

AMST 331g

10418R

The Black Atlantic: Narratives of Migration and Travel



Course fulfills
these requirements:

- Diversity Requirement
- Crosslisted as COLT 331
- GE-B (Humanistic Inquiry)
- GE-G (Citizenship in a Diverse World)

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*Department of American
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Professor Lydie Moudileno

Monday/Wednesday | 2:00-3:20 PM | KAP 147

How have Black artists, writers and intellectuals from Africa, the Americas and Europe accounted for experiences of travel and migration? Exploring a range of narrative projects while reflecting on the conditions of their productions, this course will explore the ways in which Black modern subjectivities have been—and continue to be—shaped transnationally by the exchange of bodies, commodities, cultures and ideas across oceans in the triangular geography famously theorized as *The Black Atlantic*.

Class material will introduce authors from the United States, Europe, West Africa, and the Caribbean, and will proceed chronologically from 18th century slave narratives, to 1950s Panafrican autobiographies, diasporic fictions of migration of the 20th century, cinema and contemporary African narratives. We will rely on a variety of material (printed, audio and visual) to examine the representation of transatlantic journeys which have contributed to a rich and complex “imaginary” of the Black Atlantic—an imaginary simultaneously haunted by traumatic events just as it bears promises of futurity. We will encourage an intersectional approach which will dwell on a number of overlapping themes and issues. These will include: race, gender, violence, alterity, language, mobility, sexuality, memory and belonging.