AASP - AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

AASP100 Introduction to African American Studies (3 Credits)
Significant aspects of the history of African Americans with particular emphasis on the evolution and development of black communities from slavery to the present. Interdisciplinary introduction to social, political, legal and economic roots of contemporary problems faced by blacks in the United States with applications to the lives of other racial and ethnic minorities in the Americas and in other societies.

AASP101 Public Policy and the Black Community (3 Credits)
The impact of public policies on the black community and the role of the policy process in affecting the social, economic and political well-being of minorities. Particular attention given to the post-1960 to present era. Formerly: AASP300.

AASP187 The New Jim Crow: African-Americans, Mass Incarceration and the Prison Industrial Complex (3 Credits)
Students will examine the birth of the racial caste system following the abolition of slavery, the parallels between the racial hierarchy of the Jim Crow system and contemporary mass incarceration, and the rise of the prison industrial complex as a multi-billion business which thrives on the oppression of low-income populations and poor communities of color.
Recommended: AASP100.

AASP200 African Civilization (3 Credits)
A survey of African civilizations from 4500 B.C. to present. Analysis of traditional social systems. Discussion of the impact of European colonization on these civilizations. Analysis of the influence of traditional African social systems on modern African institutions as well as discussion of contemporary processes of Africanization.

AASP202 Black Culture in the United States (3 Credits)
The course examines important aspects of African American life and thought which are reflected in African American literature, drama, music and art. Beginning with the cultural heritage of slavery, the course surveys the changing modes of black creative expression from the 19th-century to the present.

AASP258 Special Topics in Study Abroad I (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

AASP274 Creative Writing Through The Eyes of African Americans: A Beginning Workshop (3 Credits)
Introduction to theory and practice of writing fiction, drama and poetry, with an emphasis on African American literary models. Critical reading, exercises and workshop discussions with continual reference to modeling, drafting, and revising as necessary stages in a creative process.
Restriction: Must not have completed any courses from ENGL278C, AASP274, AASP298W, ENGL274, ENGL271, ENGL294N, or ENGL294. Also offered as: ENGL274.
Credit Only Granted for: ENGL274, ENGL278C, ENGL294, ENGL294N, AASP274 or AASP298W.
Formerly: AASP298W.

AASP297 Research Methods in African American Studies (3 Credits)
Introduces African American Studies majors to the basic research skills, methodologies, sources, and repositories for studying African Diaspora. Students will be required to select a research topic, write a research proposal, develop an annotated bibliography, and in the process will be prepared for completing their senior thesis or other significant writing projects necessary to fulfill the requirements of the major.
Prerequisite: AASP101 or AASP202.
Restriction: Must be in African American Studies program.
Credit Only Granted for: AASP297 or AASP299R.
Formerly: AASP299R.

AASP298 Special Topics in African American Studies (3 Credits)
An introductory multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary educational experience to explore issues relevant to black life, cultural experiences, and political, economic, and artistic development.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.

AASP299 Selected Topics in African American Studies (1-3 Credits)
An introductory multi-disciplinary academic exploration of the cultural, political, and economic issues relevant to Africans and African-Americans.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.

AASP301 Applied Policy Analysis and the Black Community (3 Credits)
Development and application of the tools needed for examining the effectiveness of alternative policy options confronting minority communities. Review policy research methods used in forming and evaluating policies. Examination of the policy process.
Prerequisite: AASP101; and (ECON201 or ECON200).
Recommended: Completion of one semester of statistics is recommended.

AASP303 Computer Applications in African American Studies (3 Credits)
Introduction to statistics and database processing software used in model estimation and simulation in policy analysis. Special emphasis on applications for applied research on policy problems confronting minority communities.
Prerequisite: STAT100, MATH107, MATH111, or SOCY201; or students who have taken courses with comparable content may contact the department.

AASP305 Theoretical, Methodological and Policy Research Issues in African American Studies (3 Credits)
Theories and concepts in the social and behavioral sciences relating to problems in minority communities. Issues include validity and soundness of theoretical arguments, epistemological questions of various methodologies and the relationship between policy making and policy research.
Prerequisite: AASP301; and (STAT100, MATH111, PSYC200, BMGT230, or SOCY201). Or students who have taken courses with comparable content may contact the department.
Formerly: AASP401.

