History 506:330
African Diaspora Liberation Movements

This course examines liberation movements in the African diaspora, from political activities to cultural production, and the circulation of ideas among people of African descent in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Though the course will concentrate on maroonage, nationalism and anti-colonial liberation, and music, studying the major figures and intellectual currents, it will also explore how African diasporic movements have impacted world history, expanded the meanings of such concepts like freedom, enlightenment, and rights, and consider how travel and internationalism informed various movements. In thinking about what constitutes the African diaspora and how a liberation movement takes shape within it, the course will explore major political and intellectual trends in the African diaspora. For example, how did the Haitian revolution, the only successful slave revolt in history, inspire black people during slavery and after? And how did it challenge enlightenment thinking and what it meant to be human? How did black-nationalism articulate the bonds between African liberation movements and the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements? Why are Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, and Cuba important sites in the political imaginary of African descended peoples worldwide? And why has Hip-Hop become an important cultural form in the diaspora?