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**Spring 2018** 

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**Interdisciplinary Studies** 

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# **Africana Studies**

The interdisciplinary program in Africana Studies is a flexible one that provides opportunities for students to learn about continental Africa and the experiences of people of African descent in the Black Atlantic societies of North America, the Caribbean and Latin America. Africana Studies courses explore the multifaceted political, economic, social, and cultural traditions of Africans and peoples of African descent. The program prepares students for admission to Graduate school or for careers in Journalism, Education, Law, International Relations, and Politics among several others.

# **Curriculum**

# MAJOR in Africana Studies (ten courses-30 credits)

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Africana Studies majors must complete the following core courses:

- AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies
- AAS 490: Senior Seminar in Africana Studies
- HIS 201: History of Africa I (to 1800)
- HIS 209: African-American History to 1877

OR

• HIS 210: African-American History since 1877

One course in Caribbean Studies:

- ENG 361: Caribbean Literature
- ENG 374: Caribbean Women Writers
- APY 385: Caribbean Cultures
- GEG 212 Middle America and the Caribbean
- HIS 318: Modern Caribbean History

The remaining courses must be selected from the list of acceptable courses approved by the Program. Twelve of the 30 credits must be completed at the 300 level or above. A grade of C or better with an overall GPA is required in each course taken for the major.

# **MINOR in Africana Studies** (five courses-15 credits)

Africana Studies minors must complete AAS 150.

Africana Studies minors must complete either HIS 201 or HIS 209.

The remaining courses must be selected from the list of acceptable courses approved by the program.

A minimum of six credits must be numbered 300 or higher.

A grade of C or better with an overall GPA of 2.0 is required in each course taken for the minor.

# Spring 2018

**AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies** 

Section: B MWF 9:05am-9:55am Section: H MW 3:35pm-4:50pm

**Instructor: Dan Castilow** 

The course is designed to provide introductory instruction and engage students in an analysis of the Black experience in the Atlantic basin. It examines Africana Studies as a discipline that emerged as part of the 1960s Civil Rights struggle that paved the way for the recognition of the contribution of African Americans to the development of the United States in particular and world civilization in general. The course takes a look at Africa, the birthplace of humanity and the ancestral home of people of African descent, and highlights some of the major political units that emerged in Africa before the forced migration of Africans to the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and other parts of the world. The next segment of the course focuses attention to the role of African Americans in the independence struggle in America, the American Civil War, other important milestones in this country's history and their contribution to American culture generally. Finally, we shall put the searchlight on the struggle of African Americans and people of African descent elsewhere for civil and political rights. Some of the leaders who led the struggle in the United States constitute the focal point of the discussion of this segment. All in the all, we are interested in the "world Africans made" here in America and elsewhere in the Black Atlantic – political, economic, social and cultural.

**AAS 290: Special Topics- African American Literature** 

Section 1Q: TR 12:30pm-1:45pm Instructor: Anthony Barthelemy

Has Black Twitter altered black America's relationship with its literary past? Are contemporary politics relevant in analyzing literary texts written before social media gave all Americans a platform to express and publish their opinions? Are issues of racism and responses to racism different in post-Obama America than they were in pre-Obama America? This semester we will look at some classics from the African American literary canon that are still provocative and relevant today. In addition to trying to understand the impact of contemporary social media on our understanding of these works, we will explore issues such as the artistic and political responses to racism and racial oppression, gender and sexual identity, family and family life, economics and racial uplift. We will explore what impact social media have on the aesthetics of language and artistry today. Works will include Richard Wright's 12 Million Black Voices, Nella Larson's Passing, Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, Ernest Gaines' A Lesson Before Dying, Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun, August Wilson's Fences, and selected poems of Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks.

Combined with ENG 260

**AAS 290: Special Topics- Race and Justice** 

Section: Q: TR 12:30pm-1:45pm

**Instructor:** Gere Peoples

**TBA** 

AAS 390: Special Topics: Modern Caribbean History

Section Q: TR 12:30pm-1:45pm Instructor: Katherine Ramsey

This course will introduce students to major topics, debates, and themes in Caribbean history from the late eighteenth century to the present day. Analyzing primary source documents, images, and objects will be a particular emphasis of our work throughout the semester, and on two occasions the class will meet in the UM Libraries Cuban Heritage Collection and Special Collections to examine and discuss archival resources connected to our studies.

