

**Module title:** Afropean Identities

**Module code:** SML6052

**Credit value:** 15

**Level:** 6

**Pre-requisite modules:**

### **Content Description**

'Afropean' is a term coined by Belgian music artist Zap Mama to encompass being both African and European, not as a contradiction but as an expression of plurality and site for creativity. Beyond identity politics, though acutely aware of racism as manifested across European contexts, Afropean writers acknowledge the dark histories of slavery and colonialism while uniting around cultural memories and contemporary activist movements. Students will analyse literary texts including essays, poems, novels, and short stories. They will engage with race critical theory and Afropea as a utopian concept, as well as positioning themselves in relation to local Afropean history and culture.

### **Module Aims**

This comparative module is the first of its kind in the UK to explore Afropean identities across the UK, France, Belgium/the Netherlands, and Germany. Students will contextualise and provide close readings of essays, poems, novels, and short stories, engaging with race critical theory and Afropea as a utopian concept. Students will position themselves in relation to local Afropean history and culture, as well as analysing literary texts by a diverse range of Afropean writers.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Academic Content:

A1 Understanding of how race and racism manifest in several European contexts.

A2 Understanding of Afropean as a lived identity and Afropea as a utopian concept.

A3 Familiarity with a range of texts from Afropean authors in their original language and/or translation.

Disciplinary Skills –able to:

B1 Situate authors in relation to the concept of Afropean.

B2 Compare and contrast Afropean identities in different geopolitical contexts.

B3 Engage with secondary literature and relevant theory.

B4 Develop a capacity to engage with material in its original language, using linguistic skills commensurate with the CEFR level appropriate for a level 6 module.

Attributes:

C1 Ability to contextualise and relate texts to key concepts/movements.

C2 Ability to position oneself in relation to race and racism in Europe.

C3 Increased awareness of the legacies of colonialism across Europe.

### **Activity Hours**

<b>Activity Type</b>	<b>Time spent (hours)</b>
Lecture	11
Seminar	11

Guided independent study	128
Total	150

### Indicative Reading List

- Ayim, May, *Blues in schwarz weiss* (Orlanda, 2005) / *Blues in Black and White*, trans. by Anne Adams (Africa World Press, 2003)
- Fanon, Frantz, *Peau noire, masques blancs* (Seuil, 1952) / *Black Skin, White Masks*, trans. by Charles Lam Markmann (Pluto, 2017)
- Niang, Mame-Fatou (dir.), *Mariannes noires* (2017)
- Mabanckou, Alain, *Black Bazar* (Points, 2011) / *Black Bazaar*, trans. by Sarah Ardizzone (Serpent's Tail, 2012)
- Pitts, Johny, *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe* (Penguin, 2019)
- Unigwe, Chika, *Better Never than Late* (Cassava Republic Press, 2020) / *Beter nooit dan laat*, trans. by Theo Veenhof (Polis, 2019)
- Emejulu, Akwugo, and Francesca Sobande (eds.), *To Exist is to Resist: Black Feminism in Europe* (Pluto Press, 2019)
- Gilroy, Paul, *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness* (Verso, 1993)
- Hirsch, Afua, *Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging* (Jonathan Cape, 2018)
- Hitchcott, Nicki, and Dominic Thomas (eds.), *Francophone Afropean Literatures* (Liverpool University Press, 2014)
- Lennox, Sara, *Remapping Black Germany: New Perspectives on Afro-German History, Politics, and Culture* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2016)
- Otele, Olivette, *African Europeans: An Untold History* (Hurst, 2020)
- Phillips, Caryl, *The European Tribe* (Faber and Faber, 1987)
- Ribeiro Sanches, Manuela et al. (eds.), *Europe in Black and White: Immigration, Race and Identity in the 'Old Continent'* (Intellect, 2011)