AFRICANA STUDIES

Spring 2011

COURSE BOOKLET

Director: Dr. Edmund Abaka
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Room V Student Services
Building 21, Locator Code 5505
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INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
125 Memorial Building
Locator Code 2302
Phone: 305-284-2017
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)

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 OR
- HIS 210: African-American History since 1877

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 at the 300 level or above.

A grade of C- or better with an overall GPA of 2.0 is required in each course taken for the major.

MINOR in Africana Studies

(Five courses-15 credits)

Africana Studies minors must complete: AAS 150 and 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 completed at the 300 level or above.

A grade of C-or better with an overall GPA of 2.0 is required in each course taken for the minor.
AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies  
Instructor: Patti Rose  
Section O: T-R 9:30-10:45 A.M.  
Section P: T-R 11:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

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: Special Topics  
A History of Race and Racism  
Instructor: Marten Brienen  
Section J: M-W 5:00-6:15 P.M.

In this course, we will trace the origins of the idea of race and racial difference, 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 over time 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 emergence of the Eugenics movement world-wide.

AAS 290: Special Topics  
Psychology and the Black Experience  
Instructor: Omari Keeles  
Section K: M-W 6:25-7:40 P.M.

Psychology is the study of human motivation, how human beings perceive themselves and others, how human beings behave, and how human beings change. 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. This media section will begin with Mammy and end with Madea. 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. This will be a reading intensive course which will further develop your ability to critically think about and analyze complex and multilayered material.

AAS 390: Special Topics
Black Women in Medicine and Healing
Instructor: Patti Rose
Section S: T-R 3:30-4:45 P.M.

This course explores the lives of Black women in their roles as healers, patients, caregivers, clinicians and beyond from slavery to the present. Through lectures, intensive reading and lively discussion, the experiences and work of black women, specifically related to medicine and healing, will be examined in the context of racism struggle and power. The course offers candid illumination while complimenting the hard work and dispelling myths suggesting the insignificance of these courageous Black women. The foci will be: 1) assessing the presence of Black women in medicine and healing; 2) discerning the barriers to participation in medicine to racism and various aspects of struggles; 3) exploring the contributions that Black women have made to medicine and healing and their subsequent empowerment as a result and 4) examining the role of Black women in ensuring the survival of the Black community in the U.S. and across the Diaspora.

AAS 390: Special Topics
Cuba and Africa
Instructor: Edmund Abaka
Section UY: R 6:25-9:05 P.M.

This course examines the relationship between Cuba and Africa from the period of the slave trade to late 1990s. The course is divided into three sections. Section one deals with Cuba and Africa during the period of the slave trade. It focuses on the forced migration of Africans to Cuba, the contribution of the enslaved to the growth and development of Cuba and the impact of the African presence on the island. The next section will deal with the Cuban revolution and the contribution of Cuba’s Black population to the revolution. It will analyze the impact of the revolution on race relations in Cuba.

In the final section, we shall emphasize Cuba’s Africa policy from the Cuban revolution to the independence of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Principé. This section is designed to answer certain fundamental questions: Why did a small country like Cuba play such a preponderant role in Africa during the decolonization period, a time of
heightened antagonism due to the Cold War between the superpowers? What exactly did Cuban soldiers do in the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde? Was Cuba a proxy for the Soviet Union or was Fidel Castro pursuing a Cuban agenda? What was the thinking behind Castro’s African policy? Finally, Cuba trained African youth as doctors, engineers and technicians on the Isle of Youth. The Cuban-trained African professionals returned to their respective countries in Africa to help rebuild their countries. Their stories have not yet been told and it is our intention to discuss some of their personal stories.

AAS 490: Senior Seminar in Africana Studies
Race and Class in Latin American and the Caribbean
Instructor: Pierre-Michel Fontaine
Section R: T-R 2:00-3:15 P.M.

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, 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 (including in reference to the Indigenous populations) 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 relations.

