

**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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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: 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:** 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 HISTORY

**COURSE NUMBER:** 3211

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBA

**INSTRUCTOR:** Faculty

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this synchronous and asynchronous course is to provide young scholars with a foundational understanding of the African American experience. The course will explore the role of the African American experience within the larger context of U.S. History as well as the History of the African Diaspora. In addition to the political, cultural, and economic aspects of African American life, this course investigates the social norms and mores of the African American community. Young scholars will examine the experience of African Americans from pre-Atlantic Slave Trade to the Movement for Black Lives. In doing so, young scholars will note the ways in which African Americans have been portrayed throughout history in the media, literature, music, and film. This course will call young scholars to recognize the nuances of class, gender, and ethnic differences amongst African Americans throughout the history of the United States.

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:** N/A

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Young Scholars will:

1. increase content knowledge by applying what they are learning in the classroom.
2. Identify critical figures, events, and periods in the African American experience.
3. Engage the contemporary African American community in dialogue.
4. Enhance their ability to integrate knowledge across contexts, disciplines, and sub-disciplines while centering African Americans.

**REQUIRED READING LIST**

TBD

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS**

1. Openness to learning from a African American perspective
2. Consistent attendance and participation
3. Reading and analyzing various forms of text for comprehension and integration
4. Cogent Communication and defense of assertions in the written and oral form

**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: SS: Black Queer Theory**

**COURSE NUMBER:** AFAM 3420

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBD

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jennifer Williams

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

With progressive views about sexuality and gender proliferating in contemporary American Society, Africana Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual/aromatic, pansexual, polysexual, and queer individuals have made gains in social mobility and recognition. However, homophobia, heterosexism, sexism, misogyny, patriarchy, toxic masculinity, transphobia, compulsory heterosexuality and monogamy, racism, and other oppressive institutions continue to harm these individuals because they are marginalized simultaneously as Black, and 'non-conforming' gender, sexuality, and relationship identities. Through narratives, theories, and empirical studies, we will interrogate the systems that maintain the status quo, as well as how, Africana LGBTQIAP folx navigate the relationships both within and external to their cultural and social communities.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- identify, understand, and interrogate the construction of sexuality, gender identity, and systems of sex/gender/sexuality as they relate to Africana individuals and communities.
- articulate theories relating to the Africana Queer experience, especially in areas such as social issues, identity, historiography, media, and human rights.
- describe a basic history of Africana Queer folx from 1400 CE to present day
- 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 available through Brightspace & Hannon library

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

Short Assignments

Essay

**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:** Social Justice Internship/Research Experience

**COURSE NUMBER:** 3800

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBA

**INSTRUCTOR:** Faculty

**CORE AREA:** N/A

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An opportunity to connect the academic side of African American Studies with the black community. Students will work with a community organization or conduct research in the area of African American Studies or Social Justice organizations. Students will complete 60 hours of work with a local organization to work with and in the community they serve. Or, students will be paired with a scholar in African American Studies and/or related field and work on a guided research project. The course will provide mentorship in professional development and graduate and professional school preparation.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Understand the needs of local communities of color
2. Improve writing and critical thinking skills
3. Create a community outreach plan for continuing this work beyond LMU
4. Develop a policy paper specifically related to the chosen organization
5. Collaborate and connect with local community outreach programs
6. Apply theoretical frameworks to the work being done

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:**

N/A

**REQUIRED LAB FEE:**

TBD

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

N/A

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

Complete 60 hours of work at an approved organization

Policy Paper

Community Outreach Plan

**COURSE TITLE: American Cinema and Black Representation**

**COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 3623**

**TIMES and SECTIONS: TBA**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. A. Nama**

**Description:** In this post-Civil Rights era, African Americans are a part of American culture in ways that reflect not only a high degree of visibility but also extraordinary popularity. Moreover, American cinema has delivered, whether real or fictional, various representations of black people, racial progress and notions of racial pathology. This course examines how Hollywood cinema, has defined the issue of race in American society by offering controversial, entertaining and engaging representations of African Americans. Accordingly, an in-depth exploration of the history and criticism of the Black image in film, the film industry along with issues of audience reception are covered concerning how to critically “read” film for the ideological subtext as well as social and political symbolism. The class is also concerned with connecting the cultural ferment created by the Civil Rights, Black Power Movements of the 1960s and the mainstreaming of Hip-Hop as substantial moments in bringing about many of the changes in the status, role and representation of African Americans in American film.

**Required Textbooks:**

Guerrero, Ed. Framing Blackness: The African American Image in Film, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, PA: 1993.

Hall, Stuart. Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices. Sage. 1997.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Identify and explain how political-social-historical-cultural factors have influenced and shaped perspectives of the images associated with the African American and fundamental literature, arguments, substantive arguments and critics associated with the intersection of black racial formation in film.
- Explain debates concerning historical and contemporary representations of African Americans by deconstructing debates/issues associated with negative stereotyping and mass media effects.
- Through evaluative essays, exams and oral presentations explain the difference between black cultural criticism and other more traditional approaches to examining film, for its encoded ideological message and cultural appeal to race, class, gender and sexual orientation mythologies that often masquerade as common sense or social fact.

**Instructional Methods:**

Lecture/Discussion for the first hour of class followed by a screening of a film, documentary or television show. The following meeting will involve a critical lecture and discussion of the material viewed along with the reading assigned.

**COURSE TITLE: Hip-Hop Culture**

**COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 4422.01**

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA**

**INSTRUCTOR: Faculty**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

This course will examine how hip-hop relates to African American philosophical and political ideologies, gender representation, and influences on popular culture. In doing so, this course intends to illuminate the important contributions of African in shaping popular culture in America as well as throughout the African Diaspora. This course will challenge traditional histories that have excluded African Americans. In doing so, this course intends to illuminate the important contributions of African Americans throughout the African Diaspora. In addition to honing critical thinking skills, upon completion of this course, students will have accomplished three goals: 1. They will have a well-rounded understanding of African American culture and it's oral tradition, 2. Understand what African American Studies is as a discipline, and finally, 3. Connect the subject matter of the course to broad social themes that coincide with the university's missions of developing the whole person and social justice.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

In addition to honing critical thinking skills, upon completion of this course, students will have accomplished three goals:

1. They will have a well-rounded understanding of African American culture and it's oral tradition,
2. Understand what African American Studies is as a discipline.
3. Connect the subject matter of the course to broad social themes that coincide with the university's missions of developing the whole person and social justice.

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:N/A**

**REQUIRED TEXTS: TBD**

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

**Quizzes (total) 30%**

**Class Participation 10%**

**Group Presentation 25%**

**Group Project 35%**

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**Total 100 %**