



# GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES

*College of Arts and Humanities*

## Newsletter



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Spring 2024 involved a flurry of activity for the [Global Black Studies](#) (GBS) community. As part of the new [Department of Interdisciplinary Studies](#), several GBS faculty were involved with search committees that will bring new colleagues in the coming academic year. We had the opportunity to learn and work with a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence. And, we continued to provide activities—and submitted grant proposals—designed to energize students and the broader Clemson community.

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## AROUND THE SUITE

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This semester, Global Black Studies was grateful to have [Dr. Paulette Ramsay](#) serving in our midst as Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Ramsay is a Professor of Afro-Hispanic Literatures at the University of the West Indies-Mona (Kingston, Jamaica). In addition to supporting Director Roland in countless ways, during her time with us she has taught a class on Afro-Latin American Women Writers, delighted audiences with [lectures on her scholarship and poetry](#), and used this time away from her many roles at UWI and the [P.J. Patterson Institute for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy](#) to advance two book projects. On behalf of the GBS and the Clemson community, *thank you, Dr. Ramsay, for your time and energy – we look forward to seeing you on your side of the waterway!*



We are proud of all GBS majors and minors, but as the semester ends are pleased to have seen two of our own recognized in the [College of Arts and Humanities](#) Honors and Awards Celebration. This year, the *Dr. Alan Schaffer Pan African Studies Outstanding Student Award* went to **Janicya Atwood** (not pictured), and **MiKayla Metz** received the *Dr. Alan Schaffer Pan African Studies Award for Recruiting* (pictured with Dean Nicholas Vazsonyi and Interim Chair Cameron Bushnell).

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## What's going on?

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The semester began with a multimedia lecture, “The Message: MLK Speaks to Hip Hop” by Clemson Community member and human potential specialist, Bryant Smith. The audience was introduced to a critical thinking instrument, then asked to consider how Dr. King’s path and practice paralleled the relationships, content, and “flow” involved in the Hip Hop movement. Students from Introduction to Global Black Studies and Hip-Hop and African American Contemporary Culture classes appreciated the connection between the presentation and the content of their courses.

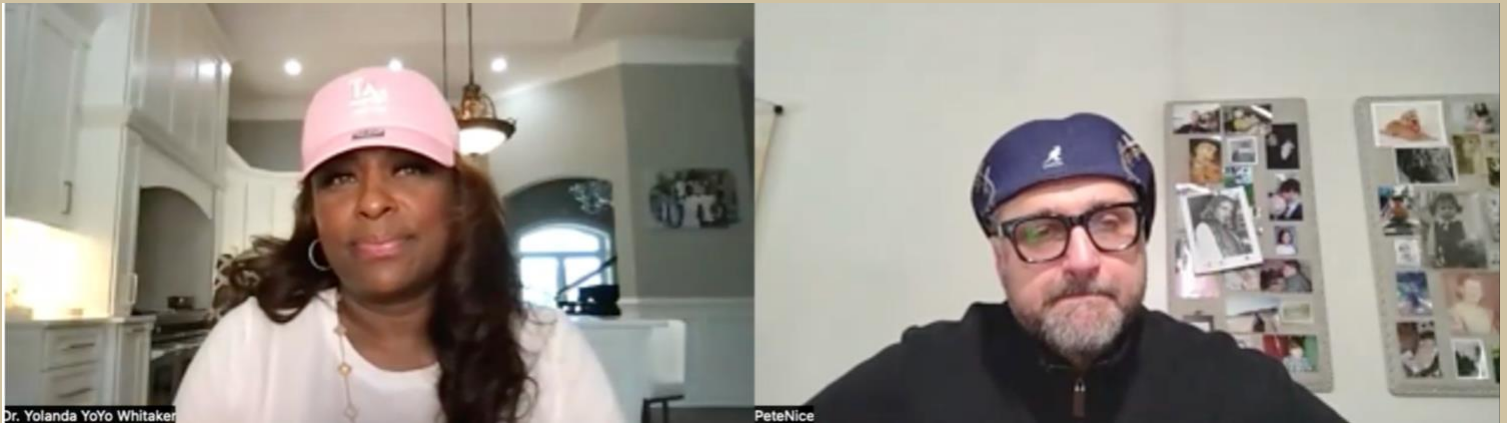


IN  
**FEBRUARY**

Though GBS celebrates Black History all year long, we were pleased to introduce the Clemson community to **Wilton Schereka’s *Song and Struggle*** series commemorating 30 years since the end of apartheid in South Africa. Schereka is a podcaster, activist, and doctoral student at the University of the Western Cape studying labor, time, and gender since the end of apartheid. The first event in the series focused on “(De)Composing Power” and introduced a rapt audience to the multiple modes of music making in which South Africans engaged to speak back to authority, from the dissonance of throat singing to harmonies that would become South Africa’s national anthem.

# IN MARCH

The second in the Song and Struggle series, titled “Makeba, Masekela, Jazz and Popular Struggle,” was held in March and showered the audience with the sounds of the divine instrument embodied by Miriam Makeba and the lamentations of Hugh Masekela’s trainlike howling horn. Throughout, Schereka primed the audience to consider the question, “what does Struggle Song sound like to you?” Audience members responded in the spirit of Global Black Studies, calling in Hip Hop, Calypso, Blues, and Reggae. The electricity in the room cannot be captured on the written page, but the [Struggle and Song playlist](#) provides a sonic sample. We look forward to continuing the conversation in the series finale titled: “*Decolonization, Fallism, and the Future.*” **Please join us on April 22 at 5p in the Pearce Center/261 Humanities Hall;** a light reception will follow.



