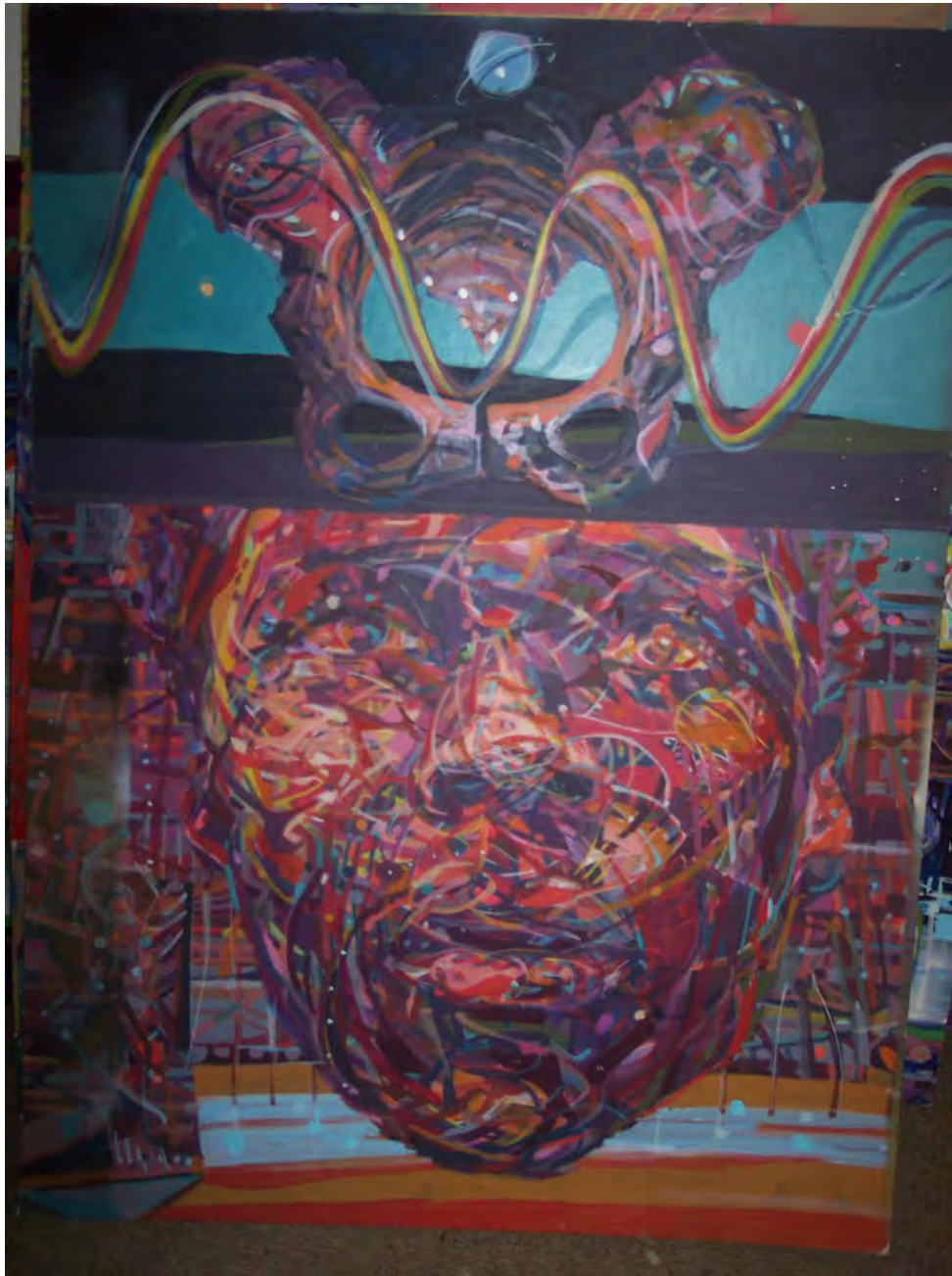


FALL 2010

W.E.B. Du Bois Department of
Afro-American Studies



Art by Nelson Stevens

Course Description Guide

Undergraduate & Graduate

AFROAM 101. Introduction to Black Studies**Instructor: Ernest Gibson****TuTh 1:00-2:15 p.m.**

Interdisciplinary introduction to the basic concepts and literature in the disciplines covered by Black Studies. Includes history, the social sciences, and humanities as well as conceptual frameworks for investigation and analysis of Black history and culture.

