

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AAM)

AAM 2000 - Introduction to African American Studies

Credit(s): 3 Credits

An interdisciplinary survey course that introduces the discipline through the examination of the African diaspora and its impact on the Americas. The course focuses on the movement, conditions, and experiences that shaped the development of the African American Society.

Attributes: Global Local Justice-Domestic, Service Learning, Urban Poverty - Exclusion, Diversity in the US (A&S)

AAM 2010 - Contemporary Black America

Credit(s): 3 Credits

A study into the current issues and problems facing and impacting the African American society from the 1960's through today. This course also examines the present leadership in Black America and delves into a treatment of future directions and problems facing the society. Spring semester.

Attributes: Global Local Justice-Elective, Service Learning, Urban Poverty - Exclusion, Diversity in the US (A&S)

AAM 2120 - Survey of Art in Africa since Prehistory

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This course explores visual culture in Africa from prehistory through present-day. We will look at rock art, ancient Nubia, the nomadic Wodaabe, Christian Ethiopia, and various sub-Saharan cultures. Students will learn about architecture, ceramics, textiles, metal arts etc. Students graded on two Exams and two short quizzes.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement (A&S), Global Citizenship (A&S), International Studies

AAM 2200 - Blacks & the Mass Media

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This course is designed to provide a critical analysis of the portrayal of African Americans by mass media industries. It also examines the mass communication systems and their relationship to society and the shaping of societal images of African Americans. Offered occasionally.

AAM 2220 - Introduction to African-American Art

Credit(s): 3 Credits

We discuss visual art created by African-American artists from 1600s to present-day. We cover the themes, artists, and artworks from important movements like the Harlem Renaissance, WPA period, and Black Arts Movement, etc. Students graded on four short formal analysis papers and a final project.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement (A&S), Diversity in the US (A&S)

AAM 2250 - Political Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa

Credit(s): 3 Credits

AAM 2260 - African American Religious Traditions

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This course can fulfill the Cultural Diversity core requirement. History of Afro-American religious thought and the Black churches of the United States, contributions of Black theologians in articulating Afro-American values and religious experience. Offered during the Fall semester.

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Exclusion

AAM 2300 - Introduction To The Novel

Credit(s): 3 Credits

AAM 2320 - Art of the African Diaspora

Credit(s): 3 Credits

We will discuss the visual and performing arts of artists of African descent from prehistory (Aksum) through the present-day (UK, Latin, America, US, Caribbean, & Africa). Students will be graded on three short essays, two formal analyses and one final project.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement (A&S), Global Citizenship (A&S)

AAM 2500 - Intergroup Dialogue

Credit(s): 3 Credits

In a culturally and socially diverse society discussion of differences is needed to facilitate understanding and build relationships among people. Intergroup dialogue is designed to provide a space for such discussion and for learning about issues of difference, conflict and community through dialogue. Through this course students will explore their own and others' perspectives from the practice of dialogue. Students will also explore ways of taking action to create change and bridge differences at both the interpersonal and the social/community levels. In-class learning will be enhanced through readings, films, weekly journal writing, a final reflection paper and in-class activities designed to develop competence in dialogue facilitation.

Attributes: Social Science Req (A&S), Urban Poverty - Exclusion, Diversity in the US (A&S)

AAM 2520 - Intro to African Politics

Credit(s): 3 Credits

A study of governments and political processes. Examines salient themes such as the nature of African traditional heritage; colonial experience; nationalism and independence; the challenge of nation building; African political parties; role of the military and contributions of difference theories to the understanding of African politics. Offered every third semester.

AAM 2550 - Political Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa

Credit(s): 3 Credits

Examines governmental institutions and political processes in selected nations of Africa south of the Sahara. The emphasis is on nationalism and independence, types of civilian regimes, modernization, the role of military and transition to democracy.

