

## African-American Studies

*Faculty:* Dickinson, *Chair:* Evans, Fisher, Williams

The Department of African-American Studies is dedicated to high educational goals and to scholarship and research regarding all persons of African origin. It is the objective of the department to disseminate information about such persons to students and members of the educational and adjacent communities.

The curriculum is structured to provide students with optimum exposure to black humanity as it relates to academics, research, and culture.

The ultimate goal of the Department of African-American Studies is to expand the horizons of all students in their quest for knowledge about Africa, Africans, and people of African ancestry as well as those students who will serve universally as leaders, scholars, and builders of their respective communities.

A minor consisting of 18 credits is currently offered.

Awards are presented annually to outstanding students in the department.

### African-American Studies Minor

#### Required Courses:

AAS 201/African and Diaspora Religious Traditions

*or*

AFAM 202/Global Perspectives:

African Diaspora Arts and Culture 3/4

AFAM 205/African-American History to 1865 3

AFAM 206/African-American History Since 1865 3

Options (by advisement) 9

**Total 18/19**

### COURSES (updated 11/5/03)

#### **AAS 201/African and Diaspora Religious Traditions 4cr.**

(annually)

Philosophy and Religion, Non-Western

This course chronicles the religious traditions of African, Caribbean, Latin American, and African American people by exploring the links among indigenous African religious beliefs, values, rituals, and worldview, and the practices extant throughout the African Diaspora. The ways in which African religions have informed global preservations of an African worldview and the worldview's subsequent fusion with African, European and American Islam and Christianity will be emphasized.

#### **AFAM 202/Global Perspectives: African Diaspora 3 cr.**

##### **Arts and Culture**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

This course chronicles the artistic expressions of African, Caribbean, Latin American, and African-American people by exploring the links among indigenous African religious values, rituals and worldview, and the visual arts, musical, literary, and dramatic practices created throughout the African diaspora. The ways in which African religions have informed global artistic preservations of an African worldview and the worldview's fusion with European and American cultures will be emphasized.

#### **AAS 205/African-American History to 1865 4 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(annually)

same as HIS379

History, Western

An examination of the history of African Americans from their ancestral home in Africa to the end of the United States Civil War. The course encompasses introducing the cultures and civilizations of the African people prior to the opening up of the New World and exploring black contributions to America up to 1865.

#### **AAS 206/African-American History Since 1865 4 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(annually)

same as HIS380

History, Western

An examination of the history of African Americans from the end of legal slavery in the United States to the civil rights revolution of the 1950s and 1960s. The course is designed to explore the history of African Americans since the Reconstruction and their contributions to the civil rights revolution of the present era.

**AFAM 207/The History of Pre-Colonial Africa** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(annually)

A general survey of the history of Africa from the earliest times to the beginning of the European “scramble” for the African continent.

**AFAM 208/History of Africa Since 1870** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(annually)

A survey of Africa from the period of the European “scramble” to the present. European colonization, African reaction to colonial rule, and independent Africa.

**AFAM 210/Great Lives in African-American History I** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

A biographical study of eminent African Americans before the Civil War.

**AFAM 211/Great Lives in African-American History II** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

A biographical study of eminent African Americans since the Civil War.

**AFAM 220/Honors African Diaspora Religions and Culture** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

An introductory humanities survey that will explore the Caribbean, Latin America, and North America. The centrality of African religious values and worldview to the sacred and secular expressions of the four locales, African religion’s fusion with the cultural norms of Europe and the Americas, and the interrelationship of these values to African people’s “quest for freedom” will be stressed.

**AFAM 223/Survey of African-American Poetry I** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

A survey of black poetry to the Harlem Renaissance era.

**AFAM 225/Survey of African-American Poetry II** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

A survey of black poetry from the Harlem Renaissance era to present. A continuation of Survey of African-American Poetry I.

**AFAM 235/Image of African-Americans in American Film** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(annually)

A survey of the images of African Americans as presented in American film. Emphasizes the viewing of a selected number of works which depict various types of movie-myth African Americans.

**AAS 240/Studies in Black Music** 4 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(annually)

Same as MUS 245

Fine or Performing Arts

An introduction to the major innovators in various forms of African-American music. The course will concentrate on jazz, sacred music, African-American composers of classical music, and popular art forms. Field trips may be required at student expense.

**AFAM 243/History of African-American Theater** 3 cr.  
(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

An analysis of the historical development of African-American theater beginning in the 1820s and tracing its progress to the present; particular emphasis on contemporary innovations. The establishment of the relationship between Black/American theater and African culture. Field trips may be required at student expense.

**AFAM 244/Workshop in African-American Theater 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

Continuation of AFAM 243. Students become actively involved in the mechanics of the theater. Field trips may be required at student expense.

