AFRICANA STUDIES

Fall 2009

COURSE BOOKLET

Barack Obama

Director: Dr. Edmund Abaka
e_abaka@miami.edu
Room V Student Services
Building 21, Locator Code 5505
Phone: (305) 284-6340/2017
http://www.as.miami.edu/africanastudies/

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 – History of the Caribbean

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

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AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies  
Instructor: Patti Rose  
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 the Atlantic Slave Trade  
Instructor: Marten Brienen  
Section P: T-R 11:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M.  

DESCRIPTION OF THIS COURSE  
This course is intended as a broad look at the emergence and eventual destruction of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its effects on both the Old World and the New. Using a variety of sources, we will examine the traditions and existing system of unfree labor that allowed for the development of one of the greatest forced migrations in the history of man. We will look at the economics of the slave trade, discovering how the emergence of the “Triangular Trade” affected the economies of Europe, Africa, and the Americas. In addition, we will learn about the human aspect of the trade; tracing the voyages made from the interior of Africa to a variety of destinations in the Americas over the “Middle Passage.” We will learn about both the mechanics of the trade and the socio-cultural consequences. We will attempt to discover the many ways in which those subjected to a life in bondage found ways not only to preserve their cultural heritage but also resisted their masters. Ultimately, of course, we will trace the slow demise of the Atlantic slave trade, to finally turn our gaze to the effects it has had on the societies it touched.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION  
Attendance is mandatory. Inform your instructor ahead of class to be excused. Likewise, participation is mandatory. This includes reading the assigned readings prior to coming to class, fulfilling your obligations in terms of papers and other prepared work, and participating actively in the classroom itself. Please note: a total of three or more unexcused absences will be grounds to fail this class.

REQUIREMENTS  
Students will be expected to write one final paper, no less than 12 pages in length and no more than 15 pages in length. There will be a take-home midterm at a date to be announced. There will be a final exam.

AAS 490: Senior Seminar in African American Studies  
Women in the African Diaspora  
Instructor: Patti Rose  
Section O: T-R 9:30 A.M.-10:45 P.M.
The purpose of this course is to explore African Women from Antiquity to the present. Throughout the course, through lecture, readings, film, music and discussion, students will become familiar with the development and writing of the history of women of the African diaspora. Key women will be discussed including but not limited to Michele Obama, Winnie Mandela, Oprah Winfrey, Madame C.J. Walker, Harriet Tubman, Angela Davis, Maya Angelou, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Mary Mcloud Bethune, Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, Angela Davis, Rubie Dee, Althea Gibson, Lorraine Hansberry, Bell Hooks, Billie Holiday, Toni Morrison, Edmonia Lewis, Miriam Makeba, Nefertiti, Hashepsut, Saartjie Baartman, Josephine Baker, Cesara Evora, Cathy Freeman. Students will understand their specific contributions as well as participate in an analysis of socio-political, historical, artistic, cultural and psychological aspects of these women throughout history.

ENG 260: African-American Literature
Instructor: Lindsey Tucker
Section P: T-R 11:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

This course surveys African American literature from the post-Civil War period through the 20th century. After exploring the narratives of Douglas and Jacobs we will go on to examine the literature of the New Negro Renaissance, where we will read such writers as McKay, Hurston, Cullen and Hughes. We will spend the latter half of the course working with writers such as Wright and Ellison, who emerged in the 1940s, and then go on to explore the impact of the Black Arts movement of the sixties on more contemporary writers such as Morrison, Marshall, Johnson, Walker and Danticat.

Requirements: there will be a mid-term, a final, and two short papers of about 5-7 pages.

Text: The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, 2nd ed.

Prerequisite: ENG 106 or equivalent.

ENG 360: Comparative Literature of the Black World
Writing, Culture, & Politics in South Africa
Instructor: Brenna Munro
Section F: M-W-F 1:25-2:15 P.M.

This class will look at South African texts from the years of resistance to apartheid to today’s complicated, lively, multiracial democracy. We will be examining a range of literature in the context of history, politics, and other cultural forms—from music to performance poetry. This class is a chance to read some amazingly varied texts, learn about a country that transformed itself, and think about the relationship between art and politics. Writers we will be examining include Phaswane Mpe, Zakes Mda, J.M. Coetzee, Marlene van Niekerk, Mongane Wally Serote, and the Workshop 71 Theatre Company.

Prerequisite: Three credits in literature.

ENG 374: Women Writers
Caribbean Women Writers
Instructor: Sandra Paquet
Section R: T-R 2:00-3:15 P.M.

This course is a comparative study of women writers from the Caribbean and the Caribbean Diaspora. We will read a selection of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction written in English, and also translated into English from French and Spanish. Through a combination of lectures, discussion, and writing assignments, we will explore issues of race, class, gender, migration, ethnicity and national identity in the texts selected.
Texts: These will include Julia Alvarez’ *In the Time of the Butterflies*, Edwidge Danticat’s *The Farming of Bones*, Maryse Condé’s *Tales from the Heart*, Cristina García’s *Dreaming in Cuban*, Olive Senior’s *Gardening in the Tropics*, Lorna Goodison’s *Harvey River*, Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming’s *Curry Flavour*, and Jamaica Kincaid’s *Annie John*.

