

TERM: **Spring 2026**

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: **SAS 5000**

COURSE TITLE: **SAS 5000: Fugitive Music**

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: **Monday, 7:15 PM—10:00 PM**

INSTRUCTOR: **Kweku John**

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

We are constantly surrounded by music, even when we're not actively listening. It's everywhere – in elevators, grocery stores, and as cars pass by. Despite the excitement around new artists and their fanbases, many popular music genres in the Western Hemisphere were once condemned and some were even considered illegal. This course delves into the hidden histories of Black musical forms and explores how black music, poetry, and spirituality have been used to confront systems of anti-black oppression.

With these themes in mind, the mission for this semester is deceptively simple: to create new, experimental, and thought-provoking work. Since this is an advanced seminar, we will move beyond drafting individual poems and turn toward sequence/longer form projects. Aligning with the University's ethos of educating the whole person, this course aims to educate the whole writer, focusing more on the process rather than just the end product. Therefore, we will embrace improvisation and hybridity, analyzing texts that showcase each step of the writing process, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, and performance. Let's jam!

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 1. Creating literary art that informs, entertains, and engages its audience
- 2. Cultivating individual artistic vision
- 3. Understanding the professional production of creative texts
- 4. Understanding the relationship between producing literary art and social justice
- 5. Expressing oneself in artistic, imaginative, and inspired ways
- 6. Generating compelling works of literary art

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Graduate Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

- ☐ Critical Methodology
- ☐ Contemporary Critical Theory
- ☐ Major Writer / Genre / Literary Period
- ☐ Literature Elective
- ☐ Theory Elective
- ☒ Creative Writing Seminar
- ☐ Rhetoric / Composition Theory and Practice
- ☐ Linguistics OR Reading Theory