AAM 2900 - Intergroup Dialogue: Black Male Identity

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This course deconstructs notions of the black male identity. Intergroup Dialogue is designed to provide a space for difficult discussions and for learning about issues of difference, conflict, and community through dialogue. Students will learn how to create change and bridge differences at both the interpersonal and the social/community levels. Students will be admitted upon the completion of a brief survey and with the approval of the professor.

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Exclusion, Diversity in the US (A&S)

AAM 2930 - Special Topics

Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

AAM 2980 - Independent Study

Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

Independent study topics are assigned which deal with selected problems in the African America experience. Offered every semester.

AAM 3200 - African American Culture

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the origins and practice of African American cultural traditions and rituals. Topics covered include religion, literature, language, death and dying, food, popular culture and music.

Attributes: Social Science Req (A&S), Urban Poverty - Exclusion

AAM 3220 - Urban Crisis

Credit(s): 1 or 3 Credits

Attributes: Diversity in the US (A&S)

AAM 3230 - History of Africa to 1884

Credit(s): 3 Credits

Examines population movement, interaction, and development of institutions and ideas in African civilization; varying types of politics and revolutionary changes; slavery and the Atlantic encounter; impact of Christianity and Islam.

AAM 3240 - History of Africa since 1884

Credit(s): 3 Credits

Examines political, economic, and social developments in Africa since 1884. Includes European scramble for and partition of Africa; African initiatives and reaction to imposition of colonial rule; the colonial state and history of colonial rule; independence movements; Nationalism and nation building.

AAM 3270 - Diversity and Anti-Oppression Practice

Credit(s): 3 Credits

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Exclusion

AAM 3300 - African American Lit Trad

Credit(s): 3 Credits

AAM 3310 - Intercultural Communication

Credit(s): 3 Credits

Introduces the role of culture in the process of human interaction and encourages in-depth analysis of the unique challenges posed by intercultural encounters. Develops a better understanding of culture and the many ways in which it influences interaction between individuals and groups.

Prerequisite(s): CMM 2000; CMM 2800

Attributes: African American Studies, International Studies, International Studies-Arts, Women's & Gender Studies

AAM 3330 - African Diaspora Writing

Credit(s): 3 Credits

An introduction to the fiction and poetry of Black African & African-American writers.

Attributes: African American Studies

AAM 3350 - African American Religious Traditions

Credit(s): 3 Credits

The purpose of this class is to expose the student to the historical and social nature of African American Religion. The course will cover the historical development of African American Religion from its African origins up to and including the Civil Rights Movement with some attention given to contemporary black liberation theology. Fall semester.

Attributes: African American Studies, Catholic Studies-Elective

AAM 3360 - Race & Ethnicity

Credit(s): 3 Credits

Examines the impact of racial, cultural, national, and religious differences on social processes. Emphasis on current data.

AAM 3370 - Spirituals, Motown & Hip Hop: African American Social History and Music

Credit(s): 3 Credits

The history and evolution of African-American music is as rich and complex as the history of African Americans themselves. African-American music has the ability to enhance a social and cultural understanding of race, class, and gender in American society. Black music genres will be explored within the historical time frame to fully understand the origins, growth and development of black music and the manner it reflects the experiences of African Americans.

Prerequisite(s): AAM 2000; AAM 2010

Attributes: Diversity in the US (A&S)

AAM 3500 - Social Inequality

Credit(s): 3 Credits

The different forms of inequality will be examined from different theoretical perspectives. The course examines the causes and consequences of inequality in society as well as alternative approaches to dealing with the inequality.

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Exclusion, Urban Poverty - Social Justice

AAM 3580 - American Slavery

Credit(s): 3 Credits

American slavery as a social, political, and economic institution. Themes include the introduction and institutionalization of slavery in America; the slave experience(s); evolving perceptions of slavery; how events changed perceptions and how perceptions influenced events; and slavery as the ultimate cause of the Civil War.

Attributes: African American Studies

AAM 3610 - Civil Rights in America

Credit(s): 3 Credits

AAM 3730 - African Diaspora Writing

Credit(s): 3 Credits

An introduction to the fiction and poetry of Black African and African American writers. Offered every semester.

