

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4500 / ENGL*6691	Course Title: “Periodical Archives, Intellectual Networks: Black North America 1827-1865”	Semester and Year of Offering: W25
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Course Instructor: Michelle Ellera	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course traces a mid-nineteenth-century Black intellectual and activist network across the Northeast US and Canada West through the genre of the periodical. From among the many newspapers and magazines edited by African Americans and African Canadians for the Black community, we will investigate the following: *Freedom’s Journal*, the *Impartial Citizen*, the *North Star*, *Voice of the Fugitive*, the *Provincial Freeman*, and the [Weekly] *Anglo-African*. Questions we might ask include: How do the iterative form and material affordances of the periodical facilitate Black thought and action? How does the movement of people and paper across state, provincial, and national lines enable a network of public intellectuals who imagine forms of collectivity beyond that of the nation? What happens when, instead of disaggregating a poem or serialized novel from the newspaper in which it was published, we consider this literature in relation to the other print features by which it is surrounded? Alongside the non-fiction components of the Black periodical we will attend to some of the poetry and fiction found in its pages, including “Theresa: A Haytien Tale” (1828) by “S.,” Louis Timegène Houat’s *The Maroons: An Abolitionist Novel* (1844), and Martin Delaney’s *Blake: or, The Huts of America* (1862).

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Weight (%)</i>
Keyword assignment (1 page)	10%
Newspaper overview (1-year period, 1-2 pages)	20%
Research presentation	20%
Research essay (4000-5500 words for ENGL*4500; 5000-6500 words for ENGL*6691)	40%
Participation	10%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.):

Delaney, Martin. *Blake: or, The Huts of America*. Edited by Jermone McGann. Harvard UP, 2017 [also available online through the library]
Houat, Louis Timegène. *The Maroons: An Abolitionist Novel*. Translated by Aqil Gopee and Jeffrey Diteman. NY: Restless Books, 2024.
All periodicals will be accessed online.

Information about mode of delivery:

In person

Final Exam information:

N/a