AASP310 African Slave Trade (3 Credits)
The relationship of the slave trade of Africans to the development of British capitalism and its industrial revolution; and to the economic and social development of the Americas.
Prerequisite: AASP202 or AASP100; or permission of BSOS-African American Studies department.
Formerly: AASP311.
AASP313 Black Women in United States History (3 Credits)
Black American women’s history is examined from slavery to the present. The principal focus of the readings and student assignments will be based upon gaining a fuller understanding of the effect of race, class and gender on the life cycles and multiple roles of Black women as mothers, daughters, wives, workers and social change agents. A variety of primary source materials on black women’s experiences will be utilized.
Restriction: Sophomore standing or higher. Also offered as: WMST314.
Credit Only Granted for: AASP498W, AASP313, HIST329E, WMST314, or WMST498N.
Formerly: AASP498W.
AASP314 The Civil Rights Movement (3 Credits)
Survey of the twentieth century civil rights movement from the desegregation of UM Law School through the National Black Political Congress in Gary in 1972. Major themes include leadership, legal and constitutional challenges, non-violence, Black Power, and Pan-Africanism.
Prerequisite: AASP100 or HIST157.
AASP358 Special Topics in Study Abroad III (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.
AASP386 Experiential Learning (3-6 Credits)
AASP395 Fundamentals of Quantitative Research in Socio-Cultural Perspective (3 Credits)
Introduction to quantitative methods for African American Studies majors in the cultural and social analysis concentration. Basics of survey design and experimental design and data analysis and use of statistical software programs.
Restriction: Must be in African American Studies program; and junior standing or higher.
AASP396 Independent Study Non-Thesis Option (3 Credits)
A research seminar that allows African American Studies majors to complete an independent study research project in lieu of completing the AASP397: Senior Thesis. Students will examine various concepts of race, gender, labor and ethnicity in the seminar lecture component to be applied toward their specific research projects.
Prerequisite: AASP386 and AASP297.
Restriction: Must be in African American Studies program.
Credit Only Granted for: AASP396 or AASP397.
AASP397 Senior Thesis (3 Credits)
Directed research in African American Studies resulting in the completion and defense of a senior thesis.
Restriction: Permission of BSOS-African American Studies department.
AASP398 Selected Topics in the African Diaspora (3 Credits)
Analysis of the historical experiences and cultures of Africans in the diaspora.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.
AASP400 Directed Readings in African American Studies (3 Credits)
The readings will be directed by the faculty of African American Studies. Topics to be covered will be chosen to meet the needs and interests of individual students.
Prerequisite: AASP202 or AASP100.
AASP402 Classic Readings in African American Studies (3 Credits)
Classic readings of the social, economic and political status of blacks and other minorities in the United States and the Americas.
Prerequisite: AASP202 or AASP100.
AASP411 Black Resistance Movements (3 Credits)
A comparative study of the black resistance movements in Africa and America; analysis of their interrelationships as well as their impact on contemporary pan-Africanism.
Prerequisite: AASP100.
AASP441 Science, Technology, and the Black Community (3 Credits)
Scientific knowledge and skills in solving technological and social problems, particularly those faced by the black community. Examines the evolution and development of African and African American contributions to science. Surveys the impact of technological changes on minority communities.
Prerequisite: HIST255, AASP202, or AASP100; or permission of BSOS-African American Studies department.
AASP443 Blacks and the Law (3 Credits)
The relationship between black Americans and the law, particularly criminal law, criminal institutions and the criminal justice system. Examines historical changes in the legal status of blacks and changes in the causes of racial disparities in criminal involvement and punishments.
Prerequisite: HIST255, AASP202, or AASP100; or permission of BSOS-African American Studies department.
AASP468 Special Topics in Africa and the Americas (3 Credits)
Cultural, historical and artistic dimensions of the African experience in Africa and the Americas.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.
AASP478 Humanities Topics in African American Studies (3 Credits)
Advanced studies in the humanities, often requiring prerequisites, focusing on the literary, artistic and philosophical contributions of Africans and African Americans.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.
AASP483 Gender, Sexuality and the Black Family (3 Credits)
Examining the historical, economic, social, and scholarly construction of African American family structures. The problematization of “Black matriarchy,” hetero- and homosexuality, bi-racialism, and other efforts to “normalize” African Americans to conform to Eurocentric and religious concepts of family will be critically analyzed.
Prerequisite: AASP100.
Credit Only Granted for: AASP483 or AASP498F.
Formerly: AASP498F.
AASP493 Feminist and Nationalist Thought in Black Communities (3 Credits)
The historical and theoretical foundations of feminist and nationalist thought in Black Communities will be examined. Further, we will discover why feminist and nationalist thought has been routinely ignored or misrepresented as disparate, if not oppositional, themes in Black intellectual and political life.
Prerequisite: AASP101 or AASP100.
Credit Only Granted for: AASP493 or AASP499W.
Formerly: AASP499W.
AASP498 Special Topics in Black Culture (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: AASP202 or AASP100.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.
AASP499 Advanced Topics in Public Policy and the Black Community (3 Credits)
Examination of specific areas of policy development and evaluation in black and other communities. Application of advanced tools of policy analysis, especially quantitative, statistical and micro-economic analysis.

Prerequisite: AASP301; or permission of BSOS-African American Studies department.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.