Description: This course explores Black female travel as a form of resistance and radical subjectivity in both African American and Afro-Caribbean Literatures. We will focus on Black women writers and how they complicate the notion of travel and cross-cultural relationships in various genres including fiction, non-fiction, memoir, essay, and poetry. Travel within these genres is conceived of broadly, cross-culturally, and within the experiences of the African Diaspora and Black women. Therefore, travel discourses include migration and immigration for work opportunities and education, and tourism (including heritage tourism, Diaspora tourism, and sex tourism). We will read texts that deal with migration from the Caribbean to the United States, Black intra-U.S. migration, and transnational migrations.

Overall, the goal of this course is to understand how African American and Afro-Caribbean women writers trouble the boundaries of genre, identity, and nation through their writings about Black female travel. Thus, we will examine how the discourses of race, gender, class, and sexuality illuminate their strategies and vexing of boundaries. Do these writers create, in the words of Carole Boyce Davies, radical Black diasporic subjectivity? How do these writers deal with the politics of location, mobility, and nationality? We will consider a range of possible readings for these narratives, but the focus will be feminist and postcolonial.

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