnologist, Arlington; Vol. 27, Iss. 3; pg. 645, 25 pgs

Choose one of the following:

Amalia L Cabezas. Between Love and Money: Sex, Tourism, and Citizenship in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Signs. Chicago: Summer 2004. Vol. 29, Iss. 4; p. 987 (29 pages)

Paige West, James G Carrie. Ecotourism and Authenticity: Getting Away from It All? Current Anthropology. Chicago: Aug-Oct 2004. Vol. 45, Iss. 4; pg. 483, 16 pgs

Loan C. Henderson. Heritage attractions and tourism development in Asia: a comparative study of Hong Kong and Singapore. The International Journal of Tourism Research. Chichester: Sep/Oct 2002. Vol. 4, Iss. 5; p. 337

**Week SIX June 24, 25**

During the class periods during this week, you will present your research to your peers.

Papers are due: Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup> by 12:00pm. Email them to me and I will print them out and distribute them to Dr. Saah. I want to emphasize that he and I must have time to read and grade them before we depart, so we will not accept late papers.