SPRING 2016
W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies

Art by Nelson Stevens
Undergraduate & Graduate Course Description Guide
AFROAM 101. Introduction to Black Studies, 3 credits
Instructor: Johanna Ortner
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 118. Survey of Afro-American Literature II, 4 credits, (ALU)
Professor Smethurst
Lecture: MW 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.  Discussion Sections: F 10:10 or F 11:15 a.m.
Introductory level survey of Afro-American literature from the Harlem Renaissance to the present, including DuBois, Hughes, Hurston, Wright, Ellison, Baldwin, Walker, Morrison, Baraka and Lorde.

AFROAM 133. African-American History: Civil War-1954, 3 credits, (HSU)
Professor Losier
Lecture: MW 2:30-3:45 p.m.  Discussion Sections: F 1:25 or F 2:30 p.m.
Major issues and actions from the beginning of the Civil War to the 1954 Supreme Court decision. Focus on political and social history: transition from slavery to emancipation and Reconstruction; the Age of Booker T. Washington; urban migrations, rise of the ghettoes; the ideologies and movements from integrationism to black nationalism.

AFROAM 151. Literature & Culture, 4 credits, (ALU)
Instructor: Shirley Meng
*On-line only. Contact: UMassulearn.edu to register.
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 196E. Drum Circle, Part II
Kevin Harrington
Fridays 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Although recreational drum circles are a means for having fun and reducing stress, traditional drum circles have been around for centuries and almost always occur for specific reasons (e.g. annual celebrations, festivals, ceremonies, etc.). Often times society may ignore the spirit of the drumming tradition and its various cultural origins and this has recently produced a growing void between traditional playing, recreational drumming and even ballet style performances across the world. But the fact is that West African and various other world percussion rhythms are being adopted by various people, including western countries such as the U.S. Respecting the context and background of these rhythms ensures that we are acknowledging the long, rich history of the drum. The significance of this will be explored to the best of our ability in this 1-credit course. Alongside playing the percussion instruments traditionally, improvisationally and recreationally, we will respect that we are embracing the vast history of the drum, of percussion and human beings’ ability to make music in a group. Spring semester covers rhythms such as Makru, Yankadi, Djangbe, Suli, Kakilambe and more.

AFROAM 197B. Black Film in the 50’s, Part II
Professor Bracey
Thursdays 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
AFROAM 236. History of the Civil Rights Movement, 4 credits, (HSU)
SJRAP (for freshmen only)
Instructors: Peter Blackmer, Robert Williams
TuTh 11:30-12:45 p.m.
The course will provide a thorough examination of the Civil Rights Movement from the Brown v. Board decision to the rise of Black Power, along with the legacies of the Movement today. Class meetings will be grounded in a discussion-based format to encourage a participatory learning environment. As a RAP section, this course seeks to develop a learning community in the classroom by emphasizing collaboration around the primary assessment of the course, a semester-long research project, designed to incorporate students’ personal and academic interests.

AFROAM 244. Afro-Am Poetry: Beginning to 1900, (ALU)
Professor Tracy
TuTh 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
An intensive look at African American poetry before the Harlem Renaissance. It will encompass orature and literature, including folk and popular music as well as the literary output of such African American writers as Phillis Wheatley, George Moses Horton, James Whitfield, Frances E. W. Harper, Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, and Fenton Johnson. It will also take up the relation of African American poetry to broad political and cultural movements, such U.S. republicanism, abolitionism, romanticism, transcendentalism, local color, and modernism.

AFROAM 252. Afro-American Image in American Writing, 3 credits
Instructor: Carlyn Ferrari
MW 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Examination of a representative sampling of poetry, prose and/or drama by American writers -- black and white, male and female -- depicting African-American characters and issues related directly to the lives of African Americans. Texts chosen from the works of such authors as Jefferson, Poe, Stowe, Melville, Douglass, Delany, Dunbar, Eliot, Faulkner, Hurston, Wright, Baldwin, Styron, Baraka, and Morrison. We will analyze and interpret material in light of issues of race, gender, class, politics, historical time frame, and artistic aesthetic, in order to characterize the depictions of African-Americans in the works, and to understand what those depictions reflect about individual writers, about segments of American society, and about American society as a whole.

