This course introduces students to the field of African American studies through the exploration of foundational texts and critical interventions in music, art, and film. Focused on the cultural context of the U.S., our purview will range from foundational slave narratives, to key works of fiction, and contemporary film and popular culture. Along the way we will examine and debate different forms of analysis and methodology as we investigate major approaches from across the social sciences and the humanities. The course aims to impart a base of disciplinary knowledge that will position students to delve more deeply into other classes focused on Black studies across the College. Readings and films will include Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself*; W.E.B. Du Bois’s *The Souls of Black Folk*; Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*; Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*; and Jordan Peele’s *Get Out*. 