FALL 2016
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, 3 credits
Instructor: Carlyn Ferrari
TuTh 5:30 - 6:45 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 I, 4 credits, (ALU)
Professor Rusert
Lecture: MW 10:10 - 11:00 a.m.  Discussions:  F 10:10 or F 11:15
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.

AFROAM 132. African-American History: 1619-1860, 4 credits, (HSU)
Instructor TBA
Lecture: MW 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.  Discussions:  F 10:10 or F 11:15
The main aim of this course is to make you familiar with some of the most important developments and issues in African American history until the Civil War. We will focus on the black experience under slavery and the struggle for emancipation. Topics include the Atlantic slave trade, evolution of African American communities and culture, the free black community, the distinct experience of black women, and the black protest tradition. The format of the course is lecture supplemented by class discussions.

AFROAM 151. Literature & Culture, 4 credits, (ALU)
Instructor: Nadia Alahmed
Lecture: TuTh 11:30 – 12:45 p.m.
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.

AFROAM 161. Intro to African American Political Science, 3 credits, (SBU)
Professor Losier
TuTh 11:30 – 12:45 p.m.
Survey of the politics of the Black community in the U.S. The history of Black political development, major theories which explain Black political life, social, economic, psychological and institutional environment from which Black politics flows. Attention paid to 1988 presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson and its relevance to the 2008 election of Barack Obama.

AFROAM 192F. Freshman Survival Techniques, 1 credit
Instructor: Doris Clemmons
Thursdays 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.
The focus of this course is academic and social adjustment to the University community. This course will also explore how to cope with life issues. Course Objectives: To make academic excellence the #1 priority; to provide first-year students with tips on how to succeed academically; to help first-year students adjust academically and socially to the campus; to explore various topics that deal with academics and life issues; to provide first year students with internships, co-ops and summer employment opportunities; and, to match first year students with peer mentors and academic advisors.
AFROAM 197A. Taste of Honey: Black Film, Part I, 1 credit
Professor Bracey
Thursdays 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
This course will take you on a historical journey exploring the roles of African American men and women highlighting their contributions and struggles in the American movie industry. Students will learn about the ground breaking movies, roles and actors who helped pave the way for a future generation while breaking down racial barriers to tell the story of the African American experience. In this course you will enjoy a great selection of movies that explore a variety of topics in multiple genres such as race, gender and stereotypes while reflecting on how these characteristics are portrayed in drama, comedy, musicals, crime, biographies and action movies.

AFROAM 222. The Black Church in the U.S., 3 credits
Professor Shabazz
TuTh 11:30 – 12:45 pm.
Survey of West African religions. The development of the Black Christian Church in its visible and "invisible" institutional forms during the colonial period, and the merging of these two branches, free and slave, following the Civil War. Also the emergence of Holiness and Pentecostal sects, the impact of urban migrations on black spiritual expression, the Black Church and civil rights, gender issues, and the recent challenge of Islam.

AFROAM 234. Literature of the Harlem Renaissance, 4 credits, (ALU)
Professor Tracy
Lecture: MW 9:05 – 9:55 a.m. Discussion: F 9:05 or F 10:10
Exploration of the cultural explosion also termed the New Negro movement, from W.E.B. Du Bois through the early work of Richard Wright. Essays, poetry, and fiction, and the blues, jazz, and folklore of the time examined in terms of how Harlem Renaissance artists explored their spiritual and cultural roots, dealt with gender issues, sought artistic aesthetic and style adequate to reflect such concerns. Readings supplemented by contemporary recordings, visual art, and videos.

AFROAM 236. History of the Civil Rights Movement, 4 credits, (HSU)
Professor Parker
Lecture: MW 11:15 – 12:05 p.m. Discussion: F 11:15 or F 12:20
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.

AFROAM 264. Foundations of Black Education in the U.S., 3 credits, (HSU)
Professor Francis
TuTh 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
The education of blacks from Reconstruction to 1954. Includes public schools, colleges, and non-school education. The involvement of religious associations, philanthropic organizations, the Freedman’s Bureau, the Black church, and the Federal Government will also be discussed.

AFROAM 265. The Blues Came Down Like Dark Night Showers of Rain, 3 credits (ATU)
Professor Tracy
MW 11:15 – 12:30 p.m.
A comprehensive exploration of the African American musical genre known as the blues, including definitions; African and African American roots; social, psychological, and spiritual uses; common and uncommon themes and images; music and lyric structures; regional and chronological stylistic variations; and employment in African American literature. Includes live performances and a wide variety of recordings, films, and videos. No prior knowledge of the blues or reading knowledge of music required.