AFROAM 253: Pre-Civil War Black Writers
Instructor: Karla Zelaya
TuTh 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
A survey of African American and Black Atlantic writings in the Age of Revolution, from the late eighteenth century to the beginning of the Civil War, with particular emphasis on how writers negotiated the promises and ideals of the revolutionary period. Course considers a variety of genres (autobiography, speeches, fiction, drama, poetry, etc.) and explores how different forms of writing were mobilized in the struggle for emancipation. Other topics may include the beginnings of the African American novel; the drama of slavery; relationship between written and expressive culture; speeches and Abolitionism; the rise of black periodical and pamphlet culture; black narratives in the Atlantic World, including slave narratives, travelogues, natural histories, and other fictional and non-fictional accounts.

AFROAM 254. Introduction to African Studies, 4 credits, (HSU)
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.
AFROAM 293P. Voices of New Africa House--Part II, 1 credit
Instructor: Evelyn Harris
Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 p.m.
A mixed-voice choral music class celebrating two methods of teaching: by ear to perform acapella and by sheet music containing arrangements for 4-part harmony with piano accompaniment. Learn to sing material from the African-American song-style canon. We will study and perform music created in the 17, 18 and 19th centuries beginning with creations by slaves in the United States through the 20 and 21st century’s contemporary sounds. Other genres we will explore come under the umbrella of blues, jazz, gospel, R&B, soul, funk and folk music. Additionally, we will explore compositions from many European masters. In other words, we will learn to perform songs from around the world. With preparation for a Spring, 2014 final concert, the general public will be enthralled by the range of musical styles that this chorus has mastered. Expand your range and expression and become more confident in performance. Understand proper vocal delivery based on the genre in a number of tempos. Learn proper phrasing, riffing, shouting, scale patterns, rhythmic articulation and much more. Make your voice more powerful while diminutive upon demand.

AFROAM 297A. Black Springfield: Revisited
Professor Shabazz
Thursdays 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
African American urban studies is a vibrant area of intellectual inquiry. This course will acquaint you with a variety of disciplinary tools for studying African American life in the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, our urban neighbor just 25 miles away. We will start with a broad survey of the city's history that began when William Pynchon and a company of Puritan men from Roxbury, founded Springfield in 1636 at the confluence of three rivers. Pynchon established a trading and fur-collecting post and enslaved Africans became a vital part of its labor force. Springfield officially became a city in May of 1852, but by then slavery had ended and the city had developed a reputation as an Underground Railroad depot thanks to antislavery freedom fighters like Thomas Thomas, Eli Baptist, and John Brown. Springfield's location at the crossroads of New England is the most significant reason for its economic progress as an industrial city. In 2010, Springfield was a city of 156,060 that was 22.3% Black or African American, and 4.7% from two or more races (1.5% White and Black or African American). Latinos of any race made up 38.8% of the population (33.2% Puerto Rican). It is a multicultural community, and is the regional center for banking, finance, and courts. Field trips to important sites, interviews with Ms. LaJuana Hood, founder of Springfield's Pan African Historical Museum USA, as well as other important culture bearers, will be special facets of the course. Community engaged research will be emphasized.

AFROAM 297F. Black Women in the Americas and the Caribbean, 3 credits
Instructor: Nneka Dennie
TuTh 11:30-12:45 p.m.
This course will survey the historical, political, economic and socio-cultural realities that Black women in the Americas and the Caribbean have faced and continue to face. A variety of readings by and about Black women will highlight the ways in which race, class, and gender combine to operate in the lives of Black women. Special attention will be paid to Black women as laborers, Black women as political activists, and the various ways in which Black women in the Americas and the Caribbean experience race and gender.

