

2010-2011 Course Catalog

The University Of Montana

African-American Studies

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African-American Studies at The University of Montana connects African and African-American (including Latin America and the Caribbean) history, experiences, and perspectives with the 21st century. The goal of the African-American Studies curriculum is to develop basic knowledge of, and appreciation for, the diverse experiences of the African Diaspora, and their contributions to the nations into which they were incorporated. Through this study students will recognize that the African-American narrative connects to the core issues of nation formation, identity politics, social movements, and the liberal state. Those who take this minor will likewise be equipped to talk alongside, through, and in the midst of the racial fracture lines that mark this nation as a country where the color of one's skin is socially significant. In all these efforts, we promote scholarship that is driven first and foremost by an interest in creating knowledge and furthering our understanding of the African-American experience. The interdisciplinary curriculum of African-American Studies includes course offerings from the following academic disciplines: anthropology, economics, English, geography, history, music, political science, and sociology. Some topics of study include: African heritage and cultural continuity among African-Americans; African-American identity issues and cultural variation; the history of African-American protest and resistance, including the abolitionist, anti-lynching, and civil rights movements; the Harlem Renaissance; the social dynamics of integration and segregation; and the various circumstances of, and prospects for, African Americans in the 21st century.

Requirements for a Minor

The African-American studies minor is an interdisciplinary program requiring twenty-seven (27) credits drawn from a combination of disciplines-history, anthropology, English, sociology, geography, economics, and political science.

1. African-American Core Courses 12 credits required from the following:

- AAS 141H/HSTA 141H Introduction to African American Studies
- AAS/HSTA 342H African American History to 1865
- AAS/HSTA 343H African American History Since 1865
- AAS 345/HSTA 345 The Black Radical Tradition

6 credits required from the following electives:

- AAS 195 Special Topics
- AAS/HSTR 208H Discovering Africa
- AAS 260 African Americans and Native Americans
- AAS/HSTA 262 Abolitionism: The First Civil Rights Movement

- AAS 295 Special Topics
- AAS 372 African American Identity
- AAS/HSTA 374 African American Religious Experience
- AAS 395 Special Topics
- AAS/HSTA 417 Prayer and Civil Rights
- AAS 493 Omnibus
- AAS 495 Special Topics

2. Electives

- 9 credits required from at least two of the following fields:
- Anthropology
 - ANTH 102S Race and Minorities
 - ANTH 329 Social Change in Non-Western Societies
 - ANTH 330X Peoples and cultures of the world
- Economics
 - ECNS 217X (ECON 350) Economic Development
- English
 - LIT 343 (ENLT 337) African-American Literature
 - LIT 420 (ENLT 421) Critical Theory
- Geography
 - GPHY 243X (GEOG 207S) Africa
- History
 - HSTR 262 (HIST 283H) Islamic Civilization: The Classical Age
 - HSTA 344 (HIST 362) African American Struggle for Equality
 - HSTA 361 (HIST 361H) The American South: From Slavery to Civil Rights
 - HSTA 382 (HIST 363H) History of American Law
 - HSTR 388 (HIST 388H) Africa to 1880
 - HSTR 409 (HIST 409) History of Southern Africa
 - HSTA 418 (HIST 470) Women and Slavery
 - HSTA 419 (HIST 471) Southern Women in Black and White
 - HSTA 420 America Divided, 1848-1865
- Modern Languages
 - FRCH 391 (FREN 395) Special Topics: African-American Literature
- Music
 - MUSI 130L (MUS 132L) History of Jazz
- Political Science
 - PSCI 326H (PSC 326H) Politics of Africa
- Sociology
 - SOCI 220S(SOC 220S) Race, Gender and Class
 - SOCI 325 (SOC 325) Social Stratification
 - SOCI 443 (SOC 322) Sociology of Poverty

3. Exit Interview

All minors must meet with the AAS coordinator to discuss their experience and primary learning from the program prior to graduation

4. Honors Designation

Students may elect to achieve an honors designation by writing a twenty-five-page research paper in which they develop an argument based on their class learning about a fundamental problem in the study of the African-American experience as part of a three-credit independent study.

Courses

U = for undergraduate credit only, UG = for undergraduate or graduate credit, G = for graduate credit. R after the credit indicates the course may be repeated for credit to the maximum indicated after the R. Credits beyond this maximum do not count toward a degree.

African-American Studies (AAS)

U 141H Introduction to African American Studies 3 cr. Offered autumn. Same as HSTA 141H (HIST 161H). This course introduces students to the primary questions, themes, and approaches to African American Studies. In addition to examining key historical periods such as Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights era, students will encounter Hip-Hop, African-American film, African-American religion, and contemporary identity politics. This course concludes by discussing the reasons for and new directions in African American studies, including Diaspora studies, Pan-Africanism, and post-colonial studies. Overall students will gain new insight into the social, cultural, political, and intellectual, experiences of a diverse people and into the history and contemporary experience of the United States.

