



EL-RA ADAIR RADNEY, PHD, MBA

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Department of Africana Studies | University at Albany
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Area of Competence | African American/Africana & African Diaspora Studies

Areas of Specialization

African American Film & Culture, Urban History, Black Metropolis/Black Geographies, African American & African Diaspora History, Caribbean History/Afro-Latino Studies, African History

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in African American & African Studies (2019)
Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI

Master of Business Administration – Inclusion, Diversity, & Strategic Management (2006)
Davenport University - Dearborn, MI

Graduate Certificate – African American Studies (2012)
Eastern Michigan University - Ypsilanti, MI

Bachelor of Arts | Africana Studies - Public Policy & Cultural Aesthetics (2001)
Wayne State University - Detroit, MI
Minor: Biological Sciences

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University at Albany, Albany, NY
Tenure Track Assistant Professor – Department of Africana Studies (2022, current)

AAFS 490 | *Senior Seminar in African American History*

- Undergraduate Seniors (Africana Studies majors) readings, writing, and discussion seminar. Examines students' contribution and commitment to the intellectual wellspring they have developed as a major in Africana Studies. Discusses a broad spectrum of the African American canon. Explores various African American historical themes, counter-narratives, and methods of critical inquiry and interrogation related to Africana Studies, such as African American philosophy, miseducation, Black enlightenment, the Manichean problem, African-influenced culture, resistance to slavery (individual and collective), resistance to Jim Crow, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, and contemporary African American culture and politics.
- Course allows undergraduate seniors to build on, sharpen and excel in a detailed analysis of their foundational lessons. Enables students to connect a historical continuity more

precisely to their ongoing critical thinking skills and awareness levels for a broader understanding of the world we live in.

AAFS 504 | *Graduate Seminar in African American History 1*

- A graduate seminar on African American History from the American Colonial period to the Civil War. Various historical themes reviewed allow students to explore research evidence and present on topics related to the following themes: the Transatlantic Slave and Domestic Trades, Colonial and Antebellum slavery, African Americans and the Revolutionary War, Free Black Societies, Black Abolitionists, and African Americans and the Civil War.
- To this degree, the course provides an extensive examination of critical issues involving the experiences of African Americans and African Diaspora communities in historical, cultural, and social contexts. Students synthesize and apply their acquired knowledge and initiate and participate in class discussions at a graduate (precision and proficient) level. Attention is given to the connectivity of values, epistemology, methodology, perspectives, counter-narratives, and ideas relevant to African American History.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Lecturer – Department of Africana Studies (2021 - 2022)

AFST 202 | *Introduction to African American Studies:*

From Marcus Garvey & The Jazz Age to Black Lives Matter

- Course traces the historical lives of African Americans from the 1920s Jazz Age to contemporary times, highlighting the enormous footprint of Marcus Garvey and the 'New Negro Movement' set among the bad faith of many whites' fervent 'religious convictions' to scientific racism, white supremacy and white backlash that was seen in a consecutive series of violent white riots and the lynching of Black lives. Content follows the emergence of the Great Migration, the Black Metropolis, and the pursuit of the African American dream within the context of Black Pride, Black Pride, Pan Africanism, with the rise of Black organizations, all the way through the era of Black Lives Matter, which took on unprecedented global 'abolitionists' proportions during the George Floyd world uprising.

AFST 235 | *Introduction to African Studies I*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement (CC) and Global Studies Requirement: (CC). Multidisciplinary approach to the study of African traditions, cultures, religions, political economies, pre-colonial democracies, African society, African philosophy, African historical figures, and African states from the 1st century through the 16th century. Writing-emphasis course. This course centers and situates Africa as the origins of humanity, human development, and as the cradle of civilization. We will discuss the importance of understanding Africa and the contributions the study of Africa has made to our knowledge of the world in which we live.