We will consider the interconnected politics of debt, dependency, and development, as well as the impact of tourism. Throughout the course, students will be challenged to recognize the diversity of the Caribbean, while thinking comparatively and synthetically about the region's political, economic, social, and cultural histories. In-depth discussion and the development of critical thinking and writing skills will be emphasized.

## Combined with HIS 318/ INS 385/ LAS 301

AAS 390: Race and Ethnic Relations Section O: TR 9:30am-10:45pm Instructor: Jomills Braddock

The nature and dynamics of race and ethnic relations with particular emphasis on racial and ethnic groups in the United States. We examine basic concepts and major theories in the analysis of race and ethnic relations, racial and ethnic inequality, past and recent immigration experiences, and the historical and current status of specific racial and ethnic groups. Students will also be engaged in a variety of exercises designed to develop critical assessment and analytical skills for examining and understanding issues related to race and ethnicity.

# Combined with SOC 387

AAS 390: The Black Athlete in White America

Section N: TR 8:00am-9:15pm Instructor: Marvin Dawkins

The impact of racism on sport in the United States with a specific focus on the Black athlete. Drawing upon the literature on race and sport in America, the course takes a historical view of the social context in which black athletes have competed and excelled in their craft against tremendous odds both inside and outside of sport competition.

Combined with SOC 389 and AMS 330

AAS 390: Special Topics: Gender, Race and Class

Section J: MW 5:00pm-6:15pm

**Instructor: Sumita Dutt** 

This course interrogates common sense thinking about gender, race and class drawing on readings, documentaries, blogs, memoirs and fiction from the social sciences and humanities. We will explore the ways in which intersections of gender, race, and class shape society and the lived experiences of individuals and groups within it. The focus of such critical readings will be the United States and its institutions such as family, education, economy, public policy, and the media. We will analyze how these categories intersect, as well as create inequities and build solidarities and resistance movements for change over historical time and in specific cultural contexts. Class readings, lectures and discussions will be from an intersectional and multidisciplinary perspective.

### Combined with WGS 315

**AAS 490: Special Topics: Caribbean Literature** 

Section P: TR 11:00am-12:15pm Instructor: Patricia Saunders

Given the increasing focus and debate on immigration and its impacts on America, the need to understand the integral nature of immigrant communities and contributions to what we now understand and refer to as American culture is more important now more than it has ever been. This course will explore immigrant narratives from the Caribbean region with particular focus on the waves of immigration during key historical watershed moments: World War II, the Civil Rights and post-independence movements in the U.S. and in the Caribbean region.

Combined with ENG 495





# Elective Courses that can be taken for Africana Studies Credit

HIS 591: Slavery and Freedom Global Perspective

Section 69 Mon 2:00pm-4:30pm Instructor: Matthew Heerman

This course will explore the history of slavery and emancipation in global perspectives. Human bondage has been endemic to our human societies, spanning from antiquity to contemporary human trafficking. A major focus of this course is the rise and fall of plantation slavery in the Americas, but we will seek to understand how the enslaved people of the African Diaspora was similar to other slave societies around the world. The course will examine what institutions and practices supported maintained systems of slavery across time. And it will look at how different movements to abolish slavery took off.

**MCY 222: African American Song Traditions** 

Section S: TR 3:30pm-4:45pm Instructor: Melvin Butler

A study of the origins, development, and styles of African American song traditions from early plantation songs, shouts, hollers, and spirituals, to the development of blues traditions, to gospel. Areas to be explored include the development of an African American cultural consciousness and the political and socio-economic influences on the content and musical styles.

MCY 124: The Evolution of Jazz Section R: TR 2:00pm-3:15pm

**Instructor: Tim Smith** 

A study of the origin, development, and styles of jazz music and its exponents. This course is not for music majors. Music majors should enroll in MSJ 113 and MSJ 213.