

Fall 2020 NEW COURSE!!!

ADS 306 Special Topics Course

Ethiopia in the Global African Diaspora

Tuesday - Thursday 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Dr. Hewan Girma & Dr. Omar Ali



This seminar provides a historical, geographic and cultural introduction to Ethiopia and its place in the global African diaspora. We will begin with a general overview of Ethiopian history starting with Menelik I, the supposed son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. We will survey different Ethiopian civilizations including the histories of Axum in Antiquity, the 12th century Zagwe dynasty at Lalibela, the 16th century empire of Gondar and the end of the Ethiopian millennia-old monarchy with Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974. We will explore the 19th and 20th century with reference to colonial conflicts, processes of modernization, Cold War politics and the contemporary development state. We will expand on the different religious traditions including Ethiopianism, Orthodox Christianity, Islam and Judaism. This course will highlight the interconnections between Ethiopia, Africa, the Indian Ocean world and the Black Atlantic, including Habshis in South Asia and Rastafarian resettlement. Upon completion of the course, students will develop an understanding of Ethiopian history, culture and its place in world civilizations. Furthermore, students will be introduced to significant personalities and events in Ethiopian history broadly speaking and understand their relevance to contemporary issues in the global African diaspora. This course is designed as an interdisciplinary, discussion-intensive seminar featuring a number of guest lectures. This course counts towards the major and minor in African American and African Diaspora Studies as well as the Honors College.

Prerequisites: None

Textbook: There will be NO required textbook to purchase for this course. All reading materials will be made available to students electronically on Canvas.

Dr. Hewan Girma is Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Stony Brook University. She is a native of Ethiopia.

Dr. Omar Ali is Dean of Lloyd International Honors College and Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies and History. He holds a PhD in History from Columbia University.