AFST 236 | *Introduction to African Studies II*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement (CC) and Global Studies Requirement: (CC). Multidisciplinary study of Africa and its incorporation into the world economy between the 16th and the 20th century. Includes the rise of nationalism, post-colonial dependency,

contemporary problems, and current liberation struggles in various areas of the continent. Writing-emphasis course. Discussions on the importance of understanding Africa and the contributions the study of Africa has made to our knowledge of the world in which we live.

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (2015 – 2020)
Assistant (Adjunct) Professor – Department of African American Studies

AFS 1010 | *Introduction to African American Studies*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement: Diversity Equity Inclusion Inquiry, Social Inquiry. An interdisciplinary approach to exploring several broad issues, topics, theories, concepts, and perspectives that describe and explain the experiences of persons of African descent in America, the Continent, and the diaspora.

AFS 2010 | *African American Culture: Historical & Aesthetic Roots*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement: Cultural Inquiry, Civ, and Societies (CLAS only), Diversity Equity Inclusion Inquiry. Examination of the historical, traditional, and aesthetic bases of a variety of cultural forms -- language, literature, music -- of the Black (African American-making) experience.

AFS 2210 | *Black Social & Political Thought*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement: Civic Literacy, Diversity Equity Inclusion Inquiry, Social Inquiry, Social Sciences. Survey of the Black intellectual and political tradition from the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa.

AFS 2390 | *Introduction to African-American Literature: Literature & Writing*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement: Diversity Equity Inclusion Inquiry, Intermediate Comp Pre-2018, Intermediate Comp Post-2018. Introduction to major themes and some major writers of African-American literature, emphasizing modern works. Reading and writing about representative poetry, fiction, essays, and plays.

AFS 3160 | *Black Urban History*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement: Diversity Equity Inclusion Inquiry. Historical experience of African Americans in urban areas; the impact of their communities on urban development from 1860 to contemporary times. Cross Section Equivalent: [HIS 3160](#)

AFS 3250 | *Politics & Culture in Anglophone Caribbean*

- Satisfies General Education Requirement: Civic Literacy, Foreign Culture, Global Learning Inquiry. Survey of the political, economic, and cultural life of the Caribbean. Relationship of the Caribbean to U.S. and world political and cultural developments. Interdisciplinary approach: historical, comparative, thematic issues.

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (2011 – 2019)
Instructor – African American & African Studies

AAAS 100 | *Race & Community in Local to Global Perspective*

- Course encompassed multifaceted topics and dialogues on race. Asserts that race permeates societies and is an enduring feature of politics and everyday life. These phenomena include racial formations, cultural myths, and organizational cultures of anti-Black racially coded aversive action, scientific racism, individual identities, collective action, beliefs, policies, and social structures. Focus was on the myriad ways that racial categories remain an organizing principle in our everyday lives and countless pockets of society. Core focus of the class was on African American, African diaspora, and continental African sites of analysis. Course critiques white supremacy and (attempted) white racial dominance. *I was the lead researcher and curriculum submitter (under the guidance of the AAAS Director) for the proposal of this class. It emerged as a response to ongoing campus racial incidences. This was the first attempt at MSU to give incoming students a cross-cultural and cross-racial orientation on race and racism.

Teaching Assistant, Center for Integrative Studies in Arts & Humanities

IAH 209 | *Art, the Visual & Culture*

- Exploration of art and visual culture in historical and cultural contexts. Reading and analysis of images. Using cross-cultural and international perspectives, approaches, and materials from art history, anthropology, literature, philosophy, religious studies, economics, and natural science. Content variable by term.

Teaching Assistant - Department of Writing, Rhetoric & American Culture

WRA 150 | *Writing, Literacy & Rhetoric: Race & Identity*

- Course was designed to challenge and develop students' knowledge and skill in critical thinking/critical writing areas. Course sought to expand students' understanding/definition of 'literacy' and rhetoric (critical and analytical discussion). Content was theme-based and engaged students' development of writing, literacy, and rhetoric around learning-based inquiry that confronts complexities of race and identity. The immense response and discourse which emerged around the Trayvon Martin incident served as a contemporary moment to assess that 'race and identity are inextricably correlatives. Moreover, it inescapably attests to the fact that race permeates and can inform every form of human social activity.