AFROAM 297R. Race at Work: African Americans in the Labor Movement
Professor Parker
TuTh 1:00 2:15 p.m.
This course explores African American labor, reaching from slave emancipation through the late twentieth century. Engaging historical and filmic texts, this course examines various themes in African American Labor history and class formation. Beginning with an interrogation of African American labor history as a field of historical study, this course moves along chronological and thematic axes to investigate changes in wage and labor structure, agricultural and industrial production, domestic work, and service work. It will consider African American migration, community building and organizing, labor unions, policy, and legal culture. The Civil
Rights Movement and the Fair Employment Movement will be critical to this course as they best highlight the strategies and patterns of black labor organizations, protests, and negotiation since emancipation. This course also will explore affirmative action and the reconsolidation of racial discrimination in the workplace in the late twentieth century.

**AFROAM 331. Life of W.E.B. Du Bois, 3 credits, (U)**
**Professor Shabazz**
**Tuesdays 4:00 – 6:30 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.

**AFROAM 365. Composition: Style & Organization, 3 credits**
**Instructor: Karla Zelaya**
**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 390D. Langston Hughes, 3 credits, (ALU)**
**Professor Tracy**
**TuTh 11:30-12:45 p.m.**
An intensive look at the life and work of Langston Hughes, encompassing his poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and drama. We will examine the development of Hughes’s work from the 1920s to the 1960s, paying attention to historical and cultural developments that contributed to his vision, with particular emphasis on Hughes’s use of African American music in his works. This honors course will require additional participation and a group presentation beyond normal course requirements.

**AFROAM 390E. Race, Ethnicity & Gender, 3 credits, (HSU)**
**Instructor: Crystal Webster**
**TuTh 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.**
Examination of situations which illuminate intersection of race, ethnicity, and gender in antebellum U.S.: contact and interaction between American Indians, African-Americans and European-Americans in colonial New England; relationship between white and black women, both slave and free, in the South; and the development of racist ideologies and behavior in the white working classes.

**AFROAM 391B. Modern Afro-American Women Novelists**
**Instructor: Karla Zelaya**
**TuTh 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.**
Examine novels written by African American women from the Harlem Renaissance to the present. The course will engage a simple, but fundamental issue: is there such a thing as modern African American women’s literature? If so, how might we define it? Some of the ways that we come at this issue will be from the point of genre (e.g., the novel of manners, the slave narrative, the sentimental novel, the gothic romance, the historical novel, and so on.), audience reception, and the relation of the novels to popular culture. Historical contexts of the novels and the impact of various artistic, intellectual, and social movements (e.g., the Civil Rights, Black Power/Arts, First and Second Wave Feminism, and Gay Liberation) on the formal and thematic choices of the authors studied will also be considered.
AFROAM 392C. Songbirds, Blueswomen and Soulwomen, 3 credits
Instructor: Evelyn Harris
Wednesdays 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 395F. Peer Leadership Development, 3 credits
Instructor: Doris Clemmons
Thursdays 5:30 -8:00 p.m.
This is the 1st part of a two-semester two-course sequence that is designed to prepare second and third-year students to mentor entering first year students. This course will help older students focus on developing leadership and outreach skills which will enable them to strengthen their own academic achievement as well as prepare them to help others. This two-semester course sequence begins with upper class students in the spring semester; the course will prepare them to work with incoming new students in the subsequent fall semester. The spring semester course is divided into two segments. The first segment of this course will enable second and third year students to develop leadership skills for themselves which will enable them to have a better understanding of how to assist first year students in forming effective study groups, mediation, studying for exams, time management, and library skills. Students will also learn how to act as mentors, by working with middle and high school students. Students will interact with these young people one on one as well as within groups. The second half of the spring semester course will focus on various topics that affect the ALANAI community. Topics will include racism, sexism, STDs, drugs in our society, male and female relationships, dropping out of school, stress management, and ALANAI leaders in the past and present. Students will be assigned an office space in order to interview potential 1st year students over the phone as part of the admission outreach program and to establish initial contact with their fall semester mentees who have accepted the offer of admission to the university.

AFROAM 491C. Cuba: Social History of Race, Class & Gender
Professor Morrison
TuTh 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
This course is an advance undergraduate reading seminar that explores the social relations and everyday experiences of Cubans under the various political states under which they have lived - Spanish colonialism, capitalist republicanism, and revolutionary socialism. As we consider issues of social identity, the quest for social justice, and national sovereignty, we will keep the concepts of race, class, and gender centered. Two questions frame the course. What were the social conditions in which the Cuban Revolution emerged, and how have these conditions been transformed since 1959?

GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

AFROAM 597E. Dalits and African Americans (Undergraduate/Graduate)
Professor Bracey
Wednesdays 7:00 – 9:30 p.m., Rm 309, New Africa House
The purpose of this seminar is to begin to explore similarities, differences, connections and convergences between the Dalit population of India and African Americans in the United States. We will read short histories of both peoples, studies that focus on examples of historic interactions, and studies comparing leading figures of both groups. Most of the reading will center on the 20th century i.e. India during the periods of colonization, anti-colonization, and independence; and on African Americans from emancipation to the end of legal segregation. There is a rich and rapidly growing scholarship on these topics so view this seminar as an opening to a complex and important topic. Good books to read, discussion format, class presentation on one of the books, final paper.
AFROAM 690B. The Civil War and Reconstruction
Professor Sinha
Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., Rm 309, New Africa House
This course examines the revolutionary significance of the Civil War and Reconstruction Era in United States history. While not ignoring military history, it will focus on the demise of slavery during the war and contests over the meaning of freedom, citizenship, and the powers of the state. It will also look at African American political mobilization, constitutional issues, and vigilante violence during Reconstruction. Other topics include the role of Lincoln, the Confederate experiment, gender and Reconstruction, the transition from slavery to free labor, and the fall and aftermath of Reconstruction. Recent historical literature will constitute the bulk of the reading. Students will have the option of writing a historiographical paper on a topic of their choice or a more substantial research paper based on primary sources.

AFROAM 691D. Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement
Professor Parker
Thursdays 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., Rm 309, New Africa House
Women initiated, organized, and sustained the Civil Rights Movement. Not only did women activists far outnumber men, but they also emerged as leaders in working-class and poor neighborhoods more often than men. This course will investigate women's diverse visions of and involvement in social justice using historical texts, film, television, and music. Taking the long civil rights movement approach, it will consider middle-class and working-class activism towards racial, gender, and economic justice in the early twentieth century, the labor-oriented civil rights movement of the 1930s and 1940s, and the modern Civil Rights and Women's Liberation Movements. Special attention will be paid to the relationships between black and white women and the impact of the movement on women's status and identity. Notable activists like Mary Church Terrell, Ella Baker, Florynce Kennedy, Lena Horne, and Nina Simone, as well as those who remain unnamed in the historical record, will be critical to this investigation.

AFROAM 691F. Black Political Struggle and the American Political System: the Rise of the Carceral State
Professor Losier
Wednesdays 11:15 – 1:45 p.m., Rm 309, New Africa House
This graduate seminar will introduce students to carceral studies, an interdisciplinary body of scholarship that takes the late twentieth century expansion of the U.S. prison system as its primary object of analysis. Drawing on a variety of sources – influential older articles and books, a growing literature on the prison system's historical development, and recent examinations of mass incarceration’s “collateral consequences” – this course will provide a firm sense of the chronological, political, and institutional development of the U.S. carceral state. In doing so, this course will pay particular attention to the distinct relationship between domestic regimes of policing and incarceration and various black political struggles, from individuated acts of resistance to insurgent social movements. By placing this body of scholarship in conversation with the history of black politics, this graduate course seeks to both familiarize students with an emerging field of study and offer a unique perspective on the state of Black Studies.

AFROAM 692A. Literary Theory
Professor Smethurst
Thursdays 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., Rm 309, New Africa House
This course will take up literary theory since 1965 and how it has influenced the study of African American literature and culture. The idea here is not to be comprehensive, but rather, to use the term popular a few years back, to stage a series of interventions into the sometimes troubled relationship between “high” theory and its successors and African American Studies. Our task will not simply be to examine different “schools” of critical theory, but to consider how theory has informed and challenged African American literary studies and vice versa. We will also seek to historicize various critical moments or movements rather than simply view them as pieces of an intellectual toolbox.