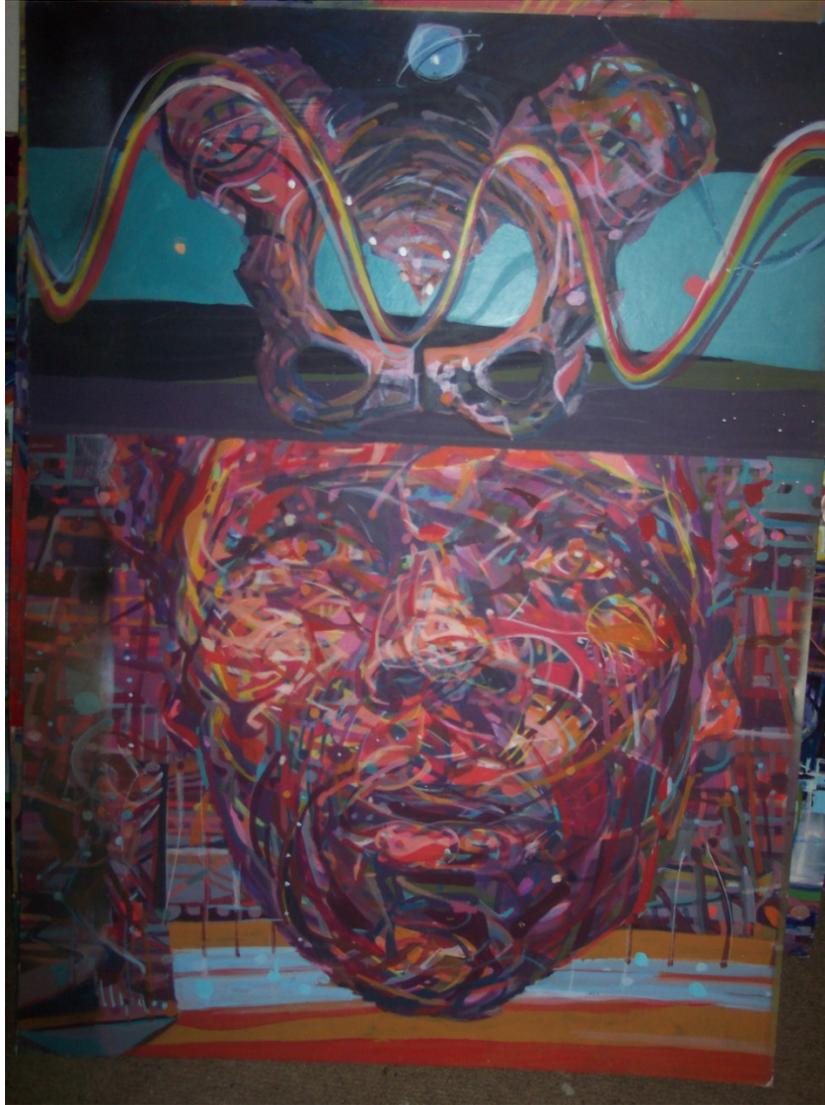


SPRING 2019

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



Art by Nelson Stevens

Undergraduate & Graduate
Course Description Guide

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

AFROAM 118. Survey of Afro-American Literature II, 4 credits (AL,DU)

Professor Jimoh

Lecture: MW 10:10–11:00 a.m. Discussion Sections: F 10:10 or F 11:15

Introductory level survey of Afro-American literature from the Harlem Renaissance to the present, including Du Bois, Hughes, Hurston, Wright, Ellison, Baldwin, Walker, Morrison, Baraka and Lorde.

AFROAM 133. African-American History: Civil War-1954, 4 credits (HS,DU)

Professor Losier

Lecture: MW 2:30-3:20 p.m. Discussion Sections: F 1:25 or F 2:30

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 ghettos; the ideologies and movements from integrationism to black nationalism.

AFROAM 151. Literature & Culture, 4 credits (AL,DU)

Professor Smethurst

Lecture: MW 11:15-12:05 p.m. Discussion Sections: F 11:15 or F 12:20

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 151. Literature & Culture, 4 credits (AL,DU) *On-line only. Contact: UMasslearn.edu to register.

