

AFRICAN AMERICAN & AFRICANA STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COURSES:

AAS 200-001: Introduction to African American Studies: Intro to AAAS is an interdisciplinary course. It establishes the intellectual context for examining the African American experience over time. It introduces students to the various approaches scholars use to analyze that experience. This course focuses on the diversity and richness of African Americans' lives across time and geographic boundaries. We will explore the foundations of black culture, politics, and life from the Transatlantic Slave Trade through contemporary issues. Among the most important themes will be 1) slavery and migration, 2) resistance and politics, and 3) cultural autonomy. Study of these three themes will demonstrate the historical and continuing impact of the African Diaspora within the United States. **Anastasia Curwood, TR 11:00-12:15pm.**

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AAS 235-001 (also SOC 235): Inequalities in Society: This course seeks to promote and understanding of inequalities in American society by considering them in the context of the social origins, development, and persistence of inequalities in the United States and other societies. Bases of inequality that may be considered include race/ethnicity, class/status, gender/sexuality, age, political and regional differences as these relates to politics, social justice, community engagement, and/or public policy. **Kathleen Ratajczak, MWF 12:00-12:50.**

AAS 254-001 (also HIS 254): Colonial and Post-Colonial History of Sub-Saharan Africa: The western media coverage of developments in Africa usually presents the ugly aspects of life in the continent, including poverty, disease epidemics, wars, dictatorships, and so forth, without examining the African perspectives on those issues. In this course, students will have the opportunity to critically engage with such stereotypes by exploring the history of the African continent from the 1880s to the present. The lectures, assignments and other activities in this course will deploy an Afro-centric approach to help students engage with an African perspective that is largely missing from western accounts of the continent. **Francis Musoni, TR 9:30-10:45am.**

AAS 264 (also ENG 260): Introduction to Black Writers: An introduction to written and oral works by Black authors of Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States. The course includes writers such as Chinua Achebe (Africa), Wilson Harris (Caribbean), and Toni Morrison (USA), as well as others from the diverse field of literature written by African-American authors and authors of color worldwide. Attention will be paid to student writing, particularly to devising a thesis, crafting an argument, and learning how to use supporting evidence. **Sections: AAS 264-001: DaMaris Hill, MWF 12:00-12:50 | AAS 264-002: Rynetta Davis, TR 11:00-12:15pm**

AAS 326 (also ANT 326): Contemporary African Lives: What do you think when you hear AFRICA? This course goes beyond the words, images and stereotypes that we typically learn from western news reports, popular media and mainstream descriptions of issues on the continent. Our goal will be to examine, and challenge, many of the popular portrayals of Africa, and thus build a more realistic and grounded understanding of the region. We will consider issues of geography, social organization and family life, health and food security, economy and ecology, and politics and identity. But our examination will draw from African sources and people living on the continent, as well as media built on long term engagement with the multitude of African nations. We will investigate how social, economic and global systems come together to produce the diversity of lives across the vast region. We will also discover positive, hopeful and sustainable aspects of African life with attention to local people's solutions and efforts to build the lives they want. Ultimately, we will come away with both better understanding of the complex reality of "Africa", and with analytical tools for examining other complex, but often stereotyped, issues in society more broadly. **Toni Milanzi, MWF 1:00-1:50**

AAS 328 (also GEO 328): Geography of Middle East and North Africa: A comprehensive regional overview, emphasizing cultural adaptation to desert environments. The interrelationships among religions, cultures, and the physical environment will be examined, along with the region's position and influence in the global system. **Matthew Rosenblum, MWF 10:00-10:50**

