

African & African American Studies 2100
Introduction to African and African American Studies

Spring 2011

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Course Description

Intro to African and African American Studies serves as a gateway to the interdisciplinary study of African descendant people across the globe. The goal of the course is to introduce students to a critical and comprehensive analysis of the historical, cultural, and contemporary characteristic of the shared experiences of peoples of African descent around the globe. It will emphasize the interaction of cultural, social, economic, political, and intellectual phenomenon within local contexts and across geographical boundaries.

Course Objectives

1. The students will be introduced to the origins and meanings of the concept “Diaspora,” and of the historical events and circumstances that first brought about the African Diaspora.
2. The student will develop a clear understanding of several fundamental concepts in the field of Afro-American (Africana) Studies;
3. The student will develop a clear understanding of the key theories and ideological debates in African American life and history
4. The students will be able to make the African Diaspora and people of African descent the analytical center of inquiry.
5. The students will be exposed to an understanding of the process of cultural history and diffusion, and how syncretism and creolization define the dynamic living cultures that emerged out of the dehumanizing experience of slavery, colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, and other oppressions in the Diaspora.
6. The students will be able to stimulate and nurture an institutional intellectual culture that integrates methods of inquiry, thus establishing connections among disciplines and encouraging students to pursue knowledge through a variety of sources.

7. The students will be expected to show analytical and interpretive skills that will enable the student to study and research the historical and cultural ties between Africans throughout the Diaspora.
8. The students will be able to promote critical thinking, so that in both written and oral communications the student will be able to analyze print and non-print materials, make comparisons of particulars, draw and support conclusions.
9. The students will be able to document sources, synthesize diverse information, scrutinize and apply theory, and evaluate the characteristics and ethical implications of diverse worldviews.
10. The students will be able to understand that a study of the human experience is important to an appreciation of the student's position as a citizen of the globe.

Required Text & Readings

Book

Africana Studies: A Survey of Africa and the African Diaspora, 3rd edition, edited by Mario Azevedo

The Best of Simple by Langston Hughes for reading Group A

Simple's Uncle Sam by Langston Hughes for reading Group B

The Return of Simple by Langston Hughes for reading Group C

Grading

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Exam 1	15%	2/24
Exam 2	15%	4/21
Quizzes	15%	Every Thursday
Ephemeral Project	20%	1/27, 2/10, 4/26, 5/5
Participation	15%	Everyday
Weekly Blogging	15%	Weekly
Simple Blog	05%	3/31 or 4/7

Grade	Percentage	Description
A	100-92	Exemplary

A-	91-90	Excellent
B+	89-86	Very Good
B	85-83	Good
B-	82-80	Satisfactory
C+	79-76	Satisfactory
C	75-73	Acceptable
C-	72-70	Marginally Acceptable
D+	69-65	Marginally Acceptable
D	64-60	Pass
F	Below 60	Fail

Requirements:

- **Exams(2):**
The exams are mainly identification questions with some multiple choice, matching, and mapping questions. All make up exams will be an in class essay.
- **Quizzes**
Every Thursday there will be a quiz over the readings and lectures examining the key terms and concepts since the last quiz. The quiz will be short answer, multiple choice, matching, and mapping questions. These quizzes can be one resource to study for the two exams.
- **Ephemeral Project:**
In consultation with the professor, the students will work in groups and design their own ephemeral project. Ephemeral is defined as lasting for a very short time. These projects are in class and will be performed and once they are done they are over. A PowerPoint presentation is not a ephemeral project but a skit, film, song, poetry, rap, and other performance artist is in the scope of the project. The subject matter has to be some aspect of the African Diaspora for example music, literature, politics, subjugation/oppression, resistance. Each project must have primary source documentation to inform the in class performance. Primary sources include newspapers, diaries, government publications, organization's

records, etc. The project will be broken into four parts and all parts must be present to receive a grade: the research proposal, the bibliography, the final product, and a group reflection paper. Each part has its own due date and one cannot move forward to the next part without completion of the previous part. Each part is due when specified and only in a rare and case-by-case situation will the student be able to turn in material late.

