COURSE TITLE: Race in Contemporary Society

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 1050

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:
With particular emphasis upon the contemporary era (i.e., the 1970's forward), this course primarily follows the struggles and triumphs of African Americans through the various developments and contributions of selected intellectuals, artists and religious leaders. Additionally, the course will acquaint students with the history and struggles of selected other ethnic groups in the U.S. via interdisciplinary and intersectional modalities. We will examine some of the cultural, historical, religious, political and artistic influences which have contributed to the survival and empowerment of selected ethnic groups in American society.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
The successful student will be able to do the following at the end of the course:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical trajectory of the African-American freedom struggle
- Demonstrate an appreciation of African-American artistic and religious diversities
- Articulate in clear manner the influences of specific intellectual and religious leaders upon American ethnic minority groups
- Understand the complexities and nuances of discourse on matters of race, identity, culture and society

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/A

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Stacyann Chinn, *The Other Side of Paradise*

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
Students can expect to be evaluated via quizzes, 2-3 essay assignments and a final exam.

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to African American Studies

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 1211

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:
This purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of African American Studies and to familiarize students with significant movements in the intellectual history of the African Diasporic experience. The course will cover important issues such as (but not limited to) enslavement, freedom, justice, citizenship, equality, class, and gender/sexuality politics. Students in this course will become well versed in the myriad of approaches present throughout African American Studies, aware of the seminal debates in disciplinary discourse, and proficient in the inquiry of the African Diasporic experience.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the African American experience in the United States and the Diaspora during the 20th and 21st century.
- Identify the players and events that allowed for the emergence and maintenance of African American Studies as a discipline in the academy.
- Define and assess theoretical frameworks used within the discipline of African American Studies
- Interrogate the construction and operation of race in an United States context
- Situate contemporary issues facing African Americans within a historic intellectual lineage and framework.
- analyze and evaluate primary and secondary materials
- demonstrate oral & written competency in the analysis of theories and practices

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None**.**

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Books, articles, and films are all through Brightspace & Hannon library

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
Short Assignments
Essay
Group Project

COURSE TITLE: African American Studies Research Methods

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 2243

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to interdisciplinary research methods in the discipline of African American Studies. African American Studies was founded, in part, to critique the canons and assumptions in traditional disciplines. In the course, students will consider the political, social and cultural underpinnings of research and how scholars in African American Studies have sought to adapt & create various methods and theories to address the needs and interests of marginalized communities. Students will examine theoretical and conceptual issues, techniques for identifying existing research, and methods of collecting data, and evaluating materials.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

- familiarity with research methodology in African American Studies including ethnography, oral history, archival investigation, and textual analysis.
- Experience designing a research project using one or more of these methods.
- Practiced assessing and selecting appropriate methods for specific questions

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Serie McDougal, *Research Methods in Africana Studies, Peter Lang Inc, New York, NY 2014;*

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
Class Assignments
Midterm & Final Exam
Term Project

COURSE TITLE: African American Literature

COURSE NUMBER: 3621

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:
In a 1999 interview writer Nalo Hopkinson asserts, "the speculative has always been used to critique social systems…it often forces the reader to think about a whole bunch of things: sexuality, race, class, color & history… When human beings imagine a reality, they figure out a way to make it manifest. If Black people can imagine our future -- imagine societies in which we aren't alienated -- then we can begin to see our way to creating them." In line with Hopkinson's statement, this course is an examination of speculative literature, an atypical route of the Africana literary tradition. Students will interrogate how authors from the African diaspora use science fiction, fantasy, and gothic literature to imagine alternative answers to what some may call "typical" social and political issues. Specifically, this course surveys literature from the last 40 years using the framework of "survival by any means necessary" as a means to explore unconventional, and at times provocative choices, Africana women make to combat insurmountable odds. Using novels, music videos, films, comic books, and supplementary articles, students will envision non-traditional ways in which Africana women engage with familiar concepts such as gender, sexuality, identity, spirituality, oppression, and family.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will:

- Discuss, compare, and analyze various forms of African diasporic speculative literature
- Develop an understanding of how Africana literature functions as a form of resistance to dominant cultural forms as well as a tool of empowerment for both the author and the Africana community at large.
- deduce and describe how the fictionalized media of the course interrogates social and political issues that affect Africana people such as colonialization, alienation, violence, racism, patriarchy, etc.
- Develop and strengthen critical oral and written skills through class discussions and take home & in-class assignments

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Dawn by Octavia Butler
Brown Girl in the Ring by Nalo Hopkinson
The Intuitionist by Colson Whitehead
Who fears death by Nnedi Okorafor
Pet by Akwaeke Amezi

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

In-Class Assignments
Weekly Reflections
Literary & Cultural Analysis
Creative Project

COURSE TITLE: Black Cultural Arts

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 2221

SECTION DAYS/TIMES: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

CORE: FOUNDATIONS – Studies in American Diversity

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A study of Black American art forms, such as music, dance, theatre, film, television, painting, sculpture and literature as they have developed in the African Diaspora from slavery to the modern age.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
In the broadest sense this course aims to lay a foundation upon which to build a deeper understanding of black cultural arts as well as the evolution and diversity of perspectives in characterizing this dynamic collage of cultural production. In terms of student outcomes this course seeks to provide students with a comprehensive, concise, critical and substantive grasp of the major and relevant sociological theories, concepts, social thinkers, cultural critics and socio-economic/political/historical/cultural dynamics that have and continue to inform and construct black cultural arts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Explain and analyze black cultural arts by applying the core concepts and theories covered in class.

2. Analyze and explain the multiple perspectives that underlie debates on important historical and contemporary issues concerning black cultural arts.

3. Know appropriate linkages between African American social relations and black racial formation that have impacted modes of black cultural production.

4. Identify several fundamental issues concerning the role of commerce and race that impact black cultural arts in American society.

COURSE TEXTS:
The use of the textbooks are key to establishing the framework by which to engage the range of material. This course, however is lecture intensive and involves committed note taking. In other words the texts are necessary to pass the course, but not sufficient to excel in the course.

COURSE TITLE: Black Community Engagement

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 3643.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

In this course (a major requirement and engaged learning flag), students will actualize the mission of Black Studies within the larger Black community of Los Angeles. They will use their intellectual talents, time, and energy to address the needs of neighbors and organizations. As they share, the students will acquire knowledge and skills that will make them useful to the community. In addition to reading assignments that will provide context for engagement, students will be responsible for oral and written assessments regarding their progress and accomplishments.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Identify key issues of concern and celebration for the Black community
- Recognize impactful and effective organizations and organizers in the community
- Geographically navigate neighborhoods in Los Angeles' Black community
- Use their interdisciplinary training to assess and evaluate community problems
- Work in community, as "men and women for and with others," to solve problems

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

TBD

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

This course will require students to engage Black community leaders and organizations. Students will spend at least 3 hours each week in service to the community. In addition to the reading assignments and designated class meetings, students will be expected to submit bi-weekly reports and a final report of activities.

COURSE TITLE: Capstone Project

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 4641.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This is the capstone course for students who are majoring/minoring in African American Studies. It will provide them with the opportunity to work closely with the instructor to explore primary and secondary sources on the African American experience as well as to develop and complete a thesis based upon original research.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To analyze and discuss primary and secondary documents and sources to gain an in-depth comprehension of the different approaches and methodologies that have been used to examine the African American experience; to formulate a specific topic and to write a thesis based upon original research.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: AFAM majors/minors

REQUIRED TEXTS: TBA

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Students will be evaluated by their class attendance and the successful completion and presentation of their theses.