

History of the New African Diaspora

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So far, African Diaspora studies have been focused on the forced migration of people from the African continent into the New World, primarily the U.S. and to some degree the Caribbean. As a result, African Diaspora studies have always been associated with the saga of slavery and the Atlantic slave trade.

Tuesdays

3:30—6:20 PM

HST 496

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While both the Diaspora and Transatlantic studies are essential in understanding the history of Africans in America and beyond, they do not explain the post-1960s migration of Africans to the U.S. and other parts of the world; and the formation of New African Diaspora identities such as Nigerian-Americans, Ethiopian-Americans, and Senegalese-Italians etc.

In this seminar, however, we will explore the historic circumstances and recent socio-economic and political developments that triggered the post-1960s African migration to the U.S. and other parts of the world.

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By examining U.S. Congressional hearings, U.S. Census Bureau data, INS (the now Homeland Security) figures and reports, and by interviewing contemporary African immigrants, we will map the whereabouts of the New African Diaspora in the United States. Using the available literature on immigrants in America, we will also analyze African immigrants' relationships with the mainstream society in general and African Americans in particular.