U 195 Special Topics Variable cr. (R-6) Experimental offerings of visiting professors, experimental offerings of new courses, or one time offerings of current topics.

U 208 Discovering Africa 3 cr. Offered intermittently. Same as HSTR 208 (HIST 208H). Interdisciplinary study of the history of pre-colonial Africa, focusing on social, economic, political and cultural institutions and traditions including the wealth, diversity and complexity of ancient and classical African civilizations and cultures.

U 260 African Americans and Native Americans 3 cr. Offered Fall, even years. Same as NAS 260. A study of the broad scope of relations between African Americans and Native Americans in colonial and United States history. Topics explored through history, sociology, and cultural anthropology.

U 262 Abolitionism: The First Civil Rights Movement 3 cr. Offered spring. Same as HSTA 262 (HIST 262) Interdisciplinary, historical perspective on the early 19th century movement to abolish slavery and racial discrimination in the United States.

U 295 Special Topics Variable cr. (R-6) Offered intermittently. Experimental offerings of visiting professors, experimental offerings of new courses, or one-time offerings of current topics.

U 342H African American History to 1865 3 cr. Offered intermittently. Same as HSTA 342H (HIST 378H). Survey of the African-American experience from the African background to the end of the Civil War. Focus on Black American quest for the American Dream, and how Blacks attempted to deal with the challenges of enslavement and racism.

U 343H African American History since 1865 3 cr. Offered intermittently. Same as HSTA 343H (HIST 379H). Study of the African-American experience since the Civil War. Change and continuity in the African-American experience, the fight against Jim Crow, the struggle for civil rights, and post-civil rights economic, political, social and cultural developments and challenges.

U 345 The Black Radical Tradition 3 cr. Offered autumn, odd years. Same as HSTA 345. From slave revolts through to the Move rebellion in Philadelphia, this course

examines how the African-American community has engaged in radical efforts to change the status quo in the name of seeking justice.

U 347 African American Religious Experience 3 cr. Same as HSTA 347. An examination of the history of religious expression within the African-American community from the colonial era through the twentieth century. Central to the course is the question, "How did religion shape the experience of the African-American community?" Students will also examine the ways in which religious practice influenced social, political, and cultural changes in American history.

U 372 African American Identity 3 cr. Offered autumn. Interdisciplinary course designed to explore and illuminate the multifaceted nature and development of African-American group and individual identity.

U 395 Special Topics Variable cr. (R-9) Prereq., consent of instr. Experimental offerings of visiting professors, experimental offerings of new courses, or one time offerings of current topics.

U 396 Independent Study Variable cr. (R-9) Prereq., consent of instr.

UG 409 History of Southern Africa 3 cr. Offered intermittently. Historical survey of developments in southern Africa from the earliest of times to the present. Focus on the evolution and growth of societies and states; economic, social and political developments; external interventions and impacts on race relations.

U 417 (AAS 450) Prayer and Civil Rights 3 cr. Same as HSTA 417. An exploration of the meaning of public prayer in the Civil Rights Movement. Combines historical and religious studies inquiry to trace changes in civil rights activists' efforts to make use of religion. Challenges students to consider how meaning is formed through historical action and study of the social significance of religious practice.

U 420 America Divided, 1848-1865 3 cr. Offered intermittently. Same as HSTA 420 . This course explores the period in American history from the close of the Mexican War through the conclusion of the Civil War. Topics include slavery and sectionalism; race and racism; immigration and ethno-religious conflict; military mobilization and wartime dissent; the meaning of freedom in the age of emancipation. This course is intended to hone skills fundamental to the historical discipline: the critical analysis of primary sources; independent primary research and historical writing; engagement with and assessment of historical scholarship; the construction of a historiographical essay.

U 493 Omnibus Variable cr. (R-6) Prereq., consent of instr.

UG 495 Special Topics Variable cr. (R-9) Prereq., consent of instr. Experimental offerings of visiting professors, experimental offerings of new courses, or one time offerings of current topics.

U 496 Independent Study Variable cr. (R-9) Prereq., consent of instr.

G 562 Problems in African American Religious History 3 cr. Spring, even years. Same as HSTA 562. This course explores the question, "How does one study African-American history?" through the lens of African-American religious practice.

Faculty

Instructors

George Price, Ph.D., The University of Montana, 2006

Tobin Miller Shearer, Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2008 (coordinator)

Emeritus Professor

Ulysses S. Doss, Ph.D., The Union Institute, 1974