* All Africana Studies core courses are Writing Credit courses *
Cross-Listed Courses

ENG 361: Caribbean Literature
Instructor: Pat Saunders
Section R: T-R 2:00-3:15 P.M.

Satisfies the English literature major requirement for a course in literature since 1900

The Caribbean region encompasses an array of political, social, and historical foundations inspired by colonialism in the New World. This course will offer students the opportunity to explore the political and cultural landscapes represented in the works of writers in the Caribbean region. We will examine some of the complex negotiations that are necessary as newly independent nations grapple with issues of national identity, cultural representation, migration and exile. We will consider some of the ways contemporary writers contribute to our understanding of the Caribbean region in a global context. Finally, we will also consider the extent to which cultural hybridity provides a useful framework for engaging Anglophone Caribbean literature and culture. Authors will include Maryse Condé, C.L.R. James, Alejo Carpentier, M. Nourbese Philip, Monique Roffey, Edwidge Danticat and Jamaica Kincaid. Though the emphasis of the course will be Caribbean literatures in English, we will also read texts translated from Spanish and French.

Prerequisite: Three credits in literature.

ENG 395: Special Topics
The United States, Transnationalism, and Globalization
Instructor: David Luis-Brown
Section E: M-W-F 12:20-1:10 P.M.

Paradoxically, American Studies does not only address the culture and the history of the United States; the United States has shaped the world and the world has transformed the United States in turn. This course focuses on the "worlding" of American Studies that has attempted to account for this global dialectic in the production of U.S. culture and influence. The topics in this course will include the impact of the Haitian Revolution on U.S. conceptions of slavery and freedom; black nationalism and transnationalism; U.S. imperialism and responses from Latin America and the Caribbean; the United Fruit Company; Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans; immigration; globalization; and the history of American Studies. We will study the work of writers, filmmakers, artists and scholars such as Alejo Carpentier, Martin Delany, Dave Eggers, Gabriel García Márquez, José Martí, and Spike Lee.

Requirements: 5-7 page midterm essay, a 3-4 page prospectus for the final research essay, and a final research essay (8-10 pages).

Prerequisite: Three credits in literature.
The 1967 publication of William Styron’s *The Confessions of Nat Turner* caused resentment among African American artists and intellectuals who regarded this white-authored narrative as a theft of both the black voice and the slave experience. In response to this work, African American writers sought to reclaim both the form of the original slave narratives and their own right to tell the story of slavery. In this course we will explore the reasons for the continuing interest in this troubling subject. We will read a selection of novels and short stories that focus on the captive life in the New World and its effects on later generations, as well as some works that deal with the Middle Passage itself. We will attempt to understand why writers insist that such stories be told, and why the feelings persist that the past is both irrecoverable and “unspeakable,” even as it needs to be evoked, witnessed and entered into history.


**Requirements:** Class attendance and participation; two papers—one 5-7 pages, one 6-8 pages; occasional writing exercises; a midterm and a final.

**Prerequisite:** Six credits in literature.

This course is an exploration of those factors that have shaped and been shaped by people of African descent in the United States from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Some of the issues we will examine are: the impact of industrial and technological development on black Americans, the African-American educational experience, leadership in the black community, the evolution and impact of ideologies from integration to Black Nationalism, the African-American urban experience, the cultural life of the community in the era of the Harlem Renaissance, and the modern Civil Rights Movement and its aftermath.

The student’s grade for the course shall be based on a midterm examination (33 1/3%), a twelve-page interpretive essay on a topic of the student’s choice within the field and course chronology (33 1/3%), and a comprehensive final examination (33 1/3%). Contribution to discussion will count for extra credit. A community-service project, and a ten-page summary of it, may be done in lieu of the term paper.
This course explores, in relation to Latin America and the Caribbean, the respective causes, patterns, and consequences of migrant and refugee flows (two interconnected, but distinct aspects of world migration), and how they are affected by national and international policy. Both refugees and migrants sometimes resort to paying dubious intermediaries (called “coyotes” in Central America and Mexico or “snake heads” in Asia) to help them reach their destinations. In so doing, they may fall prey to traffickers and thus become victims of human trafficking, which exists quite independently from migration and refugee flows and is studied as a separate phenomenon in its own terms. In examining the latter phenomenon and national responses to it, it is important to differentiate between law-enforcement and victim-centered approaches thereto.