AFROAM 117. Survey of Afro-American Literature**Professor Tracy****MW 9:05-9:55 a.m. (lecture)****W 12:20, F 12:20, F 1:25 (discussion sections)**

The major figures and themes in Afro-American literature, analyzing specific works in detail and surveying the early history of Afro-American literature. What the slave narratives, poetry, short stories, novels, drama, and folklore of the period reveal about the social, economic, psychological, and artistic lives of the writers and their characters, both male and female. Explores the conventions of each of these genres in the period under discussion to better understand the relation of the material to the dominant traditions of the time and the writers' particular contributions to their own art. (Gen.Ed. AL, U)

AFROAM 132. African-American History 1619-1860**Professor Sinha****MW 3:35-4:25 p.m. (lecture)****M 1:25, M 2:30, W 1:25, W 2:30, F 1:25, F 2:30 (discussion sections)**

Overview of the history of African-Americans from the development of colonial slavery and the rise of African-American communities and culture. African background; Black protest tradition including abolitionism; the distinct experience of Black women. (Gen.Ed. HS, U)

AFROAM 151. Literature & Culture**Professor Smethurst****TuTh 8:00-9:15 a.m. (lecture)****Tue 1:00, Thu 1:00, F 10:10, F 11:15 (discussion sections)**

Relevant forms of Black cultural expressions contributing to the shape and character of contemporary Black culture; the application of these in traditional Black writers. Includes West African cultural patterns and the Black past; the transition-slavery, the culture of survival; the cultural patterns through literature; and Black perceptions versus white perceptions. (Gen.Ed. AL, U)

AFROAM 155. Revolutionary Concepts in Afro-American Music I**Professor Allen****TuTh 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**

Introduction to history of Black music from its African origins to the end of the 19th century. (Gen.Ed. AT, U)

AFROAM 161. Introduction to Afro-American Political Science**Professor Strickland****TuTh 11:15 – 12:30 p.m.**

A survey of the politics of black people and their struggle for citizenship rights from 1787 to the present. The history of black political development and the theories to which it has given rise; and the two party struggles since the passage of 1965 Voting Rights Act--such as the rise of the Republican Right, Jesse Jackson's two 1980's presidential campaigns and the 2008 path-breaking election of Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States. (Gen.Ed. SB, U)

AFROAM 191A. African American Short Stories**Professor Jimoh****TuTh 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.**

Students in this course will receive an introduction to the African American short story and to the major themes, issues, concepts, as well as the literary techniques and forms prevalent in African American literature.

AFROAM 191B. African American Literature of the 1950s**Professor Smethurst****TuTh 11:15 – 12:30 p.m.**

An examination of African American literature and culture from onset of the Great Depression until the end of World War II. It will engage a range of cultural forms, including the visual arts, music, theater, and film as well as literature. It will also investigate the political and social context out which these cultural forms grew. Finally, it will consider such generic questions as the relation of black cultural production to artistic movements, including modernism, proletarian literature, social realism, and naturalism, and to popular and high culture representations of African Americans and African American culture.