AFROAM 156. Revolutionary Concepts in Afro-American Music II, 4 credits (AT,DU)

Professor Shonekan

Lecture: TuTh 1:00-2:15 p.m.

This course will examine the development of African-American music during the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century with a particular focus on links to the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, the Post Civil Rights era, and the Black Lives Matter Movement. In particular, the class will survey the varied styles, productions, and receptions of artists including Bessie Smith, Eubie Blake, James P. Johnson, Ma Rainey, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Leadbelly, Lightnin' Hopkins, T-Bone Walker, Mary Lou Williams, Charlie "Bird" Parker, Max Roach, Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Nina Simone, Archie Shepp, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Curtis Mayfield, Booker T. & the MGs, Sun Ra, The Last Poets, Gil Scott-Heron, N.W.A., Public Enemy, Blackstar, The Roots, Lauryn Hill, India Arie, Kendrick Lamar, Janelle Monae, Chance the Rapper, J Cole, among others. In addition, the course will cover some African and African Diaspora traditions of revolutionary music from artists such as Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, and Bob Marley.

AFROAM 161. Introduction to Afro-American Political Science, 4 credits (SB,DU)

Professor Losier

MW 10:10-11:25 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.

AFROAM 197B. Taste of Honey: Black Film in the 1950s, 1 credit

Professor Bracey

Thursdays 6:00-8:30 p.m., Malcolm X Cultural Center (below Berkshire Dining Commons)

This course is a part of the Afro-American Studies Department partnership with the Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success (CMASS) and the Malcolm X Cultural Center (MXCC) enrichment programming initiative. The purpose of this class is to raise awareness of and exposure to different cultural backgrounds that will enhance student personal development while promoting a better understanding of our diverse community. This course will take you on an 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. A selection of movies will explore a variety of topics, such as race, gender and stereotypes

while reflecting on how these characteristics have been portrayed. We will introduce you to a sampling of movies made during the decades from the 1960s to the early 2000s.

AFROAM 234. Literature of the Harlem Renaissance, 4 credits (AL,DU)

Instructor: Candace King

Lecture: TuTh 1:00-2:15 p.m.

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 235. Black Sociological Thought, 3 credits

Professor Bracey

Tuesdays 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Assessment of current sociological views of the African-American experience.

AFROAM 236. History of the Civil Rights Movement, 4 credits (HS,DU)

Instructor: Paul Fowler

TuTh 11:30-12:45 p.m.

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 244. Afro-Am Poetry: Beginning to 1900, 3 credits

Professor Rusert

Tuesdays 1:00-3:30 p.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 265. The Blues Came Down, 3 credits

Professor Tracy

TuTh 10:00-11:15 a.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, 4 credits (HS,DU)

Instructor: Cécile Yézou

TuTh 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 345. Southern Literature, 4 credits (AL,DU)

Professor Rusert

TuTh 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Southern literature by African Americans, including slave narratives, autobiography, fiction and poetry. Concepts and issues of time, oppression and violence, culture and tradition, family and community, roots of social change as they impact factors of identity, race, class, and gender.

AFROAM 390M. Race and the American Story, 3 credits**Professor Shonekan**

This course is a collaboration between the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts and the Center for Political Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University. Building upon the evolving discussions of race and racism in our society, this course aims to serve as a model for improving diversity education on campuses across the country and contribute to a more informed and thoughtful national culture. This course consists of readings that tell the story of the confrontation between American political principles and the practice of racial injustice throughout our history. We will trace the ways that discourse on race has morphed in the United States and we will consider the ramifications of these ideas on the endurance of racism in our society. Students will read and discuss the Declaration of Independence, the slavery clauses in the Constitution, the poetry of Phillis Wheatley, the speeches of Frederick Douglass, Anna Julia Cooper, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr., among others. They will achieve a greater understanding of how diversity relates to humanity, and will learn to dialogue productively and civilly with others who may not share their background or opinions. The course will be taught on both campuses and students on both campuses will have an opportunity to interact and engage with each other virtually throughout the course of the semester. In April, the UMass students will be flown out to Arizona State University to interact in person at a symposium specially created for the course.