The presentation is an assignment to incorporate both verbal and written skills. Each group will present for 20-25 minutes and each member must participate in the class presentation. The written component should be written like an academic paper but use the personal pronoun I. The group turns in one paper and each individual must contribute to the final document and it must read as one coherent paper. I suggest using UMWiki to accomplish this goal. The paper must not only deal with the topic, why it was chosen, reflections on how the topic fits into the African Diaspora and the student, but each student must detail her/his contribution to the entire project. All students must participate in every step of the project. The final group paper should be at 7 pages and no longer than 10. Please consult the teacher often if you have any questions. More instructions will be passed out during the class.

- **Weekly Blogging**

You will be divided into two groups—Blog Group A or Blog Group B. Every other week you are responsible for writing a reflection of the week's readings, discussions, and/or news. These blogs should run between 150-250 words. When it is not your turn to author a blog, you will be responding to 3 different blog entries. These responses are your chances to add, debate, clarify, analyze what your classmates wrote based on the readings, discussions, and/or news. Each of the response blogs needs to be 75-100 words.

The posterous email address aaas2100@posterous.com can be used to post your blogs and to respond to your classmate's blog. You may also set up an account on posterous but it must use your UofM email address so you can post to our site.

The posts are due on Monday by 1:00 pm and the responses to the posts are due by midnight on Wednesday.

- **Participation**

Each student is expected to contribute to the dialogue/discourse/discussion. You may participate by:

1. Asking poignant questions about the readings, lectures, and/or discussions.

2. Responding to a question asked by the professor, faculty, guest speakers, or other class members.
3. Making an analytical comment or observation.
4. Bring in newspaper/magazine/media that deals with an aspect of class that we are currently discussing or have discussed.

It is necessary and important for you to read the assigned readings prior to coming to class to be able to fully participate and contribute to class. I would advise you to follow my example on how to discuss the material in class—integrating readings, discussions, and outside materials from other courses. Daily participation will be noted and graded using a grading scale of 0=no/little participation 1=moderate participation 2=full participation. After each class session, I will assign these number grades to the attendance and the majority of your participation grade will come from these daily assessments.

- **Attendance**

Attendance is vital during a semester and I will be taking attendance daily. The student will receive two days of unexcused absences before her/his attendance adversely affects the grade. After the 2nd absence, the course grade will be dropped one letter grade for occurrence. An example is if someone missed 4 days and had an A in the class. The new grade would be a C for the two extra days. Of course, emergencies happen and will be considered only with written documentation (doctor's note, funeral program, traffic accident ticket, etc). Also, tardies will be counted and a tardy constitutes being more than ten minutes late or leaving early by my watch. Two tardies will count as one absence. So please come to class on time. When the projects start, attendance is mandatory and you must be on time to hear your classmates' presentations the ten-minute rule is not observed during projects because it is rude to walk in late during someone's presentation. If you do not show up during the presentations or leave early, you will receive a 0 on your project and these projects are 20% of your final grade.

- **Computer Resources:**

Students are required to activate their University of Memphis email addresses and regularly check or forward their UofM student email to a personal account. The university sanctions student email accounts as the official method of contact and will use your student email account for any university related notifications. In addition, university policy requires that instructors use these accounts to contact groups of students. Contact technology services for any help with getting a UofM email address.

- **Students with Disabilities:**

Any student who may need class or test accommodations based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. Students with disabilities should also contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at 110 Wilder Tower, 678-2880. SDS coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

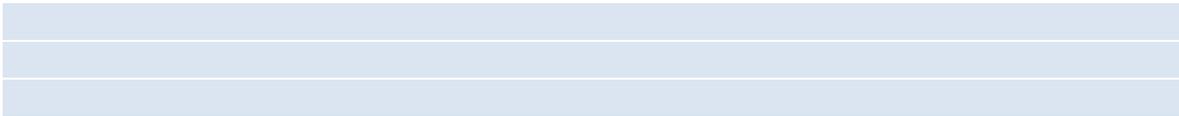
- **Academic Honesty** is fundamental to the principles and activities of a university. You are responsible for knowing the university's policy on academic honesty. Ignorance is NOT a defense for any charge of dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication or falsification of information, submission of work or substantial portion of a piece of work more than once without permission from all professors involved. For your protection, please familiarize yourself with the university's policy on academic honesty. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, your case will be turned over to the appropriate academic officials for review. If an allegation of dishonesty is proven, **you will receive an F for the course.**
- **All work is due when specified and late materials will not be accepted unless accompanied with written documentation (e.g. doctor's note, funeral program).** If you have an emergency please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss how to handle the assignment.
- Eating in class is acceptable if it is a snack e.g. potato chips, candy bar, or a drink. Please do not bring a full course meal to class and expect to eat it.
- Sleeping, hats and head gear, disruptive behavior, not paying attention are all prohibited and are subject to have you dismissed from the class.
- **INCOMPLETE GRADES**
An Incomplete grade is assigned when extenuating circumstances, such as illness, the death of a family member, or a family emergency, prevent a student from completing assignments and other course requirements by the end of the semester. An incomplete grade must be changed by the deadline specified on the college calendar or will be automatically changed to an "F." The removal of an "I" grade does not guarantee a passing grade.
- **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES**
All cell phones and other electronic communications devices are to be switched off or turned on "silent" for the duration of the class (silent does not mean

