

AFRICANA STUDIES



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Spring 2012



Director: Dr. Edmund Abaka

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Room V Student Services

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<http://www.as.miami.edu/africanastudies/>

Interdisciplinary Studies

125 Memorial Building

Locator Code 2302

Phone: 305-284-2017

Africana Studies Spring 2012

The interdisciplinary program in Africana Studies is a flexible one that provides opportunities for students to learn about continental Africa and the experiences of people of African descent in the Black Atlantic societies of North America, the Caribbean and Latin America. Africana Studies courses explore the multifaceted political, economic, social, and cultural traditions of Africans and peoples of African descent. The program prepares students for admission to Graduate school or for careers in Journalism, Education, Law, International Relations, and Politics among several others.

Curriculum

MAJOR in Africana Studies (ten courses-30 credits)

(Ten courses-30 credits)

Africana Studies majors must complete the following core courses:

- **AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies**
- **AAS 490: Senior Seminar in Africana Studies**
- **HIS 201: History of Africa I (to 1800)**
- **HIS 209: African-American History to 1877**
- **HIS 210: African-American History since 1877**

OR

One course in Caribbean Studies:

- **ENG 361: Caribbean Literature**
- **ENG 374: Caribbean Women Writers**
- **APY 385: Caribbean Cultures**
- **GEG 212 Middle America and the Caribbean**
- **HIS 318: Modern Caribbean History**

The remaining courses must be selected from the list of acceptable courses approved by the Program. Twelve of the 30 credits must be completed on the 300 level or above. A grade of C- or better with an overall GPA is required in each course taken for the major.

MINOR in Africana Studies (five courses-15 credits)

Africana Studies minors must complete AAS 150.

Africana Studies minors must complete either HIS 201 or HIS 209.

The remaining courses must be selected from the list of acceptable courses approved by the program.

A minimum of six credits must be numbered 300 or higher.

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New Spring 2012 Courses

AAS 150 P (Honors – Section O) Introduction to Africana Studies - This course will serve as an introduction to the discipline of Africana studies focusing on the study of Africa, Africans, African-Americans/Blacks, Pan-Africanism and the African Diaspora at large. Although emphasis will be placed on the chronology and history of peoples of African descent in America and on the continent of Africa, the course is not designed to provide specialized or in-depth knowledge about any of the above but rather a broad familiarization. Topics in the discipline of Africana Studies will be explored through many basic themes of inquiry including history, politics, health, economics, religion, literature, art and other forms of creative expression and psychology as well as specific areas that may surface in the course of discussion and dialogue.

AAS 290-O Race and Racism— In this course, we will trace the origins of the idea of race and racial differences, examining how and why it came into being as well as its development over the centuries. Furthermore, we will examine how this very powerful notion of difference has overtime shaped societies and human interactions, serving as a rationalization for the practice of slavery as well as for genocide in Europe, Africa, and the Americas. We will examine how the evolution of the idea of race resulted in political exclusion, economic exploitation, and social injustice in a variety of places and times, including the practice of segregation in the United States and South Africa as well as the emergences of the Eugenics movement world-wide.

AAS 350 B Black leadership in the United States—"This course investigates the tradition of black leadership in the 20th century and critiques how that tradition has influenced the emergence of 21st century 'black leaders'. Sports, theatre, politics, film, education, and religion are treated as historic sites for understanding the 20th century expression of black leadership. The course will ask students to challenge traditional interpretations of what constitutes leadership generally and "black" leadership particularly. An important component of the course asks students to rethink the concept of black leadership in the "post-Obama" era".

AAS 390 S Blacks in Education: Ideology Vs. Reality-This course will explore the public school (K-12) educational system in the United States within the context of a historical overview and analysis of the disparities exhibited based on socioeconomic status, race and other factors. Emphasis will be placed on the impact of this problem in terms of Black/African American people in the U.S. The journey will begin with segregated public schools within the context of the Civil Rights Movement (including landmark cases which led to changes) as well as specific details regarding busing, integration and other steps that have been taken to try and rectify the educational gap that still exists in the United States. Recent efforts such as No Child Left Behind, Teach for America and other initiatives will be explored to gain insight into whether progress is being made in terms of closing the educational gap. Films including "Waiting for Superman" will be viewed along with lectures and group discussions towards a think tank/solution oriented approach to foster new ideas regarding the revitalization of the American Educational System and resolving the current disparity. A writing credit will be offered for this 3 credit course.

