African American Studies Program Courses

Requirements for AFAM Minor:

AA371/ HI371
_African American History_ (Heywood)
The history of African Americans from African origins to present time; consideration of slavery, reconstruction, and ethnic relations from the colonial era to our own time.

AA 580/ HI 580
_The History of Racial Thought_ (Richardson)
Study of racial thinking and feeling in Europe and the United States since the 15th century. Racial thinking in the context of Western encounters with non-European people and Jews; its relation to social, economic, cultural, and political trends.

Electives:

AA207/ SO 207
_Introduction to Ethnic, Race, and Minority Relations_ (TBD)
Social definition of race and ethnicity. The adjustment of different ethnic groups and their impact upon U.S. social life. How prejudice and discrimination create class identities and how caste relations have affected patterns of integration during the 19th and 20th centuries.

AA304/ EN370
_Introduction to African American Women Writers_ (Boelckery)
Surveys the writings of African American women writers from slavery to the present, and explores the African American female literary tradition through a contextual approach based on Black history and culture.

AA 310/ HI 310
_History of the Civil Rights Movement_ (Rabig)
History of the African American struggle for racial equality and democracy from the turn of the century through the 1960’s. Use is made of the most recent scholarship, memoirs, documentary films, and oral history accounts.

AA316 or 716/ AH316 or 716
_African Diaspora Arts in the Americas_ (Becker)
Study of the transmission of African artistry in the Caribbean, South America, and United States from the period of slavery to the present. Topics include Kongo and Yoruba arts and their influence on the arts of Santeria, Vodun, and Carnival.

AA363/ EC363
_Race and the Development of the American Economy in Global Perspective_ (Margo)
Surveys the economic history of African Americans within the context of the development of the American and global economies. Topics include the economics of slavery; race and industrialization;
the Great Migration; anti-discrimination legislation; and the historical origins of contemporary racial
inequalities.
Prerequisite: EC101

AA385/ HI 385
Atlantic History (Thornton)
Examines the various interactions that shaped the Atlantic World, connecting Europe, Africa, and
the Americas between 1500 and 1800. Begins by defining the political interaction, then emphasizes
cultural exchanges, religious conversion, and the revolutionary era.

AA 395/ HI 396/ IR 396
Power, Leadership, and Governance in Africa and the Caribbean (Heywood)
Haitian Revolution; British Caribbean, leadership, governance and power in Africa during the period
of legitimate trade; visionaries, dictators, and nationalist politics in the Caribbean; chiefs, western
elites, and nationalism in colonial Africa; road to governance in post-colonial Caribbean and Africa.

AA 396/ HI 396
State and Commerce in Atlantic Africa, 1450-1850 (Thornton)
Examines, both by region and across the larger Atlantic area, the ways that overseas commerce, in
particular the slave trade, interacted with and was shaped by African politics and economic variables.

AA 408/ SO 408
Seminar: Ethnic, Race, and Minority Relations (Stone)
Formation and position of ethnic minorities in the United States, included cross-group comparisons
from England, Africa, and other parts of the world. Readings and field experience.
Prerequisite: AA 207/ SO 207

AA 410/ HI 481
Blacks in Modern Europe (Blakely)
Readings from recent scholarly books on Blacks in Britain, France, Germany, and Russia, as well as
related primary materials revealing the evolving image of Blacks in European history, folklore,
religion, art, and literature.

AA 489/ HI 489
The African Diaspora in the Americas (Heywood)
Uses historical studies, autobiographical and fictional texts, films, and music by and about Africans
for a thematic and chronological exploration of the origin and transformation of African Diasporic
communities in the Americas from the period of the Atlantic slave trade to the present.

AA 490/ HI 490
Blacks and Asians: Encounters Through Time and Space (Richardson)
Explorations of historical encounters between Africans and people of African descent, and Asians
and people of Asian descent. How such people imagined themselves, interacted with each other,
viewed each other, influenced each other, and borrowed from each other.

AA 501/ EN 588
Topics in African American Literature (Jarrett)
Topics vary.
AA 502/ EN 380
 Topics in African American Literature, Section A1: Twentieth-Century African American Novel (Boelskey)
 Major works from Harlem Renaissance, Realism, Modernism, the Black Arts Movement, and the contemporary period. Authors include Jean Toomer, Nella Larsen, Wallace Thurman, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, John Wideman, and Toni Morrison.

AA 502/ EN 587
 Topics in African American Literature, Section B1: Racial Uplift (Jarrett)
 Examines the ideology of racial uplift in nineteenth-century African American literature, focusing on the themes of literacy, civilization, political constituency, class, gender, and the black intelligentsia.