AAS 400-001: Special Topics in AAAS: Performing Black Feminisms: What makes something (or someone) Black? Feminist? How do we recognize Blackness or feminism in music, film, theatrical productions or other artistic demonstrations? How do cultural producers embed Blackness and/or feminism into their creative works? As a class, we will wrestle with those questions while examining the confluence of black feminist theory and aesthetic practice. In other words, this course commits to investigating how ideas of black women's social, political, and economic liberation (theory) manifest in and through various modes of artistic expression (aesthetic practice). At its core, this class takes a vested interest in exploring black women's cultural production as a site for revealing and reveling in the fullness of black womanhood. Though formal training or a background in performing (music, dance, theatre, etc.) is **not** a prerequisite for this course, we will maintain a body-centered knowledge of Black feminism. Students should expect to spend some time working through and with exercises, performances, and improvisations. By taking this course, students agree to full participation in a collaborative pedagogy wherein all classroom participants are held accountable for the knowledge generated. **Nicole Martin, W 2:00-4:30**

AAS 400-002 (also ENG 480G): Special Topics in AAAS: Studies in Film: Black Life Matters: In this course students will view and discuss over a dozen films in conversation with a set of seminal essays. We will compare and contrast on screen narratives with societal events, soundtracks, and the filmmakers themselves, as part of an interrogation of cinematic efforts to advance or challenge ideas of white supremacy, particular standards of beauty and definitions of masculinity. We will study the work of Oscar Micheaux, Spike Lee, Julie Dash, Khalil Joseph, Ava Duvernay, Bradford Young and others. Some of the films we will view include *The Amistad*, *Glory*, *The Color Purple*, *Birth of a Nation*, *Raisin In the Sun*, *Jungle Fever*, *Shaft*,

She's Gotta Have It, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Bamboozled, I'm Gonna Git You Sucka, Do the Right Thing, Selma, Daughters of the Dust, Lemonade, and The Black Panther. **Frank X. Walker, TR 11:00-12:15**

AAS 401-001: Reading/Research in AAAS: This course will give you an overview of the nature of research in the social sciences. With this in mind, several things about this class are worth mentioning. First, this class will expose students to quantitative, as well as qualitative research methods. (Don't worry; by the end of the semester, you will understand the difference between these two research approaches, and I will demonstrate the usefulness of "mixing" methods [i.e., combining insights from both approaches].) Second, I designed this course for AAAS students, but I think it might prove useful for anyone interested in conducting empirical research. Third, I place more emphasis on the application of these methods rather than on their technical foundations. In other words, we will not spend much time memorizing formulas or ruminating about key debates between ethnographers or critical theorists; rather, we will devote our time to thinking about the challenges of planning a research project, acquiring, collecting, or preparing the evidence (military folks call it "intel," and nerds call it "data"), analyzing those data, and writing up the results. Finally, research is something you learn by doing, so I focused this class on tackling real social science puzzles, working with raw data, learning research-related computer software, and creating manuscripts. **Ray Block, MWF 11:00-11:50am.**

AAS 432-001 (same as SOC 432): Race & Ethnic Relations: Analysis of relationships between racial and ethnic groups and the behavioral products thereof. Sources and consequences of prejudice and discrimination. Situation and prospects of minorities. Strategies of change and tension reduction. Prereq: Six hours of social science or consent of instructor. **David Luke, TR 12:30-1:45.**

AAS 433-001 (also SOC 435): Topics in Social Inequalities: Gender & Mental Health: A sociological study of topics relevant to social inequalities and stratification. May be repeated under different subtitles to a maximum of six credits. **Robyn Brown, TR 11:00-12:15.**

AAS 550 (same as EDC 550): Education in Culturally Diverse Society: This course assists future educators in developing strategies to create an equitable teaching/learning environment where all students are validated, stimulated, and nurtured. Course participants explore the rationale for their current belief systems and perceptions of other cultures; investigate how and why their personal attitudes, behaviors, and expectations affect the academic and social development of children and youth, and examine contemporary educational issues. **TBD, R 5:00-7:30pm.**

Check out the AAAS website for course changes and updated course descriptions:

<http://aaas.as.uky.edu/aas-course-offerings>