In addition to the second Song and Struggle event, the two Global Black Studies classes mentioned above (GBS 1000 and 4680) were graced with the (virtual) presence of Hip Hop legends! Dr. Yolanda “Yo-Yo” Whitaker and “Prime Minister” Pete Nice engaged questions posed by our own Professor of Hip Hop, Dr. Melvin Villaver, as well as by students in both classes. They learned about the community-based messages and styles that evolved in Hip Hop’s earliest days to its celebrated global scope today. GBS is grateful to [The Hip Hop Museum](#) (Bronx, New York) for helping to facilitate this powerful interaction, and we can’t wait to see this important institution come to life over the next year. It was truly an energizing event!

IN  
APRIL

In the spirit of celebrating Black History all year long, the Sankofa African American Museum on Wheels, co-sponsored with the Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Multicultural Center, was rescheduled from February to early April. Later in the month, Professors D'Ondre Swails (GBS/History) and Melvin Villaver (GBS/Music) represented the College of Arts and Humanities at the [Men of Color Summit](#), encouraging young men through their example toward post-secondary education, and making sure they knew the value of Global Black Studies should they choose Clemson. As noted above, our final April event will be the finale to Wilton Schereka's Song and Struggle Series on April 22 at 5p in the Pearce Center. We hope to see you there!

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## GBS Spotlight

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Vincent R. Ogoti, an English and Global Black Studies assistant professor, started teaching this spring! Dr. Ogoti's scholarship focuses on biopolitics, critical theory, queer studies, postcolonial studies, global Black drama, literature, and technoculture. This semester, Dr. Ogoti taught ENGL 3560/Science Fiction and ENGL 4300/Dramatic Literature II. He will teach ENGL 2160/African American Literature over the summer, and in Fall 2024, he will teach GBS 1010/Africa and the Atlantic World and ENG 4420/6420 Cultural Studies. Dr. Ogoti holds a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MA from the University of Notre Dame. *Please introduce yourself and make him feel at home!*



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## LOOKING FORWARD

When we return in the Fall, GBS looks forward to welcoming the inaugural Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS), Dr. Lisa Melonçon, as well as incoming Professor Kathryn Wiley who will be teaching in both Global Black Studies and [Women's Leadership](#). *GBS would like to publicly thank Interim Chair Cameron Bushnell for her tireless service to IDS this past year.*

In the month of June, GBS will co-sponsor an outdoor summer film festival with the [Clemson University Libraries](#) and [World Cinema](#). In the coming academic year, keep your eyes open for GBS events opening (and concluding) the academic year, a keynote lecture by an up-and-coming Black Studies scholar, and a panel of Africana Studies alumni. Additionally, GBS will participate in a symposium with the Organization of Africana Studies in South Carolina (OASIS) on September 13 at the Avery Center at the College of Charleston on the theme "Africana Studies to the Future(?)." Please contact Director Roland for more information ([lroland@clemson.edu](mailto:lroland@clemson.edu)).

Students looking for summer credits are invited to consider Professor Swails' HIST 4000/African American History on Film, Professor Ogoti's ENGL 2160 African American Literature, Professor Ken Robinson's RS/SOC 3010-001 Rural Sociology, or RS/SOC 4590 The Community, as well as Professor Melvin Villaver's MUSC 3150 Music of the Black World.

Moreover, with registration currently in full swing, the **Fall 2024 GBS Course List** that count toward the major/minor are listed below\*.

Lastly, we invite **you** to join our "GBS B'Cause..." social media campaign by posting a video telling us why you value GBS courses, faculty, or community. Make sure you are on our email list – let us hear from you!

– *L. Kaifa Roland*

DIRECTOR, GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES

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SPRING 2024

# GBS COURSE OFFERINGS

**GBS 1000: Introduction to Global Black Studies (2 sections)**

001 CRN 89449

002 CRN 91271

**GBS 1010: Africa and the Atlantic World – CRN 91273**

**GBS 4980: Senior Seminar – CRN 91276\***

**HIST 3110: African American History to 1877 – CRN 90767**

Major Requirement Courses: *15 cred from approved humanities & soc sci courses.*

**AUD 3820: Hip Hop Production Techniques – CRN 91456\***

**ENGL 2160: Black Horror (4 sections)**

001 CRN: 86904

002 CRN: 86905

003 CRN: 86916

400 CRN: 88858 (async online)

**ENGL 4190: Postcolonial and World Literatures – CRN 89653\***

**ENGL 4420: Cultural Studies – CRN 88051\***

**HIST 4000: The Harlem Renaissance – CRN 88109**

**HIST 4370: Slavery in Africa – CRN 90775**

**MUSC 3120: History of Jazz (2 sections)**

001 CRN 80284

002 CRN 91094

**MUSC 3150: Music of Black Americans – CRN 91097\***

**POSC 4660: African Politics – CRN 89597**

**POSC 4780: Latin American Politics – CRN 90982**

**REL 3150: Islam - 89381**

**SOC 3310: Urban Sociology – CRN 89158\***

**SOC 3600: Social Class and Poverty – (2 sections)\***

**Section 002 – CRN 89945**

**Section 001 – CRN 85747**

**SOC 4330: Globalization & Social Change – CRN 88044\***

**SOC 4600: Race and Ethnicity (2 sections)\***

**Section 001 – CRN 81064**

**Section 002 – CRN 89947**

**THEA 3170: African American Theatre I – CRN 80105**

**WS 1030: Women in Global Perspective (4 sections)**

**Section 001 – CRN 82679**

**Section 002 – CRN 84567**

**Section 003 – CRN 89451**

○ **Section 004 – CRN 89452**

*\*Prerequisite Required*

**Collect as many as you want – bonus points if you  
change your major!**

**FOLLOW US!**



**Support GBS!**

<https://bit.ly/CUGlobalBlackStudies>

**Spring 2024**