WRA 125 | *Writing: Race & the American Ethnic Experience*

- Course was designed to challenge and develop the student's knowledge and skill in critical thinking/critical writing areas. Course sought to expand students' understanding/definition of 'literacy' and rhetoric (critical and analytical discussion). Content was theme-based and engaged students' development of writing, literacy, and rhetoric around learning-based inquiry that confronts complexities of 'the American ethnic and racial experience', which explores forms of racism and race and identity issues. Overall objective

was to increase the student's status as a 1st-tier college professional writer, thinker, and intellectual.

Events & Speaker Series Coordinator, for African American & African Studies (MSU)

- As a doctoral student was hired under the director's discretionary budget to plan, coordinate events and speakers series, and various other activities, e.g., implementing student resource rooms with an in-house library, and in-house newer computers and printing facilities, managing, and supervising student employees in the daily responsibilities of the department. Included being a liaison for the department, with university partners/sponsors, and the broader community. Took on some leadership roles in the absence and with the permission of the director. Became a valued 'go-to-person' or major resource colleague, who brought about many positive benefits for AAAS graduate students. Helped coordinate and budget the study abroad to Africa program.
- Major event was the flagship community engagement retreat, "Detroit Community Day" (DCD). DCD served three key functions, (1) mentoring students in the Detroit Public School system at Malcolm X Academy, (2) volunteering at a Black-owned institution, and (3) conducting workshops and lectures that focused on how to help uplift and resolve problems that concerned the African American community of Detroit.
- Represented AAAS at and participated as a speaker in the Charles Wright Museum of African American History, Film Liberation Series. Coordinated student appreciation dinners and activities. Provided and coordinated transportation, often the driver for multiple activities that require travel, even two National Council of Black Studies conferences. As the speaker series coordinator brought several important scholars to the MSU broader community, such as Tricia Rose and Michelle Alexander ("The Race Conference", co-sponsored with James Madison College), Khalil Muhammad, Ibrahim Kendi, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Patricia Hill Collins, etc. Coordinated three MSU-AAAS conferences that functioned as recruitment events and enhanced the profile of the department. These conferences and speaker series led to two edited volumes (I was one of the co-editors), the first time Ph.D. students in AAAS published articles together with faculty.

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI (2009 – 2018)

Part-Time ***Lecturer – Department of Africology & African American Studies***

AFC 101 | *Introduction to African American Studies*

- Satisfies Diversity & Inclusion Requirement. Surveys the origins, development, and current status of African Americans from the perspective of the discipline as it places African Americans at the center of inquiry. Examines AFAM from the perspective of a historically underrepresented and oppressed group. African Americans constitute one of the largest minorities in the US. African Americans have been essential to the formation and character of the US society from its inception to the present. The African American struggle for equality and human dignity and their contributions to the US and world cultures reveal much about the role and significance of diversity in American society. The course examines the interactions of African Americans with US immigrant groups and with Natives peoples. Cultural, economic, gender, religious, racial, and class factors in oppression are of particular concern.

AFC 232 | *Politics in the African American Experience*

- Study of Black political behavior in the US and its evolution from protest to institutional, cultural, economic, labor, and electoral politics. Examines the functioning and dynamics of

Black politics expansively, and the American political system from historical and contemporary perspectives. Course engaged the Black political experience alongside other 'minority' group politics. Focus on how the struggle for African Americans' full integration and empowerment in various spheres of American life has influenced the past and current political climate. Examined and defined "Black politics", the concepts of African American community, suffering, agency, empowerment, disenfranchisement, and mobilization. Discovery of how these concepts remain constant has evolved and shifted historically.

AFC 351 | *Social Context of African American Health*

- Begins with the African context and imposition of chattel slavery. Examines social, cultural, and historical factors affecting the health status of African Americans to the present era. Explored a variety of health-related issues, including the interplay between environment, biology, and culture and popular health practices; folk and popular health practices; structured inequality and oppression; lifestyle, beliefs, and values; the organization and delivery of health care. Scope of critical inquiry reveals the importance of social phenomena in disease resistance/disease propagation and health promotion.

