

## Department of Africology and African American Studies

### List of Fall 2017 Courses and their Descriptions

**\*(Gen Ed courses are marked with an asterisk.)**

**\* AFC 101 Introduction to African American Studies (CRN #s 13098, 13099, 13100, 13101, 13102, 13324, 13325, 13641, 14228, 14648, 16270, 16278, 16279)**

3 hrs

This is an introductory examination of the African American experience. It acquaints students with the trends, issues and forces that have shaped that experience; it considers the concepts of cultural adaptation, institutional development, and group self-definition; and it surveys the contemporary status and condition of African Americans.

(AFC 101 counts towards the US Diversity area of the General Education Program. It also counts towards the Major and Minor in African American Studies.)

**\* AFC 102 Introduction to African Civilization (CRNs 13103, 13104, 16277 & 16280) (03 hrs)**

This course is designed to provide the student with an introductory knowledge of centers of African civilization from antiquity to the 1960s. Those centers include ancient Egypt, Songhai, Kilwa, and Monomotapa.

(AFC 102 counts towards the Global Awareness area of the General Education Program. It also counts towards the Major and Minor in African American Studies.)

**AFC 201 Foundations of Knowledge in African American Studies (CRN 13105)**

03 hrs

This course examines the empirical and theoretical foundations of African American studies, the evolution of the field, and the role of key scholars in its development.

**AFC 211 Caribbean Cultural Production in Context (03 hrs) (CRN 16394)**

This interdisciplinary course will provide an overview of the Caribbean region through the lenses of history and cultural production. Before the European invasion, the Caribbean islands were inhabited by indigenous populations who had deep connections to the land, the spirit world, and to

each other. Europeans forever altered the human, ecological, spiritual, and cultural landscape that existed prior to their arrival.

Through their readings, reflections on, writings about, and discussions of the course material in relation to their own experience students will gain insight into this complex history, appreciate its cultural production and begin to recognize the role that the Caribbean plays in larger global systems.

Topics to be addressed are: the history of the indigenous populations, the forced importation of African peoples, and their myriad forms of resistance to enslavement. Students will also explore contemporary issues of neoliberalism and ecological pressures in relation to inhabitants' spiritual practices as well as their musical, literary, and visual production.

### **AFC 221 African American Social Movements (CRN 13519)**

This course explores the collective efforts undertaken by African Americans to elevate their group status in American society. It analyzes the struggle for human freedom through an examination of resistance to chattel slavery, the quest for civil rights and the response to structured inequality.

### **AFC 231 Race, Urbanization & Policy Mindset (CRN 13106)**

03 hrs

This course examines African American urbanization, and the insight that process provides into patterns of thought, policy formulation and organizational growth among African Americans. It offers perspective on the *corpus* of knowledge regarding the African American experience, on the disciplinary tools furthering that inquiry and on policy choices in post-industrial society.

### **\* AFC 232 Politics in the African American Experience (CRN 14229)**

3 hrs

This course is designed to provide the student with knowledge of Black political behavior in the United States in its evolution from protest to contemporary institutional politics.

**AFC 243 Black Women: Politics & Racism (CRN 13107)**

3 hrs

This course is an introduction to the study and analysis of American politics related to African American women. The course will explore the ways in which political issues affect Black women differently than African American men, White men, and White women.

**AFC 272 Hip Hop Lyricism in African American Culture (3 hrs)  
(CRN 13108)**

This course is an examination of the cultural continuity exemplified by the socially conscious hip hop lyricism to the African American poetic and musical forms that preceded it. The course involves studying the genre's cultural context and learning to interpret its culturally and socially conscious texts. Like its predecessors, hip hop has become an important idea-bearing part of youth culture world-wide and thus is needed.

Prerequisite: None

**AFC 312 African Civilization 3 hrs (CRN 13109)**

This course is designed to provide the student with an interdisciplinary knowledge of centers of African civilization from antiquity to the 1960s. Those centers include ancient Egypt, Songhai, Kilwa and Monomotapa.