AA 504/ EN 371
 African American and Asian-American Women Writers (Boelskey)
 Cross-cultural comparison of African-American and Asian-American women writers. Explores and evaluates the cultural impact of their work, and looks at how these two groups bound together by ‘otherness’ pursue the theme of conflicting cultures.
 Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

AA 505
 Black Community and Social Change (Rabig)
 Forces within the larger society that enhance and/or inhibit development of the black community. Assesses potential of the black community to initiate and implement changes affecting its own development locally and nationally.

AA 507/ EN 377
 Literature of the Harlem Renaissance (Boelskey)
 A study of the major writers of the Harlem Renaissance. Explores how they proclaimed a renewal of racial consciousness and cultural pride, and how they challenged racial and cultural barriers in American society.
 Prerequisite: Junior standing and consent of instructor.

AA 510
 African American Drama (Richardson)
 A study of African American and Afro-Caribbean dramatic literature. Focus on the work of August Wilson, Lorraine Hansberry, Aimé Césaire, and Derek Walcott in the context of Western drama.

AA 514/ HI 584
 Comparative Slavery (Thornton)
 The institution of slavery in history with a special focus on slavery and the slave trade in Africa and the Americas in the 16th to 19th centuries. Attention to cultural and political issues as well as economic and social aspects of slavery.

AA 537/ EN 587
 Studies in West Indian Literature: Caribbean Fiction (Breiner; Not offered 2008-2009)
 Readings of modern Caribbean fiction written in English, with attention to cultural and political background. Authors such as Sam Selvon, V.S. Naipaul, Robert Antoni (Trinidad), Wilson Harris (Guyana), Roger Mais, Olive Senior, Anthony Winkler (Jamaica), Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua).
AA 538/ EN 588
*Studies in West Indian Literature: Caribbean Poetry (Breiner)*
A study of twentieth-century Caribbean poetry written in English(es). Anthologies and major figures (Walcott, Braithwaite, Goodison, Roach). Consideration of the poet in a small society, Creole versus standard language, oral versus literate norms, relations to diverse literary traditions.

AA 559/ PO 559
*Reckoning with the Past: Reparations and Justice in Comparative Perspective (Crawford)*
The debate about reparations for slavery and Jim Crow segregation in the United States examined critically as part of a global conversation about, and movement for, retrospective justice. Includes discussion of war crimes tribunals and truth commissions.

AA 563/ EC 563
*Race and Development in the American Economy: A Global Perspective (Margo)*
Surveys the economic history of African Americans within the context of the development of the American and global economies. Topics include the economics of slavery; race and industrialization; the Great Migration; anti-discrimination legislation; and the historical origins of contemporary racial inequalities.

AA 564/ PO 564
*From Slavery to Freedom: Abolition in Comparative Perspective (Crawford)*
Legalized slavery was a natural and normal world-wide practice for thousands of years. This course examines the process of abolition in the Americas, Africa, and elsewhere. It compares abolition to the later regulation of forced labor and to contemporary slavery.

AA 569/ EC 569
*African American Economic History (Margo; Not offered 2008-2009)*
Introduction to current research in African American economic history. Topics include slavery and its aftermath, the long-term evolution of racial economic differences, segregation, voting rights, and anti-discrimination legislation.

AA 571/ AH 571
*African American Art (Hill)*
Studies African American art and craft production from the early nineteenth century to the present against the background of the Diaspora, Reconstruction, and the modernist movements of the late nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries.

AA 583/ HI 580
*Black Radical Thought (Blakely)*
Black radical thought in America, Europe, and Africa since the 18th century through writings of abolitionists, leaders of revolutions and liberation movements, and Black socialists. Emphasizes the global nature of the “Black World” and its role in world history.
AA 586/ HI 586
African Americans Abroad (Blakely)
Develops awareness of the global nature of the African American experience through study of Black Americans’ involvement in aspects of world development besides slavery and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Focus on Europe and the Americas; some attention to Africa and Asia.

AA 588/ HI 586
Women, Power, and Culture in Africa (Heywood; Not offered 2008-2009)
Understanding the role of women in African history. Topics include the Atlantic slave trade, power, religion, the economy, resistance movements, health, the state, and kinship. Emphasis on the period before independence.

AA 590/ HI 590
The World and the West (Richardson)
Explores relations between the West and the Third World from 1850, focusing on national and cultural movements in the Third World, and places the African American struggle for freedom in the United States in a global and comparative perspective.