Graduate & Teaching Assistant for Department of AFAM Faculty, & Dept Head
Supported Courses

AFC 441 | *Law in the African American Experience* – assisted Dr. Robert Perry (Emeritus), the first Black professor in sociology at Wayne State University, and 1960s Black Student Movement Trailblazer, Professor Ronald Woods (Emeritus)

- Examined the African American legal experience from the Atlantic slave trade to the present. Reviews the formation of the Constitution, the law of slavery, Reconstruction-era developments, Jim Crow segregation, and recent legal trends in areas such as education, voting, and employment. Emphasized law as a social and racial process.

AFC 301 | *Research Methods in Africology & African American Studies* – assisted Dr. Ana Maria Monteiro-Ferreira (deceased)

- Provides intensive exposure to research methods in Africology & African American Studies and offers an opportunity for primary research in the field.

AFC 201 | *Foundations of Knowledge in Africology & African American Studies* – assisted Dr. Ana Maria Monteiro-Ferreira (deceased)

- Examines the empirical and theoretical foundations of Africology & African American Studies, the field's evolution, and the one key role of scholars in its development.

FELLOWSHIPS/HONORS/AWARDS

Community Fellowship At The Bottom for UT Faculty and Staff
First Fellow 2021, Black Knoxville Projects

Michigan State University-African American & African Studies
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Fall 2017

Michigan State University-College of Arts and Letters
Summer Support Fellowship (2013)

National Council of Black Studies, 36th Annual Conference

Three-time, 2nd Place Winner (2012, 2011 & 2020)

Terry Kershaw Graduate Division Student Essay Competition

1. *DuBoisian Double-Consciousness and the Cult of the Tru Gangsta* (2011)
2. *A Brief Exploration of DuBois' Double-consciousness*, (2012)
Diop's Myth of Black Inferiority and Fanon's Psychology of Colonialism on the Black Image (2012)
3. *Tunnel Vision: Countering Black Deficit Talk about Black Detroit in the Barbershop and Urban Sociology* (2020)

Eastern Michigan University, African American Studies Department (2011)

An Assessment of President Barack Obama's Performance (2011)

High Achievement Award, Eastern Michigan

University, African American Studies Dept. (2011)

INVITED TALKS

The Cultural Agency of Detroit's African World Festival, 2020

w/ Njia Kai, former Director of the African World Festival

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

<https://www.thewright.org/events/cultural-agency-detroits-african-world-festival?fbclid=IwAR0A9mcvU6f5PReOhlQ9n-tD-mWcrbe6uWJb1r1Z4twPecEvjv85rAqCBQc>

Destination Detroit: Communities of Migration in Detroit

University of Michigan-Literature, Science & Arts, Islamic Studies Program

Moderator (September 2018)

Charles Wright Museum of African American History- Detroit, MI

Liberation Film Series: Scottsboro Boys (2014)

Michigan State University-East Lansing, MI

A Panel Discussion on Lee Daniel's The Butler:

A Visual Representation of Masculinity, Service & Civil Rights (2013)

MSU-Dept. of WRAC-Denise Troutman (2013)

Interview: The Liberation Film Series Retrospective (2012 – 2013)

<http://vimeo.com/77468644>

An Exploration of Cheikh Anta Diop's Claims of 'Black Egypt/The Negro Myth

MSU-Dept. of Philosophy-MLK Commemoration (2012)

Is Our Belief that Martin Luther King Jr., A Black Philosopher Justified?

