

FREN & ITAL 270: BLACK EUROPE
AFRICAN MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM, AND CITIZENSHIP
IN FRANCE AND ITALY

Mon, Weds: 2-3:20
Dr. Edwin Hill (edwinhil@usc.edu)

This course examines the complexities of African migration, transnationalism, and citizenship in Europe, focusing especially on France and Italy. Building on scholarship from the humanities as well as the social sciences, we examine the varied entanglements of race and ethnicity, nation and empire, and globalization and citizenship for people migrating to and in-between Europe and Africa. We will pay special attention to contemporary dynamics of migration across the Mediterranean Sea.

How have France and Italy served as hubs of contemporary African migration in the past and how do they do so today? How can we think of Africa and Europe as deeply entwined rather than separate or opposed, and what happens when we do so? What are the economic, social, cultural, and political forces of migration, community formation, cultural production, and citizenship for people of African descent in Europe? How do African migrants and communities think about blackness, legacies of colonialism, and contemporary debates about immigration? How do these dynamics and debates about globalization and African migration impact the cultural and political landscapes of Europe, and how do they put pressure on traditional formations of national identity? Assigned primary works include literature, feature-length films, and experimental documentaries. Secondary readings, along with lectures, provide historical context and critical analysis of the issues in question. Topics also include: trends and traditions in French and Italian literature; contemporary African film-making and activist videography; theories of blackness and diaspora; anti-black racism and islamophobia; migrant labor; migrant criminalization and incarceration; dynamics of invisibility and the ethics of representation.

***This course counts towards GE-G Citizenship in a Global World, and GE-B Humanistic Inquiry general education requirements.**

