This course examines the racial reckoning currently taking place in France and Italy against police brutality, mass incarceration, and other forms of anti-black violence. Students will contemplate the legacies of colonialism and colonial policing as well as anticolonial thought and warfare that come to bear on the contemporary scene, and they will learn about the diverse and evolving histories of African migration and anti-black racism as it impacts today’s African diasporic / Black communities in Europe. Topics include: systemic racism, intersectionality, European formations of blackness, and protest movements.

The primary material includes ethnographies, literature, creative non-fiction, human rights reports and critical essays as well as feature-length films, documentaries, and video journalism.

The requirements include participation (10%), quizzes (20%), and in-class discussion section assignments (20%) as well as the midterm and the final papers (25% + 25%).