AAS 490 S Senior Seminar: Race and Class in Latin America and the Caribbean- Utilizing data, insights, and concepts from political science, anthropology, sociology, history, demography, statistics, and legal studies, the course explores the Black experience in Latin America and the Caribbean. It recognizes that, notwithstanding the significant variations created by different historical and socio-ecological experiences, there are some fundamental similarities and commonalities in the conditions of African-descended people in the Americas. The common thread is, of course, the experience of forceful uprooting from Africa followed by centuries of slavery in the Americas, varying according, in part, to the degree, form, and evolution of the countries' integration into the world system. The course examines in a comparative perspective the complex concepts of race and color in these sub-regions and how they relate to the notions of class and power. These relationships are in turn studied in the context of the economic, social, and political development of the respective lands, as well as of their tensions and conflicts, not excluding phenomena of forced displacement or the impact of international and transnational actor, in particular the declaration by the UN and the OAS of 2011 as the International Year of the International Year for People of African Descent .

AAS 490 P Internally Displaced Persons in Africa , Latin America, and Asia -This course will explore the worldwide challenge of internal displacement with special reference to its manifestations in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. There are actually more internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world than refugees. However, whereas there is a fairly well developed international regime for refugees, the one for the human rights of IDPs is still in gestation. The course will examine in an international and comparative perspective: the causes of internal displacement; its prevention; protection and assistance to IDPs; the status and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; the recently adopted AU Convention on Protection and Assistance to IDPs in Africa; the increasingly salient phenomenon of internal displacement due to natural disasters, with special reference to the tsunamis in Indonesia and Japan, and the earthquake in Haiti; the attempts to find solutions to the vexing problem of lack of coordination between the various humanitarian actors involved in the protection and assistance to IDPs, giving rise to the so-called "protection gap"; the connections between internal and international displacement, and how to end internal displacement.

AAS 490 01 Psychology and the Black Experience-This course is an introduction to the psychological issues related to the Black experience in the United States. The course will begin with an overview of Black/African American psychology as an evolving field of study and consider the Black/African American psychology paradigm as one of the key conceptual frameworks for understanding the psychological experiences of Blacks in America. The second part of the course will explore a range of topics that pertain to the psychological experiences of Blacks in America such as racism and discrimination, achievement and testing, kinship and family, religion and spirituality, and Black mental health. A primary focus of this portion of the course will be on the intersectionality of race with other identities such as social class, sexual orientation, ethnicity and gender. Finally, the course will conclude with discussions on the psychological ramifications of negative and positive depictions of Blacks in the media. Throughout the course, a primary objective will be to consider how our knowledge of Black psychological experiences can be used to promote Black psychological health and wellness.

HIS 300 01 The African Diaspora in South Florida -This course examines the historical experiences of the African Diaspora in South Florida through a close analyses of three junctures in the history of the Black experience: The slave trade, abolition, and emancipation ; the migration of various African-descended peoples from the Caribbean, Latin America, Central America ; and the increasingly addition of people from the African continent itself. The major themes to be tackled in the time frame include migration, culture contact, creation of « new cultures », political activism, and « new » communities in South Florida.

OTHER AFRICANA STUDIES CORE COURSES

-including those which may not be offered this semester-

HIS 201 History of Africa I (to 1800) - History of Africa before the Colonial period, emphasizing sources for the study of African History, African political and social institutions, the slave trade, and “legitimate” trade and markets.

HIS 209 African-American History to 1896 – History of people of African descent in the United States from African roots to 1896.

HIS 210 African-American History since 1896 – Exploration of factors that have shaped and been shaped by people of African descent in the United States since 1896.