Requirements: These include regular attendance, class participation, online quizzes, two papers, and a final exam.

Prerequisite: Three credits in literature.

ENG 487: Modern African-American Literature
*Trauma and the Contemporary Slave Narrative*
Instructor: Lindsey Tucker
Section O: T-R 9:30 - 10:45 A.M.

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.

Texts:
- Butler, *Kindred* (1997);
- D’Aguiar, *Feeding the Ghosts* (1997);
- Jones, *Corregidora* (1975);
- Johnson, *Middle Passage* (1990);
- Kenan, “Let the Dead Bury Their Dead” (1992);
- Morrison, *Beloved* (1988);

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

Prerequisites: Six credits in literature.

ENG 490: Studies in Women and Literature (Honors)
*Black Women, Writing and Identity: Gender and Hemispheric Shifts*
Instructor: Sandra Paquet
Section P: T-R 11:00 A.M. -12:15 P.M.

African American and Caribbean American identities are interconnected yet distinct ethnic categories in Black women’s writing. We will explore their diverse yet overlapping representations of race and ethnicity, cultural difference, and the prerogatives of minority discourse as they are represented in the select works of fiction, autobiography, travel and ethnography.

**Requirements:** Regular attendance, class participation, several short position papers, and one 10-page research paper

**Prerequisites:** Six credits in literature.

**HIS 200: Africa in Cuba and Cuba in Africa**
*From the Slave Trade to the Cuban Internationalist Missions in Africa – Congo, Angola, Mozambique, etc.*

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.

**HIS 209: African-American History To 1877**

Instructor: Donald Spivey

Section KY: W 6:25-9:05 P.M.

The course this semester focuses on the themes of "African retention" and “Black self-assertion” as we examine the history of people of African descent in the United States from African roots through the emergence of the Jim Crow era. Special attention is given to such topics as the African connection, resistance, the slave trade and slavery, the black experience in colonial New England, black abolitionism and the Civil War, African-American leaders, the all-black towns of the West, and African-American culture including music, food, and sports. The reading list, as usual, is extensive and engaging. The format of the course consists of lectures with designated periods for class discussion of the readings. Lectures are supplemented with slides and tapes from the instructor's vast collection. The student’s grade for the course shall be based on a midterm examination (25%), five book reviews (50%; 10% each), and a comprehensive final examination (25%). All examinations are of the essay variety. Contribution to class discussion will count for extra credit.

**HIS 318: Modern Caribbean History**

Instructor: Katherine Ramsey

Section F: M-W-F 1:25-2:15 P.M.
This course will introduce students to major topics, debates, and themes in Caribbean history from the late eighteenth century to the present day. We will begin with the Haitian Revolution and its far-reaching effects across the Atlantic world and beyond. Major areas of focus thereafter include the expansion of the sugarcane economy and slavery in Cuba; the anti-slavery struggles of international abolition groups and enslaved people themselves; emancipation across the British, French, Dutch, and Spanish Caribbean colonies; large-scale social movements of the formerly enslaved and their descendants over land, labor, and political representation; the impact and experience of Indian, Chinese, and African immigration to post-emancipation Caribbean societies as indentured workers; the so-called Spanish-American War of 1898 and the United States’ increasing influence and intervention in the region as an imperial power, focusing on the occupations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic; the popularity and significance of Marcus Garvey’s Universal Negro Improvement Association across the region in the 1920s; the impact of WWII in the Caribbean; the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic; Cuba under Batista and the 1959 Revolution that brought Castro to power; the Duvalier regime in Haiti; decolonization and political independence in the former British Caribbean; the Rastafarian and Black Power movements during the 1960s and early 1970s; the histories of the “status question” in parts of the Caribbean that have not achieved—or necessarily sought—indepependence from colonial powers; Caribbean migration and diaspora, with a focus on Puerto Rican “transnationalism”; the history and politics of debt, dependency, and development, and the impact of tourism. Throughout the course, students will be challenged to recognize the modern Caribbean’s diversity, while at the same time thinking comparatively and synthetically about the region’s political, economic, social, and cultural histories.

**MCY 124: Evolution of Jazz**  
Instructor: Charles Bergeron  
*Section R: T-R 2:00–3:15 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 Q: T-R 12:30–1:45 P.M.*  
Rock music from its sources to the present. Aural recognition of rock styles and selected performing artists are included.

**MCY 211: African-American Song Traditions**  
Instructor: Willa Collins  
*Section S: T-R 3:30–4:45 P.M.*  
A study of origins, development, and styles of African-American song traditions from early plantation songs, shouts, hollers, and spirituals to the development of blues tradition to gospel. Areas to be explored include the development of an African-American consciousness and the political and socio-economic influences on the content and musical styles.

**MCY 311: Modern American Pop Music I**  
Instructor: Willa Collins  
*Section R: T-R 2:00–3:15 P.M.*
A study of the development and styles of American Popular Music from the late 1950s to the late 1970s. Areas to be explored include influential songwriters and performers and stylistic development in their political and socio-economic context.

SOC 398: Race and Ethnic Relations
Instructor: Jomills Braddock
Section 0: T-R 9:30-10:45 A.M.

The influence of racial distinctions on individual and social behavior.
Please check myUM for room assignments

Harriet Tubman Movie Series
See website for details

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