AFS

Africana Studies/Social and Behavioral Sciences

AFS 500: Foundations in Africana Studies, I
Core course required of all students pursuing a master's degree in Africana Studies. The two-semester foundations sequence will introduce students to the theoretical issues and historiography of the Africana Diaspora. The parameters of Africana Diaspora studies will cover the historical, literary, sociopolitical, cultural, and economic themes of the black experience. The course will provide critical examination of the global experience and promote an understanding of the Black Diaspora. Students will read the works of scholars who shaped the broad intellectual world. The required readings will emphasize the canons of Diaspora literature, including works by and about W.E.B. Du Bois, George Padmore, C.L.R. James, Marcus Garvey, and others.

Permission of advisor required.
Fall, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 501: Foundations in Africana Studies, II
Core course required of all students pursuing a Master's degree in Africana Studies. The two-semester foundations courses will introduce students to the theoretical issues and historiography of the Africana Diaspora. The parameters of Africana Diaspora studies will cover the historical, literary, sociopolitical, cultural, and economic themes of the black experience. The course will provide critical examination of the global experience and promote an understanding of the Black Diaspora focusing on scholarly works by Paul Gilroy, Chinua Achebe, Henry Louis Gates, Angela Davis, Walter Rodney, and others.

Permission of advisor required.
Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 502: Research Methods in Africana Studies
This course introduces students to basic concepts of research methodology, specifically as they pertain to studies of the African diaspora. Students will be exposed to a variety of critical approaches across such disciplines as history, literature, political science, and sociology in the context of Africana studies. Students will examine the ways in which theoretical, ideological, and philosophical assumptions about race, class, and gender shape the kinds of research questions we ask and the types of instruments we use to investigate and evaluate the experiences and contributions of people from the African diaspora.

Permission of advisor required.
Fall, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 504: Racialized Oppressions and the Idea of Humanity
When one reads accounts of slavery, genocide, the systematic denial of rights to a group because of a racial identity, the question always arises whether the oppressors view the racialized other as fully human? This course will explore this question and what it means to view an individual or group as "fully human." How have philosophical understandings of the moral importance and the moral meaning of "humanity" served to exacerbate, moderate or fight against racial oppression? How does racial and gender oppression compare in this respect? Is there a comparison to be made between racial oppression and the treatment accorded to disabled people with respect to the understanding of what it is to be human? Does shifting the ground from a biologically-based concept such as "humanity" to a philosophical concept of "personhood" serve to justify or serve as a tool against these identity-based oppressions? Does shifting the ground justify the analogy of racism with the abuse of animals, as in the idea of "speciesism"? We will explore as many of these questions as interest dictates and time permits. Permission from advisor required.

Fall, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 507: African Music
This is a selective introduction to African music, and the music of the African Diaspora. We will read from major scholars in the field of African music studies such as Simha Arom, Christopher Waterman, Gerhard Kubik, Michele Kisiuki, Ruth Stone, Kofi Agawu, and others. Students will get a broad overview of the music of the major regional subdivisions of Africa (for instance North Africa, Central Africa, South Africa, etc.), as well as a historical perspective on the musicological issues that have been central to Africanist musicology and ethnomusicology. There will be regular reading, listening, and short writing assignments, occasional quizzes, a book review, and a final research project of 16-18 pp. For the book review, students will write about a monograph on African Music such as John Miller Chernoff's African Rhythm and African Sensibility or Paul Berliner's The Soul of Mbira. Students will present their research to class towards the end of the term. Permission from course instructor required.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 530: Slavery and the Atlantic World
This course will examine the experiences of people of African descent as participants in a coerced migration that created the African Diaspora. The transatlantic slave trade led to an enduring image of black men and women as transported commodities. Therefore, it has had the greatest impact on the construction of the African Diaspora giving rise to new communities of people across the globe.

Fall, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 533: Race, Gender, and Globalization
This seminar explores current issues and debates relating to the racialized and gendered effects of globalization. Topics include an overview of the sociology of globalization and theories of globalism/the global system, transnational classes and a transnational state, global culture and ideology, transnational migrations and the new global labor market, globalization and race/ethnicity, women and globalization, local-global linkages, and resistance to globalization.

Fall or Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 536: Africa and Globalization
This seminar will discuss the interconnection between this enduring crisis of the modern African state and the impact of globalization, especially after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. We will critically explore the implications of these complex regional and global political and economic forces for emerging African social formation, the viability of African states and societies, new migration patterns, transnationalism, and diasporic connections especially since the decolonization process in the 1950's.

Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

AFS 540: The Black Power Movement
This course examines the Black Power Movement. Stokely Carmichael's call for "Black Power!" broke through the commotion of everyday politics during 1966's Meredith March Against Fear. Soon after, and for the next decade, Black Power galvanized African American politics, engendering radical movements for social, political, and cultural transformation that impacted blacks in the United States and beyond. An emerging historiography traces the roots of Black Power in the postwar black freedom movement, finding cultural and political touchstones for future Black Power activism among
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Cold War era. The final section examines the international politics of African states from both theoretically and historical perspectives. The relevant themes here include the impact of the major powers on African subregions in the Cold War and post-containment eras; the impact of multilateral agencies on African political, economic and social developments; regional organizations and African states. The structure of the course is intended to be coherent but flexible, so that we can identify some basic trends in the reading assignments and construct consistent themes on the interplay of political transformation in the twentieth century. Permission of advisor is required.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)