COURSE TITLE: Introduction to African American Studies

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 1211.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MWF 9:10-10:10am

INSTRUCTOR: Darnise C. Martin

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

The aim of this course is to provide an interdisciplinary examination of the complex array of African-American cultural practices from slavery to the current era. This will be done by close readings of classic texts and multimedia materials that allow students to understand the dynamics of African-American thought and practices.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical trajectory of African-American history
- Articulate in clear manner the influences upon African-American culture
- Understand varying social and cultural theories related to African American life
- Demonstrate an appreciation of African-American cultural diversity

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The Fire Next Time, James Baldwin
Selected Readings provided

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
The requirements for the course are regular attendance in lectures, active and consistent participation in discussions, successful completion of quizzes, assignments and final exam.
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to African American Studies

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 1211.02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Tues/Thurs 11:20am-12:50pm

INSTRUCTOR: Bradley

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:
The ultimate goal of the course is for young scholars to discover the importance of African American Studies as it informs so many other disciplines. If that goal is accomplished, then young scholars should also grasp the concept that African American culture is American and world culture. To become a useful and productive citizen of the world, one must appreciate the culture and history of African Americans. Using an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approach, this course will cover the experiences of African descendants from their arrival to America until the tumultuous protest movements of the twenty-first century. AAM 1211 will focus specifically on how African Americans have affected American society, economics, politics, and culture.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course, young scholars should be able to:
- Analyze material regarding the African American experience from a multidisciplinary perspective
- Evaluate the African American experience in the making of the United States and the democracy experiment in oral and written assessment
- Compare and contrast historical and contemporary issues pertaining to African Americans
- Identify the role of race and racism in the function of American politics/policy, economics, society, and culture
- Tie the broader themes of the course and the African American experience to the mission of LMU

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:
Open mind and willingness to work.

REQUIRED TEXTS: TBD

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
Over the length of the course, students will become young scholars by employing the techniques that African American Studies scholars use to find and analyze sources. Those techniques might include library and archival research, Internet searches, oral history interviews, and most important, the lost art of READING. Young scholars will have ample opportunity to hone their writing skills with each assignment and assessment administered in the course.
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to African American Studies

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 1211.03

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: M/W 2:20-3:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Williams

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: M 4:20-7:20 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Williams

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:

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
Class Assignments
Midterm & Final Exam
Term Project
COURSE TITLE: Black Cultural Arts

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 2221.01

SECTION DAYS/TIMES: TR 1:00-2:30pm

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nama

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.
Gospel Choir provides students an experience of African-American Gospel Music through artistic, cultural and spiritual means. Students learn to perform vocal music styles representative of Gospel music, including Traditional Gospel, Contemporary Gospel, Praise and Worship, Hymns and Spirituals in a choir rehearsal context. The course includes informal lecture segments, musical demonstrations and church worship experiences both in and out of the classroom. Students are taught basic vocal technique and gospel singing interpretation. The class is conducted primarily in the form of a choir rehearsal. Music is learned mostly by rote, with some score reading introduced. Neither audition nor musical experience required. Class discussions will include theological, scriptural, historical, spiritual, and cultural perspectives of Gospel music and related forms. Live and video-recorded performances as well as guest presenters will enhance students’ exposure and understanding of the art form. Course work culminates in a concert presenting repertoire mastered in class.
COURSE TITLE: African American Religious Experience

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 3231.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MWF 11:30am – 12:30pm

INSTRUCTOR: Martin, Damise

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS
This course follows the struggles and triumphs of African Americans through the various theological developments and contributions of selected African American theologians, sociologists, intellectuals and religious leaders. We will read and explore notions of freedom and Black Liberationist Theologies via African American experiences from enslavement to the present.

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 African-American religious practices
- Articulate in clear manner the influences of specific intellectuals and religious leaders upon African-American religious development
- Demonstrate an appreciation of African-American religious diversity

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND
Intro level religion course recommended

REQUIRED TEXTS
James Cone, A Black Theology of Liberation
Slave Religion, Albert Raboteau

Additional readings available on the LMU Eres system and MyLMU Connect

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
Short papers, quizzes, major paper, final exam
COURSE TITLE: Black Community Engagement

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 3643.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Section 01, T 4:20-7:20 UNH 1405

INSTRUCTOR: Bradley

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: BLACK FAMILIES

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 3432.01

SECTION TIME/DAYS: 4:20pm-7:20pm / Wednesdays

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Barbara Lang

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:
The goal of this course is to explore the Black family, the most significant institution within the Black community. Through readings, classroom discussions, written exams, and research papers, students will explore the dynamics of the Black family and Black family life by focusing on data that are presented in empirical research studies and scholarly essays. Emphasis will be placed on the analyses of the historical and theoretical conceptualizations, the myths and stereotypes, the diversity of the family structure, the racial socialization process, the significance of color consciousness, the interracial and interfaith dating and families, the female relationships, and the family violence.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able
1. To analyze and to critique the literature on the historical and theoretical conceptualizations of the Black family and Black family life;
2. To examine the myths and stereotypes that are associated with the Black family;
3. To examine the diversity that exists among Black families and within the Black community;
4. To examine the racial socialization process and the identity development of Black children;
5. To explore the strengths and weaknesses of the Black family;
6. To examine interracial and interfaith dating and families of the 21st century;
7. To examine relevant issues that are related to Black female relationships of the 21st century (shortage of Black males, cohabitation vs marriage, etc.); and
8. To develop oral and written competency in analyzing research data about the Black family that are presented in primary and secondary sources.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS: To Be Announced

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
Two (2) Papers/Two (2) Exams
Mandatory Class Attendance (Points will be deducted for each absence)
COURSE TITLE: SEX, RACE & VIOLENCE

COURSE NUMBER: AFAM 4642.01

SECTION TIME/DAYS: 4:20pm-7:20pm / Thursdays

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Barbara Lang

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:
The goal of this course is to engage students in critical thinking, analysis and writing on issues of sex, race, and violence across the dimensions of ethnicity and gender within and across diverse African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, and other, racial/ethnic communities within the U.S. and the world. Through selected readings, classroom discussions and research papers, students will identify and explore the dynamics of various types of interpersonal & institutional violence and their implications for victims, perpetrators, families and communities. Emphasis will be placed on how socialization, patriarchy, sexism, cultural norms, religious beliefs, myths and stereotypes can impact the development of the problem, as well as solutions to the problems.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will:
1. Develop skills in assessing the major historical/landmark violence and abuse research studies, methodologies and theories that help to explain interpersonal and institutional violence across the dimensions of race, ethnicity & gender;
2. Develop a critical understanding of the social variables and factors that influence societal attitudes about interpersonal & institutional violence;
3. Develop skills in analyzing and interpreting research findings that are presented in charts, graphs, and tables to answer research questions regarding interpersonal and institutional violence within diverse communities;
4. Compare and contrast the voices and perspectives of victims of violence across different racial and ethnic groups;
5. Develop skills in analyzing and interpreting Federal and state laws that define the types of interpersonal violence and the respective penalties;
6. Develop skills in translating the theoretical to a practical application within the lives of individuals, families and communities;
7. Identify and explore realistic solutions to the problem of interpersonal violence; Develop skills in critical thinking and in writing competency on the issues; and
8. Recognize the strengths of utilizing existing resources within ethnic communities to confront violence and abuse.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS: TBA

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
1. Four (4) Papers
2. Mandatory Class Attendance (Points will be deducted for each absence)