African and African American Studies (AAST)

Courses

AAST 1003. Introduction to African and African American Studies. 3 Hours.
This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of Africa and African Americans and their impact on the world order and society with an emphasis on that impact's manifestations in the United States of America. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring)

AAST 1233. History of Race and Medicine. 3 Hours.
Examines history of western biomedicine on the intersection of science, medicine, and race to trace origins of current racial disparities. Examples from the United States and other international developments. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 1233.

AAST 2023. The African American Experience. 3 Hours.
Examines various facets of African American culture that collectively construct the African American experience including art, literature, drama, migration, film, and education. Covers issues facing African Americans through a cultural and socio-political context to understand and appreciate African American impacts on the United States. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

AAST 2053. The Black Student-Athlete. 3 Hours.
Examines and deconstructs the experiences of Black student-athletes as they figure in University social, political, and economic life, as well as in popular culture and other aspects of our contemporary societies. Sources include poetry, music, websites, athletic manuals, contracts, as well as other media. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

AAST 3023. African Americans in Sport. 3 Hours.
Historical, sociological, and political issues and debate surrounding African Americans in sport. Contemporary issues facing African American athletes and sports figures. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

AAST 3103. Diversity, Pedagogy, & Visual Culture. 3 Hours.
Investigates various issues of diversity and equity in relation to art and education. It discusses the application of the theories of diversity and equity into teaching, community organizing, activism, and art practices. Prerequisite: ARED 3003.
(Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)
This course is cross-listed with ARED 3103.

AAST 3123. African American Students in Higher Education. 3 Hours.
Examines the impact of college environments on African American students. Focuses on the following topics regarding African American students: retention, student demographics, student characteristics, current trends, issues and problems, student success, sub-populations, student values, and implications for higher education. (Typically offered: Irregular)

AAST 3133. History of Sports in Africa. 3 Hours.
This course considers the ways that Africans have strategically employed sports to confront and overcome both domestic and external challenges and how these approaches and the range of constituent strategies have changed over time.
(Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 3133.

AAST 3193. The Making of the Modern Caribbean. 3 Hours.
History of the Caribbean from pre-Columbian to present times focusing in particular on indigenous origins, colonialism, slavery, rebellion, independence, nationalism, and political integration in the making of the modern Caribbean region. (Typically offered: Fall)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 3193.

AAST 3233. African American History to 1877. 3 Hours.
History of the African American experience in North America emphasizing economic, social, and cultural perspectives. Topics include the African slave trade, the creation of race and racism, the institution of slavery, free community formation in North, and the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on African Americans. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 3233.

AAST 3243. African American History Since 1877. 3 Hours.
The course will study the major social, political, and economical issues relating to the African American experience beginning with the late post-Reconstruction period and will include all of the major personalities and influences in the Civil Rights Movement, from 1877 to the present. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 3243.

AAST 3253. The History of Sub-Saharan Africa. 3 Hours.
Sub-Saharan African history from the 18th century to the present, with emphasis on the impact of the slave trade, colonization, Independence, and contemporary issues of the post-colonial period. Examination of the ways Africans experienced change in terms of culture, society, economics, gender, religion, politics, and labor. (Typically offered: Fall)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 3253.

AAST 3263. African Americans in Film. 3 Hours.
A survey of the history of images of African Americans in film, especially as these images are examined in the context of stereotypical renditions and/or realistic representations of African American experiences. Issues of African American history, culture, and socio-political context will be addressed in the analyses of these films. Prerequisite: ENGL 1023 and junior or senior standing. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with ENGL 3263, JOUR 3263, COMM 3263.

AAST 3273. African Americans in Documentary Film. 3 Hours.
Exploration of the African-American image and experience in the context of time, historical record and varying production viewpoints from diverse documentarians. African-American history, culture and socio-political context are addressed in the analyses of these documentary films from the perspectives of mainstream media, independent filmmakers and minority documentarians. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing. (Typically offered: Spring)
This course is cross-listed with JOUR 3273, COMM 3273.

AAST 3293. Black Politics. 3 Hours.
This is a survey course designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of Black political participation in the United States and throughout the diaspora. In addition to analyzing important events in Black politics in the U.S., the course also examines evolving patterns of diasporic political participation throughout the world. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with PLSC 3293.