**\* AFC 313 Online Contemporary Africa: The Struggle and Prospects (CRN 14649)**

This course serves as a survey of Africa's contemporary political economy. In examining postcolonial developments, the course focuses on regional and national strategies for social transformation.

(AFC 313 counts towards the Global Awareness area of the General Education Program. It also counts towards the Major and Minor in African American Studies.)

**AFC 370 - Films of the African American Experience (CRN 17342)**

This course examines African American literature that has been adapted to film. Film history about African American involvement in the industry, including filmmakers is studied. The course involves developing techniques of analyzing fiction and drama as well as film adaptations of the African American experience.

**AFC 379 African Diasporic Liberation Struggles (03 hrs) (CRN 16269)**

This course will explore the African diaspora from the perspective of revolutions, addressing and assessing physical armed struggle as well as spiritual and ideological struggles. We will be reading a number of texts from different parts of the globe in order to seek out and identify commonalities of purpose and method. We will also screen a number of films as a way of investigating how black struggles for freedom have been realized both historically and contemporarily. Students will come away from the course with a sense of some of the challenges to freedom that African diasporic people have faced over the centuries and their responses—quite proactive and innovative in many ways—to those challenges.

**AFC 379 Race and the Zombie (CRN 16840)(03 hrs)**

This course will provide a foundational exploration of the zombie. Students will explore the flesh-and-brain-eating phenomenon of the zombie of popular culture by way of its origins. In the first half of the course, students will explore the zombie as commentary on society's anxieties around race, gender, and class in the early 20th century. In the latter half of the class students will explore how the zombie continues to serve as a repository for society's fear of the monstrous Other, uncontainable.

From the George Romero series of the Walking Dead to more recent iterations of zombie films like the soon to be released World War Z 2 (2017), TV shows like iZombie and comics like Marvel Zombies to the online course, Zombie Survival Camp, there has been no shortage of culturally current explorations of the figure of the zombie. Moreover, the zombie does not seem to be going anywhere anytime soon.

**AFC 361 The African American Family (CRN 13110) 3 hrs**

Examines the historical and contemporary forces shaping the African American family. Analyzes urbanization, economic transformations, and institutionalized racism. Studies the role of the family in human survival and progress.

**\*AFC 402L4 African American Studies Internship Seminar (CRN 14652)(03 hrs)(wholly online)**

AFC 402 African American Studies Internship Seminar (03 hrs) is designed as an online practicum during which majors and minors in African American Studies can acquire a practical experience of an African American organization or any organization that serves a diverse clientele. Through placement in an approved organization, a major or minor is expected to accomplish two main goals: (1) achieve a hands-on understanding of the internal and external dynamics faced by the organization, and (2) apply his/her theoretical knowledge of African American Studies to duties and services performed as part of the internship. (Note that AFC 402L4 also serves as an option for satisfying General Education's Learning Beyond the Classroom requirement through Group 4, LB4=Career and Professional Development).

**AFC 501 Foundational Issues in African American Studies (crn 13517)**

3hrs

This course provides an advanced examination of theoretical and conceptual issues that form the epistemological foundation of African American studies. It investigates key studies, scholars and theories in the field. Readings and discussions pay close attention to the relationship between theory and empirical research and their applications to contemporary social issues.

**AFC 505 The African Political Economy (CRN 14650)** 03 hrs

This course serves as an advanced and critical survey of Africa's contemporary political economy. In examining post-colonial developments, the course focuses on regional and national strategies for social transformation.

**AFC 543 Civil Rights & African Americans (CRN 13112)**

3 hrs

This course explores the impact of race as a dominant and dynamic force that has shaped the interpretation of the constitution and subsequent Civil Rights Acts. Students will critically examine how black communities organized for change and how the Civil Rights movement contributed to American political reform.