vibrate!!!). Using the phone to text or talk in class is prohibited. If a phone or any other electronic device goes off during class the student will receive a 0 for the day and will be asked to leave. If a device goes off during a test the student will automatically receive a 0 on the test. I do not allow the use of laptops, iPads, or any other computing device to be used during class unless absolutely necessary and will need you to explain to me why it is necessary. If you are approved to have such a device and get caught using it to facebook, surf the internet, play games, anything that is not dealing with the class then you will receive a 0 for that week's quiz and a 0 on participation for the day. You also will lose the privilege of having the ability to use the device in the class for the rest of the semester.

- **My professor often said, “The law of common courtesy has not yet been repealed.” I hope that we will engage in many debates over the semester. I expect that we will all treat each other and each other’s ideas with respect.**

Schedule			
Date	Topics & Activities	Readings Due	Assignments Due
1/13	Introductions What is African and African American Studies? What is a Diaspora?		
1/18	African Diaspora—what, where, and who is it?	Defining and Studying the Modern African Diaspora Colin Palmer African Diasporas and the Atlantic Pier Larson The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean Edward Alpers	Blogs Group A Finalized Groups
1/20	Introduction to African American Studies.	Ch. 2 Azevedo	Quiz 1
1/25	Africa, Early Humans, & the Old World	Ch. 3 Azevedo	Blogs Group B
1/27	Contact, Slavery, and Dispersal	Ch. 4 Azevedo	Quiz 2 Project Proposals Due
2/01	New World Reality—Latin America vs. English Colonies	Ch. 5 Azevedo	Blogs Group A

2/03	Resistance—running away, maroons, and rebellions	Asserting the Right to Be Michael Gomez	Quiz 3
2/08	Colonization	Ch. 6 Azevedo	Blogs Group B
2/10	Post-Slavery	Ch. 7 or 8 Azevedo will be assigned	Quiz 4 Project Bibliography Due
2/15	Pan-Africanism	Ch. 10 Azevedo	Blogs Group A
2/17	African Independence	Ch. 9	Quiz 5
2/22	In Class Review		
2/24	Exam		Exam I
3/01	Contemporary	Ch. 11 Azevedo	Blogs Group B
3/03	Contemporary	Ch. 12 Azevedo	Quiz 6
3/08	Spring Break Be Safe		
3/10	Spring Break Have Fun		
3/15	Family	Ch. 20 Azevedo	Blogs Group A
3/17	Family	Ch. 21 Azevedo	Quiz 7 March 18 th Last Day to Withdraw and get a W
3/22	Health	Ch. 27 Azevedo	Blogs Group B
3/24	Health	Excerpts from Medical Apartheid and Another Dimension to the Black Diaspora	Quiz 8
3/29	Literature	Ch. 17 Azevedo Simple	Blogs Group A
3/31	Literature	Ch. 18 Azevedo Simple	Quiz 9 Simple Blog
4/05	Music	Ch. 14 Azevedo Simple	Blogs Group B
4/07	Music	Ch. 15 Azevedo Simple	Quiz 10 Simple Blog
4/12	Religion	Ch. 22 Azevedo	Make-up Blog
4/14	Religion	Ch. 23 Azevedo	
4/19	Review		
4/21	Exam		Exam II
4/26	Projects		Projects Groups 1 & 2
4/28	Study Day		
5/5	Final Exam	8 AM – 10 AM!!!	Projects Groups 3-6
5/9	Grades Due into Registrar		



**Syllabus is subject to change and be adjusted
If any changes occur or are modified you will receive an addendum via
email.**