AAST 3353. Black Digital Storytelling. 3 Hours.
Provides basic knowledge of the range of capabilities of available audio and video design applications through the intersection of technology, story, and pedagogy, offering perspective, personalization, and insight. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)
AAST 3393. Civil Rights Policy and Politics. 3 Hours.
This course will draw from linkages between the protest phase of the civil rights and American political institutions. The course explores the institutional impact of the civil rights movement on the presidency, congress, the courts, administrative regulatory agencies, and civil rights advisory organizations. (Typically offered: Spring)
This course is cross-listed with PLSC 3393.

AAST 3513. Black Indians in America. 3 Hours.
Examines the history of Black Indian slavery and Freedom in the Cherokee, Muscogee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole Tribes. Explores the switch to chattel slavery following colonization, the experiences of African people enslaved by the tribes and their descendants, ongoing present-day disputes over tribal citizenship, human rights, and the American Indian identity. (Typically offered: Fall and Summer Even Years)

AAST 3523. Black in the City. 3 Hours.
Covers the history of Black people's relationship with the urban landscape. Students will use a wide array of primary sources to explore the ways in which Americans not only perceived the city but also sought to understand, master, and reimagine it and the uneven social and economic development that emerged as a consequence. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring Odd Years)

AAST 3673. Distant Relatives: The Global Black Diaspora. 3 Hours.
Examines the cultural, political, economic, and social experiences of different parts of the African diaspora in the Americas, with special attention to the Black Atlantic World, focusing on the making of the diaspora through slavery, the middle passage, and later coerced and voluntary migrations. (Typically offered: Spring and Summer Odd Years)

AAST 3853. Topics in African-American Literature and Culture. 3 Hours.
The study of works of African-American literature, with attention to particular themes, genres, authors, literary movements, historical moments, or other organizing principles. Content varies. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.
This course is cross-listed with ENGL 3853.

AAST 3973. South Africa: The Long, Ongoing Walk to Freedom. 3 Hours.
Examines the country's complex history and also the ways that this past is both remembered and memorialized. Closely examines the initial motivations for the colonization of South Africa, the experiences of Africans under colonial and, subsequently, apartheid rule and the ongoing legacies of these periods in contemporary South Africa. (Typically offered: Irregular)

AAST 3983. Black Movements and Messiahs. 3 Hours.
Focuses on black movements and leaders across global African history since the Age of Revolutions to the present including political, economic, social, cultural, religious and artistic movements throughout Africa and the diaspora. (Typically offered: Irregular)

AAST 399VH. Honors African & African American Studies Thesis. 1-6 Hour.
Independent thesis research and writing under the direction of an AAST faculty member. Prerequisite: Junior standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

AAST 4003. African & African American Studies Study Abroad. 3 Hours.
Examination of selected topics in conjunction with student participation in the bi-annual African & African American Studies Study Abroad program to Ghana. Topic variable, chosen by instructor. (Typically offered: Summer Even Years) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

AAST 4003H. Honors African & African American Studies Study Abroad. 3 Hours.
Examination of selected topics in conjunction with student participation in the bi-annual African & African American Studies Study Abroad program to Ghana. Topic variable, chosen by instructor. (Typically offered: Summer Even Years) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

AAST 4043. Black Italia. 3 Hours.
Examines the history, representation, and lived experiences, both prejudices and successes, of marginalized persons in Italy, particularly those of African heritage through an interdisciplinary lens. (Typically offered: Spring Odd Years) This course is cross-listed with ITAL 4043.

AAST 4053. Historic Black Northwest Arkansas. 3 Hours.
Examines the history of Black NWA from settlement to the twenty-first century by examining, recovering, and documenting the lives of the region's enslaved and free people of color. Additional exploration of the communities, institutions, social, businesses, and artistic movements that define the black experience in NWA. Corequisite: Lab component. (Typically offered: Irregular)

AAST 4103. Communicating Body Image. 3 Hours.
Examines hidden assumptions about body image as it relates to the intersections of race, class, gender, and other major identity markers. (Typically offered: Fall)
This course is cross-listed with COMM 4103.

