

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

**Spring 2010**

**Undergraduate**

**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 (3 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.

**A142 Intro Writing and the Study of Black Literature II (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 African 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.

**A154 History of Race in the Americas (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

Exploration of the development of racism and racial ideologies in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, and South America from colonial times to the present. Emphasizes

the interaction among cultural, political, and economic factors in shaping patterns of conflict and collaboration, domination and resistance.

**A156 Black Liberation Struggles Against Jim Crow and Apartheid (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

A comparative perspective on American race relations, specifically the similarities and differences of the struggles against Jim Crow in America and against apartheid in South Africa. In both places, the late twentieth century witnessed a revolt against the legal and philosophical framework of white supremacy.

**A201 Introduction to African American and African Diaspora Studies (3 cr.) CSA**

Introduction to African American and African Diaspora Studies as a field of study: epistemological considerations, theories, and methods that have come to form what is called Africana studies.

**A205 Black Electoral Politics (3 cr.) S & H**

The course will explore black participation in the formal structures of American government and in the processes by which these structures are accessed. Black participation in local, state, and federal government arenas will be focused upon, and the political benefits to the black community of these involvements will be assessed.

**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.

**A265 Modern Sports and the African American Experience (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

The impact of African American sports heroes, famous teams, and annual sporting events on the shaping of African American culture and the combating of American racism.

**A277 Images of Blacks in Films: 1903-1950s (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

Images of blacks in films, mainly American, from before *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) to the 1950s. Course will include segments as well as complete feature films (also "race films" when available), shorts, cartoons, and documentaries viewed in historical perspective.

**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.

**A330 African American Cinematic Experience (3 cr.) A & H**

Examines the historical and contemporary portrayals of African Americans in Hollywood and in independent narrative film focusing on the social and political functions of film, its legitimization of race, and its oppositional formations, interventions, and practices. Considers how film mediates and interrogates race and social relations in American society.

**A352 African American Art II: Afro-American Artists (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

A survey of the artistic traditions of the African in the New World, from the period of slavery in North and South America through contemporary African American and expatriate black American artists.

**A356 (HIST A356) African American History II (3 cr.) S & H, CSA**

R: A355. 1900 to the present. Migration north, NAACP, Harlem Renaissance, postwar freedom movement.

**A380 Contemporary Black American Writing (3 cr.) A & H, CSA.**

R A379 The black experience in America as it has been reflected since World War II in the works of outstanding African American writers: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

**A392 African American Folklore (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

African American culture in the United States viewed in terms of history (antebellum to present) and social change (rural to urban). Use of oral traditions and life histories to explore aspects of black culture and history.

**A393 (MUS M393/Z393) History of Jazz (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

Periods, major performers and composers, trends, influences, stylistic features, and related materials.

**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.) S & H**

Advanced study and analysis of selected issues and problems within the African American and African diaspora experience utilizing interdisciplinary interpretations through analytical reasoning and philosophical discussions. Varied topics primarily in the areas of dance, music, film, theatre and drama, and literature.

**A430 The Cinema of Africana Women (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

Historical and critical overview of films produced by African American women from the 1940s to the present. The course emphasizes how black women filmmakers combine their creative abilities with a desire to capture dominant issues that affect black women's lives in America.

**A480 The Black Novel (3 cr.) A & H, CSA**

R: A379 or A380. Analysis of the African American novel from the Harlem Renaissance to the present genesis, development, and current trends. Emphasis on traditions arising out of the black experience and on critical perspectives developed by black critics and scholars.

**A481 Racism and the Law (3 cr.) S & H**

Contemporary racial problems in American society with regard to law and constitutional principles of basic freedoms and associated conflicts. Effects of societal norms and impact of racism.

**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.

**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.