AAM 3850 - Intro to Post Colonial Lit

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This course examines representative works and major literary, historical, and cultural developments in the post-colonial literature of Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Gives special attention to students' writing about literature. Strongly recommended for students considering study in English beyond the 300-level.

AAM 3860 - Human Sexuality in the Black Community

Credit(s): 3 Credits

In addition to providing general knowledge about human sexuality, this course assists students with gaining an insight into their sexuality and relationships. In addition to examining sexual issues at the personal and relational level, the course focuses on increasing general knowledge and understanding of human sexuality.

AAM 3910 - Internship

Credit(s): 1-6 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

AAM 3930 - Special Topics

Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

AAM 3980 - Independent Study

Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

AAM 4000 - Field Service - Community Activism in St. Louis High Schools**Credit(s): 3 Credits**

In collaboration with the Urban Financial Services Coalition, students will engage with finance professionals to assist in a financial literacy program. After four weeks of teaching at local high schools on money management, students will prepare presentations on topics that range from college 101, African American History and Studies.

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Exclusion**AAM 4010 - Readings****Credit(s): 3 Credits** (Repeatable for credit)

This course is designed as an independent study for students to engage in selected readings/study in Africana Studies. Offered alternate semesters.

Prerequisite(s): AAM 2000**AAM 4150 - Ethnic and Race Studies****Credit(s): 3 Credits****AAM 4180 - Philosophy and Culture****Credit(s): 3 Credits****AAM 4200 - History of African American Cinema****Credit(s): 3 Credits**

Traces the history of African-Americans in the motion picture industry. Topics cover "black-face" minstrel stereotypes, wages, social and political opposition, organizing for representation, Blaxploitation, inter-racial casting and subject matter, and documentaries. A comparative study of Hollywood versus the Independent Filmmaker looks at 'Race Movies' and the first African-American film companies.

AAM 4270 - U.S. Anti-Black Racism**Credit(s): 3 Credits**

This course deals with the history of Black Americans from their arrival in North America in 1619 to the end of the 20th century, with the focus on the racism that they have endured through slavery, Jim Crow and segregation, and repression in the midst of legal desegregation.

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Exclusion**AAM 4320 - Communication Across Racial Divisions****Credit(s): 3 Credits****AAM 4330 - Psychology of Oppression****Credit(s): 3 Credits**

The course teaches students how to understand the mechanisms that undermine the appreciation of multiculturalism and other forms of diversity in society. The perspective emphasizes how socially constructed definitions of various groups are used to distinguish sameness and difference among people. Topics include micro- and macro-level theories of oppression, the importance of ideology in oppressive systems, and theories of social change and liberation. This course will satisfy the Cultural Diversity component of the Arts and Sciences Core.

Attributes: African American Studies, International Studies, Urban Poverty - Social Justice, Diversity in the US (A&S), Women's & Gender Studies**AAM 4340 - African American Psychology****Credit(s): 3 Credits**

The course reviews some of the theoretical perspectives in the psychological study of African Americans, examines some of the biases in past research, reviews current research in the field, and applies current theory and research to other areas of psychology (clinical, organizational, etc.). Fall semester. This course will satisfy the Cultural Diversity component of the Arts and Sciences Core.

Attributes: African American Studies, Diversity in the US (A&S)**AAM 4380 - POST 1900 AMERICAN LITERATURE****Credit(s): 3 Credits****AAM 4610 - Contemporary African Theatre****Credit(s): 3 Credits**

This course is dedicated to the study of accomplishments made by African-American playwrights, actors, musicians, historians, and technicians to theatre. Documenting their contributions from 1865 to present.