AAST 4123. Africa and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. 3 Hours.
Examines the trans-Atlantic slave trade with a primary focus on the role of Africa and Africans in creating the unique economy and culture of the trans-Atlantic world. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 4123.

AAST 4153. Race and Society. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the sociological study of race and ethnicity within the United States, with emphasis on understanding how race and ethnicity operate within contemporary social institutions. Prerequisite: SOCI 2013 or AAST 1003 or AAST 2023. (Typically offered: Fall)
This course is cross-listed with SOCI 4153.

AAST 4163. African American Perspectives of Trauma, Loss, and Recovery. 3 Hours.
Explores dimensions of trauma, loss, and recovery within the lived experiences of African American individuals, families, and communities in the United States. Prerequisite: Junior standing or instructor consent. (Typically offered: Fall)
This course is cross-listed with SCWK 4163.

AAST 4173. Social Work with African American Families. 3 Hours.
An overview of historical and contemporary issues of African American families using culturally competent and strengths based frameworks. Focuses on the Black family as a social institution. Covers current trends affecting Black families, historical influences, evaluation of social policies, and programs of today. Prerequisite: Junior standing or instructor consent. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring)
This course is cross-listed with SCWK 4173.

AAST 4183. Black Environmental Justice. 3 Hours.
Provides an overview of the foundations of environmental justice as it relates to African-American communities. Expands the definitions of the environment and deconstructs the connection between slavery, land loss, gentrification, and food deserts. Finally, the course explores federal policies that shapes built environments, and its influence on African-American culture. (Typically offered: Irregular)

AAST 4263. Modern Africa. 3 Hours.
Examines the last half-century of Africa's history, focusing on the last few decades. Introduction of Africa's colonial past, revolutions and struggles for independence. Review of African development in the post-colonial and contemporary era, successes and failures of independent Africa, and the challenges the continent faces today. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 4263.

AAST 4323. Racial Identity, Politics, and Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Examines how race and perceived racial differences affect political discourse, mobilization, representation, and political outcomes. Prerequisite: PLSC 3293 or AAST 1003 or Junior standing. (Typically offered: Spring Even Years)
This course is cross-listed with PLSC 4323.
African and African American Studies (AAST) 3

AAST 4383. The American Civil Rights Movement. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the history and development of the civil rights movement in the United States. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 4383.

AAST 4473. Account Planning. 3 Hours.
An introduction to applied advertising research and account planning. Integrate consumers' perspectives into creative strategy to developing brand stories for clients. Write creative briefs, positioning statements and prepare copy-testing research instruments to evaluate messages. Utilize consumer research for creating messages for diverse cultures. Corequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: Minimum 90 hours completed, no in-progress hours or coursework accepted, 2.5 overall GPA, JOUR 1033 with a grade of C or better, and ADPR 3723 and ADPR 3743, with a grade of B or better. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring)
This course is cross-listed with ADPR 4473.

AAST 4523. Black Utopias/Dystopias. 3 Hours.
Explores how thinkers in the U.S., the Caribbean, and Africa, as well as movements such as fugitivity, colonization, and emigration to Haiti, Canada, Liberia, Ghana, Paris, and numerous other spaces, envisioned ideal forms of community that would shield them from the perils of white supremacy and racist oppression. (Typically offered: Fall Odd Years)

AAST 4563. The Old South, 1607-1865. 3 Hours.
Survey of the political, social, and economic development of the antebellum South. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 4563.

AAST 4573. The New South, 1860 to the Present. 3 Hours.
Survey of the development of the Civil War and postwar South to the present. (Typically offered: Fall Even Years)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 4573.

AAST 4583. Cultures of Africa. 3 Hours.
An exploration of the people and places of Africa from a variety of anthropological perspectives. Classic and contemporary works will be studied in order to underscore the unity and diversity of African cultures, as well as the importance African societies have played in helping us understand culture/society throughout the world. (Typically offered: Fall)
This course is cross-listed with ANTH 4583.

AAST 4623. African American Art History. 3 Hours.
Surveys African American art from the seventeenth century to the present. It begins with a discussion of the transatlantic slave trade and it examines art produced in what Pratt terms the "contact zones." It then follows developments in African American art from the Antebellum Period to the present. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923. (Typically offered: Fall)
This course is cross-listed with ARHS 4623.