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10151406341821575>

PUBLICATIONS/CONFERENCES/PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

Philosophia Africana (2021)

Why African American Philosophy Matters: A Case for Not Centering White Philosophers and White Philosophy

Journal of Black Studies (2019)

A Place in the Sun: Black Placemaking in Pan-African Detroit

National Council of Black Studies, Annual Conference (2019) – *Three Time Winner
2nd Place Winner Terry Kershaw Essay Competition**

Tunnel Vision: Countering Black Deficit Talk in the Barbershop and Urban Sociology

National Council of Black Studies, Annual Conference (2017)

Existence in Red, Black & Green: Pan African Legacies and Detroit's African World Festival

National Council of Black Studies, Annual Conference (2013)

Political Stasis and the Anti-Black Identity:

Fanon, Rejected African Heritage and the Accommodation of Colorism in the Caribbean

National Council of Black Studies, Annual Conference (2012)

Transcendence: DuBois and Diop as Shifting Racial Narratives for Eliminating Black Racialized Identity Complexes

EDGES-Michigan State University's College of Art and Letters (2012)

*Transcendence: DuBois and Diop as Shifting Racial Narratives
for Eliminating Black Racialized Identity Complexes*

National Council of Black Studies, Annual Conference (2011)

A Brief Exploration of DuBois' Double-consciousness,

Diop's Myth of Black Inferiority and Fanon's Psychology of Colonialism on the Black Image

Emerging Black Studies Scholars' Community Day – Forum (2012)

*Transcendence: DuBois and Diop as Shifting Racial Narratives
for Eliminating Black Racialized Identity Complexes*

Outstanding Presenter at Graduate Research Fair, Eastern Michigan University (2011)

Memory Replacement:

The Manchurian Candidates of Oppression in African and American Societies

COMMUNITY SERVICE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Freedom Museum, formerly North American Historical Museum in Ontario, Canada (2018)
Exhibit Historian and Researcher, volunteer

Michigan State University, Sankofa Graduate Student Organization in African American & African Studies – Student Activism against Structural Racism and Proposal for Department Status (2016)

Motown Museum, Detroit, MI – Domestic Internship (2014)

Videographer for Michigan State University-African American & African Studies

Michigan State University-African American & African Studies (AAAS)

Detroit Community Day (2011-2014)

Michigan State University-Office for Inclusion & Intercultural Initiatives,
MSU-AAAS Project 60/50

Michigan State University-African American African Studies (AAAS)
Renegotiating Black Studies-Today/Speaker Series (2011-2014)

Michigan State University-African American & African Studies (AAAS)
Emerging Black Studies Conference/Workshop (2011-2013)

Michigan State University-African American & African Studies (AAAS)
Emerging Black Studies Newsletter (2011-2014)

Eastern Michigan University Chapter (2011)
Member of the Board, The Society for African American Studies,
Moderator for MLK Book/Film Discussion on American Violet (2011)

CREATIVE WRITING

- Featured Poet – MSU 2017 and 2015
 - Selected as a featured poet- 2006 Chicago Poetry Fest (2006)
 - Finalist in Black-MBA, Student Essay Contest (2003)
 - 1st Place Winner, Paul Laurence Dunbar Creative Writing Award,
 - Black Writers Association-Detroit Chapter (1997)
 - 2nd Place Winner, International Grand Prix-Poetry Award, French Translation
 - Wayne State University (1991)
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MISC.

- Assisted Major Coordinator Robert Perry, Ph.D., on the proposal for a Master in African American Studies (2011) Eastern Michigan University
- Videographer for the panel discussion “President Barack Obama’s Performance Assessment”, Eastern Michigan University, African American Studies Department-African American History Program (2011)
- Member of Advisory Board, Golightly Technical Career Training School, Graphic Arts/Computer Technology (2010)
- Pro bono Business, Entrepreneur development training for entrepreneur-aspirants under personal companies (2010)
- Mentor for Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Youth Program (2008)
- Volunteer Instructor for Literacy Volunteers of America (2004)
- Poet-Performer at “Voices of Peace”, a multicultural art exhibit featuring African American, Hispanic

- American and Arab American art, University of Detroit-Mercy, School of Architecture (2003)
 - Founder and mentor, UBONA: United Brotherhood of North America
A mentor program for at-risk and adjudicated youth (1994 – 1996)
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REFERENCES

Enclosed with Application Materials