Attributes: African American Studies**AAM 4770 - Philosophy & Social Change****Credit(s): 3 Credits****AAM 4800 - Civil Rights Era/Leaders****Credit(s): 3 Credits**

This course is designed to provide an interdisciplinary analysis of the contemporary Civil Rights Movement and the leadership that emerged. The course will examine selected primary works of the local and national events of the 1950's to 1970's. Students will engage in oral history interviews to collect local history. Offered occasionally.

AAM 4810 - Philosophy and Race**Credit(s): 3 Credits**

A critical examination of the philosophical bases of multiculturalism; the biological and socio-cultural significance of race; varied philosophical approaches to racial identity; the epistemic and ethical dimensions of interracial interpretation and prejudice; and the questions posed about the philosophical tradition by its relationship to victims of racial prejudice.

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Social Justice, Diversity in the US (A&S)**AAM 4820 - Pre-1900 African American Literature****Credit(s): 3 Credits**

An exploration of African American writings from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present through a reading of a variety of literary, critical and historical texts, notably slave narratives and poetry.

AAM 4830 - Post 1900 African American Literature**Credit(s): 3 Credits**

An exploration of African American writings from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present through a reading of a variety of literary, critical, and historical texts from the Harlem Renaissance to Afro-centrism.

Attributes: Urban Poverty - Exclusion**AAM 4900 - Black Women in Society****Credit(s): 3 Credits**

This course is designed to provide an interdisciplinary approach for the study of Black women in a changing society and the impact of social, historical, cultural, political, and economic forces. Attention will be devoted to Black women's relationships as a result of societal conditions. Fall Semester.

Attributes: African American Studies, Urban Poverty - Exclusion, Diversity in the US (A&S)**AAM 4910 - Internship****Credit(s): 1-6 Credits** (Repeatable for credit)**AAM 4930 - Special Topics****Credit(s): 1-3 Credits** (Repeatable for credit)

AAM 4960 - Capstone Course

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This synthesizing course provides an opportunity to integrate key concepts of African American Studies in a specific area of interest. Capstone projects are expected to demonstrate competence in critical thinking, inquiry skills, and the synthesis of knowledge through original research or field service project or artistic endeavor. Offered every semester.

AAM 4970 - Research Methods in African American Studies

Credit(s): 3 Credits

Through the reading of major scholarly monographs and articles, students will learn and analyze methodological approaches to African American Studies. Students will then design independent research projects utilizing methodologies appropriate to the field. This course is open to African American Studies majors and by permission of the instructor.

AAM 4980 - Advanced Independent Study: Research

Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

Independent study is conducted in select topics that deal with the African, African American, or Caribbean experience.

Prerequisite(s): (Minimum Earned Credits of 60)

AAM 5000 - Readings in African American Studies

Credit(s): 3 Credits

This course offers graduate students an advanced introduction to the interdisciplinary field of African American Studies. The scholarly treatment of African American history, literature, politics/policy, and culture has evolved greatly over the last century. AAM 5000 is designed to highlight those changes in the context of African American Studies as a discipline. The rise of African American Studies in the late 1960s made it possible for scholars and students at the university level to delve into the experience of people of African descent in this nation. Since then, students have had the opportunity to chart the evolution of the field by reading and analyzing major texts and documents concerning African Americans. This course introduces graduate students to the primary texts, methodologies, and approaches of the field.

AAM 5100 - Research and Writing in African American Studies

Credit(s): 3 Credits

African American Studies 5100 is designed as an intensive writing seminar for graduate students. The seminar will focus on the interdisciplinary research methods/theories of African American Studies and the students' ability to write in a scholarly manner. Early in the semester students will discuss specific forms of academic writing that they will be likely to perform at some point in their graduate career, such as portfolio papers, literature reviews, dissertation proposals, conference papers, academic articles, thesis and dissertation chapters. Students will spend the remainder of the semester engaged with their own and their colleagues' writing. (Offered occasionally)

Prerequisite(s): AAM 5000 and 1 Course from AAM 5001-6000

AAM 5930 - Special Topics

Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

AAM 5980 - Independent Study

Credit(s): 1 or 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)