ENG 361 Caribbean Literature-- Introduction to twentieth-century literature with special emphasis on the regional preoccupation with a distinctly Caribbean aesthetic.

ENG 374 Caribbean Women Writers – A study of women’s writings and feminist criticism from 1930 to the present.

APY 385 Caribbean Cultures-- Caribbean societies, including ethnic diversity, production and exchange, domestic organization, and belief systems.

GEG 212 Middle America and the Caribbean-- Human and physical geography of Middle America and the Caribbean.

OTHER AFRICANA STUDIES

CROSSLISTED COURSES

Anthropology

APY 308 Human Variations: Anthropology of Race-- Patterns of variation in human morphological, anatomical, physiological, biochemical, genetic, and behavioral characteristics are investigated in peoples living in different environments throughout the world.

APY 390 African Cultures-- Political and domestic organization, production, exchange, and belief systems of traditional African cultures, and the changes caused by increasing urbanization and modernization.
Dance

DAN 240 Cultural Dance Forms (Afro-Caribbean)-- Introduction to movement skills and stylistic elements of Afro-Caribbean dance forms.

DAN 340 Specialized Dance Forms (Afro-Caribbean)-- Introduction to movement skills and stylistic elements of specialized Afro-Caribbean dance forms.

Economics

ECO 351 Economic Problems of Less Developed Countries-- Factors underlying economic development; measures and goals for development; principles applicable to problems of development; the role of markets and planning in development.

ECO 371 Economic Problems of Latin America-- An analysis of the historical growth of major Latin American countries, with emphasis on the post World War II period.

English

ENG 260 Intro to African-American Literature-- Selected readings of the eighteenth century to the present.

ENG 360 Comparative Literature of the Black World-- Oral and written Black literature in Africa, the United States, The Caribbean, and South America.

ENG 486 Early African-American Literature-- African-American literature from the beginnings to the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

ENG 487 Modern African-American Literature-- African-American literature from the Harlem Renaissance to the present. Geography

GEG 232 Africa South of the Sahara-- Human and physical geography of Africa south of the Sahara.

History

HIS 201 History of Africa I — History of Africa before the colonial period, emphasizing sources for the study of African history, African political and social institutions, the slave trade and “legitimate” trade markets.

Instrumental Performance

MIP 130 Afro-Caribbean Hand Drumming I-- The study of hand drumming techniques used to perform the music of Africa and the new world African music that originated in the islands of the Caribbean and the countries of Central and Latin America.

MIP 131 Afro-Caribbean Hand Drumming II-- The study of hand drumming techniques used to perform the music of Africa and the new world African music that originated in the islands of the Caribbean. This is a performance ensemble.

MIP 132 Brazilian Bateria-- Brazilian Bateria workshop is a study of the rhythmic aspects of the popular music of Brazil and the Percussion instruments which produce many of the unique sounds which characterize this music. Prerequisite: Audition.

MIP 133 Cuban Conjunto-- Cuban Conjunto workshop is a study of the Spanish and Afro traditions which meld together to form much of the Cuban folk repertory.

MIP 134 Steel Band/ Trinidad-- reflects the broad musical heritage of the West Indies. Steel Drums (Pans) are combined with other indigenous instruments in the performance of both folk music and transcriptions of standard classical repertory in the tradition of the Trinidad carnival celebration.

Musicology

MCY 124 The Evolution of Jazz-- A study of the origin, development, and styles of jazz music and its exponents.

MCY 127 The Evolution of Rock-- Rock music from its sources to the present. Aural recognition of rock styles and selected performing artists.

Sociology

SOC 342 Contemporary Latin American Societies-- Social characteristics of Latin American societies and their comparison with North American society.

SOC 344 Urban Sociology-- Development, organization and problems of cities and urban living.

SOC 387 Race and Ethnic Relations-- The influence of racial distinctions on individuals and social behavior.

SOC 487 Minorities: Crime and Social Policy-- Discussion of racial and ethnic minorities, crime and social policy. Examination and evaluation of statistics, race, theories of crime, law enforcement and race relations, and other areas.