

**Indiana University**  
**Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies**  
**Course Descriptions**

**Fall 2009**

**Undergraduate Courses**

**A100 African American Dance Company (2 cr.)**

*Consent of instructor by audition.* Emphasis on ethnic and jazz traditions, although other genres are regularly performed. Repertoire varies from semester to semester. Participation in on- and off-campus concerts, workshops, and lecture demonstrations required. Previous dance training desirable but not essential. May be repeated individually or in combination with A110 or A120 for a maximum of 12 credit hours.

**A110 African American Choral Ensemble (2 cr.)**

*Consent of instructor by audition.* Performance of music by and about blacks, including spirituals, gospel, art songs, and excerpts from operas and musicals. Repertoire varies from semester to semester. Participation in on- and off-campus concerts, workshops, and lecture demonstrations required. Ability to read music desirable but not essential. May be repeated individually or in combination with A100 or A120 for a maximum of 12 credit hours.

**A120 Soul Revue (2 cr.)**

*Consent of instructor by audition.* Introduces the richness and depth of black popular tradition through authentic performance practices. Repertoire varies from semester to semester. Participation in on- and off-campus concerts, workshops, and lecture demonstrations required. Ability to read music desirable but not essential. May be repeated individually or in combination with A100 or A110 for a maximum of 12 credit hours.

**A141 Intro Writing and Study of Black Literature (4 cr.) A & H**

Composition and literature courses that teach the skills of writing. Structuring of ideas through analysis and practice of various techniques of paragraph and essay development. Reading and discussion of representative Afro-American writings, including poetry, short stories, sermons, novels, and drama.

**A150 Survey Culture Black Americans (3 cr.) A & H, CSA, TFR**

The culture of blacks in America viewed from a broad interdisciplinary approach, employing resources from history, literature, folklore, religion, sociology, and political science.

**A210 Black Women in the Diaspora (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

Interdisciplinary examination of salient aspects of black women's history, identity, and experience, including policies, cultural assumptions, and knowledge systems that affect black

women's lives. While the primary focus is North America, the lives of black women in other cultural settings within the African diaspora are also examined.

**A221 Dance in the African Diaspora (3 cr.)**

Introduction to the history, culture, music, and body movements of dances in the African American and African Diaspora tradition with a focus on African-derived dances, primarily from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and America. Instruction through classroom lectures, discussions, videos, readings, and movement sessions.

**A249 African American Autobiography (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

A survey of autobiographies written by black Americans in the last two centuries. The course emphasizes how the autobiographers combine the grace of art and the power of argument to urge the creation of genuine freedom in America.

**A264 History of Sport and the African American Experience (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

Examination of the historical participation and contributions of African Americans in sport. Students study African American sports pioneers and the social conditions affecting their participation. Period studied includes pre-slavery to the civil rights era (1500 to 1960s).

**A278 Contemporary Black Film (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

Problems raised by proliferation of films acted, authored, directed and/or produced by blacks. Exploration of legitimacy of "black film aesthetic" and its reception by various segments of the black community.

**A295 Survey of Hip Hop (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

This course examines rap music and hip hop culture as artistic and sociological phenomena with emphasis on historical, cultural, economic and political contexts. Discussions will include the co-existence of various hip hop styles, their appropriation by the music industry, and controversies resulting from the exploitation of hip hop music and culture as a commodity for national and global consumption.

**A355 (HIST A355) African American History I (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

History of blacks in the United States. Slavery, abolitionism, Reconstruction, and post-Reconstruction to 1900.

**A360 Slavery: A Worldwide Perspective (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

Examines several aspects of the classical, indigenous, and modern political/ social bondage.

**A379 Early Black American Writing (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

Afro-American writing before World War II, with emphasis on critical reactions and analyses. Includes slave narratives, autobiographies, rhetoric, fiction, and poetry.

**A386 Black Feminist Perspectives (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

Examination of the history, development, and manifestation of feminist consciousness among African American women. The course is particularly concerned with how black women's lived

experience defines that consciousness, and the differing impact it has among various groups of black women, and in their larger social, political, and cultural communities.

**A395 (MUS M395/Z395) Contemporary Jazz and Soul Music (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

Consent of instructor. A survey of contemporary jazz and soul (rhythm and blues) music and musicians in the United States.

**A398 Advanced Topics in Social and Historical Studies for AAADS (3 cr.) S & H**

Advanced study and analysis of selected issues and problems within the African American and African Diaspora experience utilizing interdisciplinary interpretation through analytical reasoning and philosophical discussions. Varied topics primarily in the areas of history, politics, sociology, anthropology, and economics.

**A399 Advanced Topics in Arts and Humanities for AAADS (3 cr.) A & H**

TOPIC: African American Religions

This course examines the varieties of African American religions from the early modern era to the present. The course will have analytical focus on colonialism, slavery, modern race and gender identities, and transnational linkages. Topics include Diaspora theologies, government surveillance, and cultural revivalism. Students will also study major issues of method and historiography of African American religions. Essay (bluebook) exams; research paper.

**A486 Internship in African American Studies (3 cr.)**

Junior or senior status with 15 credit hours of African American and African Diaspora Studies credit, and project approved by instructor. Directed readings, field research, research papers. Certain internship experiences may require research skills.

**A493 Senior Seminar in AAADS (3 cr.)**

Senior status as African American and African Diaspora Studies major. Lecture/discussions on African American studies as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry and scholarship. Students will develop individual or group projects that synthesize their experiences as majors by demonstrating the interrelated nature of the department's concentration areas.

**A495 Individual Readings in African American Studies (3 cr.)**

Students who wish to enroll in A495 must (1) secure the written consent of the instructor and the departmental chairperson, and (2) file with the departmental secretary an approved list of readings to be completed during the semester.

Topics may include:

Reading in African American Fiction

Reading in African American Film Studies

Reading in African American Folklore

Reading in African American History

Reading in African American Nonfiction

Reading in African American Poetry

Reading in African American Sacred Music

Reading in African American Secular Music

Reading in African American Social Issues  
Reading in African American Theatre and Drama

**A499 Honors Thesis (3 cr.)**

Approval of instructor and departmental honors advisor. Development, completion, and defense of honors thesis.