AAST 4813. Africans and Slavery in Colonial Latin America. 3 Hours.
Explores the diverse experiences of slaves and free Blacks in colonial Spanish and Portuguese America from 1500 to around 1888, demonstrating that bondage and the practice of African slavery was a pillar of political authority in colonial Latin America. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 4813, LALS 4813.

AAST 4823. Black Freedom in the Age of Emancipation. 3 Hours.
Comparative study of Atlantic World freedom movements from the perspective of the African Diaspora. Focuses on the histories, meanings, and legacies of the various types of black emancipation in the Atlantic World and the cultural technologies that enabled them. (Typically offered: Spring)
This course is cross-listed with HIST 4823.

AAST 4853. Studies in African American Literature and Culture. 3 Hours.
The study of works of African American literature, with attention to particular themes, genres, authors, literary movements, historical moments, or other organizing principles. Content varies. At least one major research paper will be required. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.
This course is cross-listed with ENGL 4853.

AAST 4863. Gender, Race, and Power. 3 Hours.
Examines how communication shapes gender, race, sexuality, and power. Rather than focusing exclusively on interpersonal communication, this course looks at theories of power that shape institutional macro communication. (Typically offered: Fall Even Years)
This course is cross-listed with COMM 4363.

AAST 489V. African & African American Independent Study. 1-6 Hour.
An exploration of African & African American Studies topics independently with a faculty member. Topic variable with permission of faculty member. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

AAST 4923. History of the Black Press. 3 Hours.
Covers the historic context of contributions and innovations to U.S. newspapers by African Americans. Also investigates the role of the black press from its beginnings in 1827 through the civil rights movement. Prerequisite: Junior standing. (Typically offered: Spring Even Years)
This course is cross-listed with JOUR 4923.

AAST 4933. African American Political Ideology. 3 Hours.
A survey course designed to identify and examine characteristics and functions of several variants of black political ideology/thought. (Typically offered: Fall Odd Years)
This course is cross-listed with PLSC 4933.

AAST 499V. African and African American Studies Seminar. 1-12 Hour.
Explores the various aspects of the African & African American experience as it relates to the development of relationships in American society and the world at large. Variable topic each semester. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit.

AAST 5003. Graduate Seminar in African & African American Studies. 3 Hours.
Introduction to graduate study of African & African American Studies through an interdisciplinary examination of the history of the discipline, research methods employed, and its relationship to other disciplines. (Typically offered: Irregular)

AAST 5103. Graduate Readings in African & African American Studies. 3 Hours.
An exploration of African & African American Studies topics independently with a faculty member. Topic variable with permission of faculty member. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

AAST 5573. Black in the City. 3 Hours.
Covers the history of Black people's relationship with the urban landscape. Students will use a wide array of primary sources to explore the ways in which Americans not only perceived the city but also sought to understand, master, and reimagine it and the uneven social and economic development that emerged as a consequence. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring Odd Years)

AAST 5673. Distant Relatives: The Global Black Diaspora. 3 Hours.
Examines the cultural, political, economic, and social experiences of different parts of the African diaspora in the Americas, with special attention to the Black Atlantic World, focusing on the making of the diaspora through slavery, the middle passage, and later coerced and voluntary migrations. (Typically offered: Spring Odd Years; Summer)

AAST 5903. Special Topics in African & African American Studies. 3 Hours.
Graduate level seminar with varied emphasis on topics relating to African & African American studies. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.
AAST 5913. Independent Study in African and African American Studies. 3 Hours.
Graduate level independent study course with varied emphasis on topics relating to African and African American studies. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

AAST 6023. Destabilizing Queer Theory. 3 Hours.
Highlights constricted and racialized ways in which people generally visualize class, gender, race, and sexualities. Students will discuss the criticality of complex dynamics of visual politics in class, gender, race, and sexualities, and theoretical issues posed and negotiated by queer theory. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with ARED 6023.

AAST 6963. Visualizing Critical Race Theory. 3 Hours.
An examination of critical theoretical approaches to the concepts of race and racism. Students will examine the ways in which these constructs perform a critical function in the construction of race(s) and racism(s) and their relevance to visual culture.
(Typically offered: Fall and Spring)
This course is cross-listed with PLSC 6963, ARED 6963.