“African Cultural Retentions” is presented this term as a reading and writing intensive course focused on the continuities, transformations, adaptations, and re-inventions of African culture found within the African diaspora in the Americas since the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Research and writing projects conducted by historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, art historians, and musicologists will be studied. Lectures, readings, classroom discussions, and examination essays will explore developments in the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the United States. A documentary film series is incorporated; and a museum trip is also planned. Of course, in the Americas, Africans encountered Native Americans and Europeans; and a constant goal of this course is to enrich our understanding of the new local contexts which emerged, and Africa’s contributions to those contexts.

Student Requirements: Two short papers are required. Each paper should be 8 to 10 pages in length, documented, and based on our readings, video and lecture presentations, and guide questions provided by the instructor. The first paper will be due at mid-term, 21 October; and the final paper will be due on 8 December. The class will meet in person. Given our current pandemic, all protocols, including mask-wearing will be performed. Written work will be submitted electronically via e-mail. The first 3 class sessions will be devoted to overview, organization, and broad historical lectures. The first reading assignment and full calendar will be provided on 9 September. No readings are assigned until that time.

Books The following books have been ordered at the Rutgers Bookstore.

3. Walter Hawthorne. FROM AFRICA TO BRAZIL. (Cambridge Univ. Press)

Additional Readings: Students will be required to visit sites on the internet.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30; and at other times by appointment. Masks and distancing are required in the office.