AFROAM 236. History of the Civil Rights Movement**Professor Shabazz****MW 8:00 – 8:50 a.m. (lecture)****M 10:10, M 11:15, W 10:10, W 11:15, F 10:10, F 11:15 (discussion sections)**

Examination of the Civil Rights Movement from the Brown v. Topeka decision to the rise of Black power. All the major organizations of the period, e.g., SCLC, SNCC, CORE, NAACP, and the Urban League. The impact on white students and the anti-war movement. (Gen.Ed. HS, U)

AFROAM 254. Introduction to African Studies**Professor Morrison****TuTh 4:00 -5:15 p.m.**

Introduction to Africa from an interdisciplinary perspective. The chronological sequence from pre-history to contemporary times. Political development and processes, the arts, ethnography, social structures, and economies. (Gen.Ed. HS, G)

AFROAM 326. Black Women in U.S. History**Professor Bracey****Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.**

The history of African American women from the experience of slavery to the present. Emphasis on the effect of racist institutions and practices on women. The ways in which women organized themselves to address the needs of African Americans in general and their own in particular. The achievements of such leaders as Mary Church Terrell, Harriet Tubman, Ella Baker, and Mary McLeod Bethune as well as lesser known women. (Gen.Ed. HS, U)

AFROAM 331. Life and Writings of W.E.B. Du Bois**Professor Strickland****TuTh 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

Examination of the life and thought of perhaps America's greatest intellectual activist and one of Massachusetts' native sons. Microfilm research in the Du Bois archives in the Tower Library. (Gen.Ed. U)

AFROAM 365. Composition: Style & Organization**Instructor: Richard Hall****TuTh 1:00-2:15 p.m.**

Expository writing focusing primarily on argumentative and narrative essays. Discussion and practice of logic—inductive and deductive reasoning—as it relates to the argumentative essay form. Topics as thesis on main idea, organization, style, unity, supporting evidence, avoiding logical fallacies, and basic writing mechanics, including constructing sentences, paragraphing, transitions, and correct grammar.

AFROAM 392A. Songbirds, Blues Women and Soul Women**Professor Jimoh****TuTh 11:15 – 12:30 p.m.**

The focus for this course is the cultural, political, and social issues found in the music and history of African American women performers. The primary emphasis in the course will be on African American women in Jazz, Blues, and Soul/R&B, but students also will study African American women composers as well as Spiritual-Gospel and Opera performers.

AFROAM 397B. Native Americans & African Americans**Professor Brace and Joyce Vincent****W 7:00-9:30 p.m.**

Explores numerous levels and terms of the encounter between Native Americans and Blacks, including native tribal identity, Black identity, famous people of mixed ancestry, contested identities, Native Americans in jazz and pop music. Native and Black cultural traditions in intermarriage, Native Americans as slaves, slavery and freedmen, "free colored" communities, decoding historical documents, tribal legacy assertions, "triracials," and the impact of mixed ancestry on both Black and native communities.

AFROAM 591A. Gender in Pan-African Studies**Professor Morrison****Wednesdays 12:00 -2:30 p.m.**

This course reviews the historical literature related to the social construction of masculinity and femininity for African and African-descended peoples. The course compares the ways gendered notions of family, community, and nation have impacted local and international projects of black liberation. In addition to the U.S. and Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America will be important regions of consideration.

AFROAM 691C. Historiographical Methods in Afro-American Studies**Professor Allen****Thursdays 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

This course will introduce you to some of the basics of what it means to read, think, and write as an historian. We will explore what historians do and why as well as the "objectivity question," the development of African American history as an academic discipline, and one or two current controversies. We also will learn how to locate and use the resources of the Du Bois Library such as microforms, government documents, the papers of W.E.B. Du Bois, on-line indices and collections, as well as those of such important national repositories such as the Library of Congress, the Moorland-Spangarn Collection at Howard University and the Schomburg Center of the N.Y. Public Library.

AFROAM 753. Special Topics in Afro-American Literature & Culture**Professor Tracy****Mondays 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

For graduate students only. An intensive study of the history of the blues. The nature of blues music and lyrics in an African and African American social, political, and musical context, and the use of the blues tradition in literature. No reading knowledge of music required or expected.