**AFAM 246/African Art History 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

The history of traditional arts in sub-Saharan Africa with emphasis upon how these arts were affected by colonialism. Field trips may be required at student expense.

**AFAM 247/African-American Art History 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

The contributions of African Americans to the visual arts, with special references to the influence of social and political factors. Field trips may be required at student expense.

**AFAM 248/African-American Music 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

A survey of African-American music as a social document. The types of music discussed in the course include Negro spirituals, the work song, blues and jazz, various forms of religious music, and popular music. Field trips may be required at student expense.

**AFAM 249/African-American Folklore 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

A survey of the roots of African-American folk heroes, music, and other literary traditions since slavery.

**AFAM 251/Harlem Renaissance 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(annually)

A survey of the philosophical, political, literary, and artistic activities and celebrated figures from the Harlem Renaissance era, 1920 to 1935.

**AAS 280/Africana Women in Historical Perspective 4 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(annually)

Same as WGS 260

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences—Content, Gender, Non-Western

A global and cross-cultural survey of the lives and contributions of women of Africana ancestry. Emphasis will be placed upon the shared elements of African culture that, when impacted by colonialism and/or the Atlantic slave trade, resulted in similar types of resistance to oppression and analogous cultural expression among the women of four locales: Africa, South America and the Caribbean, and Europe. Theoretical methodologies, historical narrative, literature, demographic data, material culture, representations of self, and representations by others will be explored to illuminate/explain the: history, cultural artifacts, cultural retentions and, self concept.

**AFAM 282/History of Race Relations in the United States 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(occasionally)

Social Science Content, Western

A socio-historical examination of race as a category in the United States. The course approaches the United States as a multiracial society and discusses how the various racial groups negotiate their differences politically, economically, intellectually, socially, and culturally.

**AFAM 300/The Writings of W.E.B. Du Bois 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)  
(annually)

in some years may be the same as ENGL 428, SOCL 325  
Literature or History

This is an interdisciplinary seminar on the life, publications, philosophy, and impact of William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1869–1963). Particular attention will be accorded to Du Bois' methods and uses of scholarship and argumentation, which continue to inform debates about race, race relations, and the politics of knowledge formation and dissemination.

**AFAM 321/Early African-American Literature 3 cr.**

(same as ENGL 225)

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

*Prerequisite:* Rhetoric I/WRI 102

A survey of African-American literature from slavery to World War II.

**AFAM 322/Contemporary African-American Literature 3 cr.**

(same as ENGL 226)

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

*Prerequisite:* Rhetoric I/WRI 102

A survey of African-American literature since World War II.

**AFAM 352/African Folklore 3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

A survey of African folklore with particular reference to the folklore of the people of Africa south of the Sahara.

**AFAM 360/Topics in Africana Studies 3 cr.**

(occasionally) FY Seminar Pilot Courses, Sp 2004, Requests

Focuses on different topics of significance to the African diaspora, e.g., seminar on James Baldwin, Africana writers, etc. May be repeated as topic/instructor varies.

**AAS 375/Womanist Thought**

**4 cr.**

(annually)

(same as WGS 365 Womanist Thought)

(prerequisite /AAS 280/AFAM280 WGS260/WGST280/ Africana Women in Historical Perspective, or WGS375/WGST 330/Global Feminisms , or by permission of the instructor)

This course traces the evolution of feminist consciousness among Africana women. Students will trace the thoughts, social and political activism and ideologies generated by women of African ancestry from the early 19th Century free black "feminist abolitionists" to contemporary times. "Womanist," "Feminist," "Critical Race Feminist," and "Black Feminist" ideologies will be emphasized through course readings and assignments that explore the emergence and perpetuation of an Africana women's feminist consciousness.

**AFAM 476/Honors in Africana Studies 3 cr.**

(occasionally)

*Prerequisites:* HONR 220, HONR 243, or by invitation

Special projects for those in the Honors Program and for other highly qualified students. For more information, see the department chair.

**AFAM 477/Honors in Africana Studies 6 cr.**

(occasionally)

*Prerequisites:* HONR 220, HONR 243, or by invitation

Special projects for those in the Honors Program and for other highly qualified students. For more information, see the department chair.

**AFAM 498/Seminar in African-American Studies 3 cr.**

(annually)

*Prerequisite:* Permission of department

Attention is directed toward various topics that relate to problems and solutions as they apply to people of African descent. Written and oral presentations are required. (May be repeated for credit as topics change.)

**AFAM 499/Independent Study in African-American Studies 1–5 cr.**

(annually)

Research on a topic involving African, African-American and/or Caribbean life, culture and/or history under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of African-American Studies.

**SOCL 315/Racism, Power, and Privilege 3 cr.**

(See Sociology for description.)

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