AFROAM 391A. Political Thought of Martin and Malcolm X, 3 credits**Professor Shabazz****TuTh 11:30-12:45 p.m.**

The contrasting philosophies of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. on race and racism, non-violence and self-defense, integration and separatism, Christianity and Islam; their interaction and involvement with the Civil Rights Movement; the northern and southern political and social culture that shaped their thoughts and world-views; and their changing conceptions of the appropriate tactics and strategy for the black freedom struggle in America.

AFROAM 391J. Buying and Selling Blackness, 3 credits**Professor Parker****TuTh 11:30-12:35 p.m.**

This course examines the deeply intertwined relationship between race and American consumer culture—the economy of buying and selling—in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Race was central to the emergence of American consumer culture and, conversely, consumer culture significantly impacted race and the experiences of diverse groups including African Americans, Asian Americans, Mexican-Americans, Native Americans, and white ethnic groups. This course engages historical and literary texts, film, advertisements, music, and even Twitter to investigate the buying and selling of blackness and whiteness, the racialized commodification of groups and cultures, efforts to create a classless, racially-exclusive consumer culture, the segmentation of the mass market, consumer activism, the process of Americanization, the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power, and Black Lives Matter. This course will also pay special attention to the ways consumer culture shaped interracial encounters, and racial, ethnic, and gender, and class identities.

AFROAM 395F. Peer Leadership Development, 3 credits**Instructor: Doris Clemmons****Thursdays 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

This is the first 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. 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.

GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

AFROAM 597A. Afro-Caribbean Studies, 3 credits (Undergraduate/Graduate)

Professor A. Shabazz

Wednesdays 11:15-1:30 p.m., NAH 302

Afro-Caribbean Studies is an advanced introduction to the history, culture, and politics of people of African descent in the Caribbean basin suitable for both graduate students and upper-level undergraduates. After a broad synopsis of the region's history, the course has a focus on the politics of select Caribbean states, from 1900 to the present; viz., Cuba, Haiti, and Jamaica. It will discuss major issues that affect the Caribbean region, namely, migration, poverty, regional economic cooperation and political integration, democratic institutions, and U. S. foreign policy towards the region. Also, the course will examine the history and role of the diverse religious components of the Caribbean basin from Indigenous practices to Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism and the emergence and development of African belief systems and practices, such as Santeria, Espiritismo, Vodou and Rastafarianism from the 18th century to the present. Music and other expressive arts is an additional focal area of the class.

AFROAM 630. Critical Race Theories, 4 credits

Professor Jimoh

Tuesdays 4:00-6:30 p.m., NAH 309

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, 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, and Du Bois, among others).

AFROAM 691D. Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement, 4 credits

Professor Parker

Thursdays 4:00-6:30 p.m., NAH 302

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 692B. The Black Power Movement, 4 credits

Professor Bracey

Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 p.m., NAH 309

The purpose of this course is to offer an appraisal of the Black Power movement which has not been generally available to students of 1960s upheavals in American life. In far too many academic and popular accounts today, Black Power is portrayed as the "evil twin" of the modern Civil Rights movement, as an intransigent force that brought the black freedom movement of the 1960s era to wrack and ruin. Our aim is neither to defend nor pillory the excesses of Black Power, but rather to demonstrate how this movement arose from the massive resistance of white Americans to extending those basic rights (which they themselves enjoyed) to the black population of this country; and to the inability of established Civil Rights organizations to overcome the obstacles stemming from this massive resistance. In the end, it is our contention that the collapse and failure of the Black Power phase of the Afro-American freedom struggle represented the collapse and failure of the Civil Rights movement itself.

AFROAM 753. The Blues, 4 credits

Professor Tracy

Thursdays 1:00-3:30 p.m., NAH 309

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.