AFROAM 326. Black Women in U.S. History, 3 credits, (HSU)
Professor Parker
MW 2:30 – 3:45 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.
AFROAM 365. Composition: Style & Organization, 3 credits
Instructor TBA
TuTh 11:30 – 12:45 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 392C. Songbirds, Blueswomen and Soulwomen, 3 credits
Professor Jimoh
Thursdays 4:00 – 6:30 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 395G. Peer Leadership and Facilitation, 3 credits
Instructor: Doris Clemmons
Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.
This is the second part of a two-semester course that is designed to help upper-class (junior and senior) students’ focus on developing leadership and outreach skills. The course will enable upperclassmen to work directly with newly entering first semester’s students and to help them facilitate the transitional process from high school to college. Students in the class will serve as Peer Leaders to assist first year students form effective study groups; learn how to study for exams and how to manage their time more effectively. Peer leaders are required to keep assigned office hours and to make regular appointments with their mentees. They also are expected to work as a team within small groups to prepare and present their research projects to first year students. They are expected to team teach discussion groups within a freshmen transition class and to prepare and critique their own weekly classroom presentations. They are expected to keep a weekly activities log on their assigned student mentees.

AFROAM 494DI. Du Bois Senior Seminar, 3 credits (Integrative Education Course for AfroAm Seniors& Juniors)
Professor Rusert
Tuesdays 11:30 – 1:25 p.m.
This course builds on the intellectual, activist, and cultural-criticism traditions promoted by Massachusetts-born, African-American polymath W.E.B. Du Bois to fulfill the Gen. Ed. Integrative Experience requirement. The course asks students to consider the evolution of their academic, personal, and professional goals in relation to their previous coursework both inside and outside Afro-American Studies and the university’s Gen. Ed. curriculum. Particular attention will be placed on the social justice and cultural knowledge aspects of African American Studies. Department majors may use course writing assignments as the foundation for a subsequent senior research project.
AFROAM 691C. Historiographical Methods in Afro-American Studies, 4 credits
Professor Bracey
Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:30 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-Spingarn Collection at Howard University and the Schomburg Center of the N.Y. Public Library.

AFROAM 691L. The Black Arts Movement, 4 credits
Professor Smethurst
Thursdays 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
This course will examine the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s in its many manifestations, including literature, theater, music, and the visual arts. A particular focus of the course will be the ways in which domestic and international political movements (e.g., Civil Rights, Black Power, and anti-colonial) intersected with Black Arts, deeply influencing the formal and thematic choices of African American artists. Much attention will be paid to the distinctive regional variations of the movement as well as to the ways in which Black Arts fundamentally changed how art is produced and received in the United States.

AFROAM 691N. Critical Race Theories, 4 credits
Professor Jimoh
Tuesdays 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Participants in this seminar, Critical Race Theories, will examine the general foundational ideas and concepts shaping today’s now proliferating scholarly enquiries that operate under the term critical race theories. While the basis for today’s critical race theories developed from Critical Legal Studies and Critical Race Theory in legal scholarship, many scholars from a variety of disciplines have transformed for their own contexts the insights that have informed legal scholarship in this area. An understanding of the entrenched racial structures in the United States and their basis in the social contract informing much of Western culture is especially useful for reading and analyzing a substantial portion of African American literature. Seminar participants will read early documents (The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, The Constitution of the United States of America, The Bill of Rights, Emancipation Proclamation, the Reconstruction Amendments) together with texts by historical figures, philosophers, and others who have shaped or have responded to systems of race in the United States (Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Banneker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, Immanuel Kant, David Hume, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and others) texts on theories of race (Smedley, Frederickson, Eze and others), and legal as well as literary, political, and philosophical critical race theorists (Bell, Crenshaw, Gotanda, Austin, Mills, Baldwin, Neal, Fuller, Du Bois, among others).

AFROAM 692U. Dynamics of Race and the Law, 4 credits
Professor Losier
Wednesdays 11:15 – 1:45 p.m.
An intensive examination of the intersection of race with American law. The focus will be on the critique of established legal theories by a number of scholars in what has come to be known as the Critical Race Theory movement. Supreme Court cases and other legal materials will combine with theoretical, historical and critical works on the law and American society. Among the topics to be covered are the laws of slavery, affirmative action, voting rights, and the nature of legal education. Weekly papers, class presentations, and final research paper will round out course grades.

AFROAM 697J. Cross-Disciplinary Contemporary Issues: The Education of Africans from Roberts v. Boston to the AfroFuture
Professor Shabazz
Thursdays 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., 4 credits
Education at its highest level and most majestic quality is "the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life...the secret of civilization." In this course we study African Civilization in and of the world from the 1840s to the future. Our approach is grounded at the intersection of class (political economy, law, and property), gender, sexuality, body politics, science, and culture. From a materialist conception of history to recent work in brain and cognitive science the two centuries under focus in this course will emphasize an innovative and creative approach that simultaneously embraces disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and trans-disciplinary knowledge work.