The majority of the human population is in poverty and yet it is uncommon even for those who study development and development aid to spend much time thinking about what it means to be poor or indeed how endemic deprivation affects society on a broader level. Poverty is, on the whole, considered to be a condition that affects only the poor themselves and not an issue that affects the daily lives and political structures of society at large, especially in wealthy societies such as the United States. In this course, using examples from Africa, Latin America, and the United States, students will explore the meanings and realities of poverty, not only for the destitute themselves, but indeed also for the societies they inhabit by fostering a culture of poverty that can affect even those who are well-off.

In this course, students will see how the poor have survival strategies in common across borders and ethnic divides. We will also look at common causes for impoverishment in different regions of the world, and analyze how widespread poverty in and of itself affect the economic, social, and political development of the communities most afflicted, whether on a societal or local level. We will see how the poor are regularly and unflinchingly discriminated against by those who are better off—even in our enlightened society and century. Likewise, we will look at correlations between poverty and ethnic difference both at home and abroad.

The general questions to answer during this course include: How do we define and measure poverty? What are the causes and consequences of poverty? What does it mean to be poor, e.g. in terms of mental and physical health, but also in terms of outlook, planning, and decision making? How does the culture of poverty affect communities, including those who are not themselves poor? What are the survival strategies of the poor and how do they affect the political and social development of the broader society? How do prejudice, racism, and poverty intersect? What are effective modes and methods to combat poverty? Students will participate in bottom up strategies for combating poverty in greater Miami, which has one of the highest poverty ratios in the United States.
MCY 124: Evolution of Jazz  
Instructor: Charles Bergeron  
Section S: T-R 3:30–4:45 P.M.

A study of the origin, development, and styles of jazz music and its exponents.

MCY 127: Evolution of Rock  
Instructor: Charles Bergeron  
Section R: T-R 2:00–3:15 P.M.

Rock music from its sources to the present. Aural recognition of rock styles and selected performing artists are included.

REL 300: Race and Religion  
Instructor: Michelle Maldonado  
Section FG: M-W 1:25-2:40 P.M.

This course will examine the role of race and ethnicity within the discipline of religious studies. We will emphasize the manner in which racial and ethnic identity have contributed to religious identity, and the way in which religion has functioned within the struggles of racially and ethnically marginalized peoples. This course will be focus on the Americas and draw from diverse racial, ethnic, and religious traditions.

REL 370: Islam in Modern Times  
*Explorations in Film, Media, and Music*  
Instructor: Amanullah De Sondy  
Section JX: M 5:00-7:40 P.M.

SOC 303: Social Inequalities  
Instructor: George Wilson  
Section Q: T-R12:30-1:45 P.M.

Social ranking by class, status, and power. Stratification by age, sex or minority group membership.
SOC352:  Sport and Society  
Instructor: Jomills Braddock  
Section O: T-R 9:30-10:45 A.M.  

Sport as an expression of, and shaper of U.S. society; cross cultural and historical comparisons; specialization, player rights, violence, and the "winning" psychology.

SOC387:  Race and Ethnic Relations  
Instructor: Jomills Braddock  
Section P: T-R 11:00 a.m.-12:15 P.M.  

The influence of racial distinctions on individual and social behavior.

SOC491:  SPECIAL TOPICS  
The Black Ghetto and Urban Society  
Instructor: Marvin Dawkins  
Section R:  T-R 2:00-3:15 P.M.
Director: Dr. Edmund Abaka
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