Introduction to African American Studies
AFRICAAM 105/ENGL 143B/HIST 105
TTH 1:15-3:05 Bldg 200-305

*This course fulfills the Core Requirement class for both the AAAS major and minor; the Writing-in-the-Major (WIM) requirement for AAAS; the Race & Ethnicity topic in English; and the American Cultures GER.

SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

Professor Clayborne Carson
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Office Contact: 650-723-2092
Office Hours: M Th 3:30pm-4:30

Professor Michele Elam
Office: African & African American Studies, Bldg 360, rm 362
Office Contact: 650-723-3782
Office Hours Winter: Thursdays 10-12 & gladly by appt.
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/AAAS/

Teaching Assistants & WIM Instructors
Nigel Hatton  hatton@stanford.edu
Christina Jimenez jimenezc@stanford.edu
Office: African & African American Studies, Bldg 360 (AAAS lounge)
Hatton Office Hours: Tuesday: 11 - 12:30 p.m. and 3:15 - 4:45 p.m. & by appt.
Jimenez Office Hours: MW 11-12 & by appt.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

The African American experience spans four hundred years, from the initial settlement of the North American continent by Europeans and the establishment of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, to the present day. This interdisciplinary course examines the social thought, cultural mores, religious institutions, intellectual history, political challenges, literary traditions and expressive arts of people of African descent in the Americas.

This course also offers a Service Learning Option, 1-3 additional units, designed especially for AAAS 105 (details available through Tania Mitchell).

REQUIREMENTS

50% One 5-7 pp double-spaced essay + 1 required finished draft each
- Draft Due: Feb 12; Drafts returned with comments within 10 working days.
- Final Essays Due: March 20th noon

Essay drafts will receive a provisional grade that will be adjusted once the final revision is received. Grades of the draft and final are averaged. Revisions are required no matter the grade on the draft; failure to turn in a revision means the draft grade will be averaged with a F. Suggested paper topics handed out approximately 2 weeks in advance, but you are welcome to develop alternative topics with your professors or TA.

50% Eight 2-3 pp close reading analyses (description attached). Close readings can be incorporated into the essay, and, in fact, you are encouraged to use your close reading either as a way to explore a wide range of subjects and/or to begin examining in depth a potential paper topic.

+/- Attendance & Discussion Participation: This course has a lecture-discussion format. Although we will be frequently offering short lectures, we also have structured the class to allow for your active engagement with the ideas and topics. Attendance and participation in class and all sections is absolutely crucial. If you miss more than two classes or sections, your grade will be compromised.

Late Work Policy: Written work--close readings, essay drafts, and the final paper--that comes in any time after beginning of the class period it is due will be marked down a half a grade per diem, so it is essential for your own sake that you turn all work in on time. This policy is in place both in order for your TA to comment on your work in a timely fashion, and out of respect for your peers who did get their work in on time.
SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

*Unless otherwise noted, all texts should be read (or in the case of the anthology CD, heard) in their entirety on the date they appear on the schedule. Be prepared to discuss these readings or audio recordings on that day. Page numbers for the readings from the anthologies are in parentheses. Reading assignments from the *African American Lives* will be abbreviated to AAL. We know they are heavy but it is important that you bring your anthologies, esp. the Norton, to every lecture.

WEEK 1
Jan 6 Tue
Introductions

Jan 8 Th
AAL Ch 1 (Ancient Africa); Ch 2 (Africa and the Atlantic World)
Norton, “Preface to the Second Edition” (xxix-xxiii)
“Introduction, Talking Books” (xxvii-xlvi)
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavas Vassa, The African, Written By Himself* (187-200; through Chapter 1)

WEEK 2
Jan 13 Tue

**CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**
Norton, “The Literature of Slavery & Freedom, 1746-1865” (151-162)
Equiano (200-213)
Phillis Wheatley (213-216) and “On Being Brought From Africa to America” (219-220).
David Walker (227-228) and from David Walker’s Appeal in Four Articles; Together with Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World” (228-38)
Sojourner Truth, “Ain’t I A Woman” (245-249)
Harriet Jacobs, from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (279-315)

Jan 15 Th Martin Luther King’s Birthday Celebrations
AAL Ch 4 (Africans in Bondage: Early 18th C to the Am. Revolution)
Ch 7 (African Americans in the Antebellum Era)
Norton, Maria Stewart, “Religion and the Pure Principles of Morality” (249-252)
“The Vernacular Tradition” (3-8)
“Spirituals” (8-10)
Read and listen to these on the Audio Companion: Ezekiel Saw de Wheel (11); Go Down, Moses (12); Been in the Storm So Long (13); Steal Away to Jesus” 914); Soon I Will Be Done (17)
“Gospel” (19)
Read and listen to these on the Audio Companion: This Little Light of Mine (21); Take My Hand Precious Lord (23)
WEEK 3
Jan 20 T

**CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**
AAL Ch 8 (African Americans in the Reform Era, 1831-1850)
Handout: from Nat Turner’s Confessions (1831)
Film: Nat Turner: A Troublesome Property (Charles Burnett, 2002)
Visiting Speaker, Doug Jones

Jan 22 Th
AAL Ch 11 (Post-Civil War Reconstruction), Ch 12 ((The Post-Reconstruction Era)
Norton: “Literature of the Reconstruction to the New Negro Renaissance, 1865 1919”
(541-553)
Ida B. Wells, from A Red Record (675-685)
Booker T. Washington, from Up From Slavery (570-601)

WEEK 4
Jan 27 T

**CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**
AL Ch 13 (“Colored” Becomes “Negro” in the Progressive Era)
James Weldon Johnson, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”(791-2; 794)
“Harlem Renaissance, 1919-1940”(953-961);
W.E.B. Du Bois, from The Souls of Black Folk, (“Forethought,” Ch. I, III, VI)
and “Criteria of Negro Art” (686-689; 692-707; 720-730; 777-783)

**Listen to CD DISC 2, #1 (Washington)

**In section: Film, “Against the Odds: Art of the Harlem Renaissance”

Jan 29 Th AAL Ch 14 (The Making of the “New Negro”:WWI to the Great Depression)
Norton: Alain Locke, “The New Negro”(983-992);
George Schuyler, “The Negro-Art Hokum”(1220-1223);

Marcus Garvey, “Africa for Africans” (997-1003)

**In section: Film: “Devil’s Music: 1920s Jazz”
WEEK 5
Feb 3 T

**CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**

Norton: Jean Toomer, “Karintha” and “Fern” from Cane (1168-1171; 1177-1181)
Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (1291); “Mother to Son” (1292); “The Weary Blues” (1294); “I, Too,” (1295); “Mulatto”(1297); “Harlem”(1308)

**Listen to CD DISC 2, # 7 & 8 (Hughes) and CD DISC 1 “Rosie” (Inmates of Parchman Farm Penitentiary”

Feb 5 Th

Norton, Zora Neale Hurston, “Sweat” (1019-1029)
"How it Feels to be Colored Me” (1030-1033)
From Their Eyes Were Watching God (1062-1070)
“You May Go But This Will Bring You Back”(30)
**Listen to CD DISC 1, #11 (Hurston)
Countee Cullen, “Heritage” (1339-1340; 1347-1350)
**Listen to CD DISC 2, # 9 (Cullen)
Claude McKay, “If We Must Die” (1003-1005; 1007)
**Listen to CD DISC 2, # 3 (McKay)

WEEK 6
Feb 10 T

**NO CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**

AAL Ch 15 (The New Politics of the Great Depression)

Norton: Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, 1940-1960” (1399-1410)
Richard Wright, “Blueprint for Negro Writing” and from Black Boy (1399-1411; 1471-1487)
Margaret Walker, “For My People”(1617-1620)
**Listen to Walker in CD 2, #11 (Walker)
Anne Petry, Ch 1 from The Street (1496-1497; 1504-1616)

Feb 12 Th

**ESSAY # 1 DRAFT DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY**

AAL Ch 17 (Emergence of a Mass Mov’t Against Jim Crow)
Norton: Ralph Ellison, “Richard Wright’s Blues”; excerpts from Invisible Man (1535-1569)
James Baldwin, “Everybody’s Protest Novel” and “Stranger in the Village” (1696-1712).
Handout from Baldwin’s The Fire Next Time

**WEEK 7**
Feb 17 T

**CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**
AAL Ch 18 (Marching Toward Freedom, 1960-1966)
Norton: Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1895-1908)

Feb 19 Th
Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun (1748-1830)
**See A Raisin in the Sun with Sidney Poitier in section**

**WEEK 8**
Feb 24 T

**CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**
Film in section: Baraka’s play Dutchman
Hoyt Fuller, “Towards a Black Aesthetic” (1852-1859)
Addison Gayle, Jr. “The Black Aesthetic” (1911-1918)
Maulana Karenga, “Black Art: Mute Matter Given Force and Function” (2086-2090)
**In section see Episode of Eyes on the Prize II: America at the Crossroads**

Feb 26 Th
AAL Ch 19 (Resistance, Repression, and Retrenchment, 1967-1978)
Norton: Sonia Sanchez, “Summer Words of a Sistah Addict” (1963; 1966)
**Listen to CD DISC 2, #15 (Sanchez)**
Audre Lorde, “Poetry Is Not A Luxury,” from Zami: A New Spelling of My Name” (1919; 1924-1925; 1926-1936)
Lucille Clifton, “the lost baby poem,” “homage to my hips” (2031-2033)
Nikki Giovanni, “Nikka-Rosa” (2096; 2098)
**Listen to CD DISC 2, #16 (Giovanni)**

“The Sounds of Revolution: HipHop” (78-80)
Gil Scott Heron, “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” (80-82)
Handout: Sarah Jones, “The Revolution Will Not Happen Between These Thighs”
Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five “The Message” (82-85)
**Listen to CD DISC 2, #24 (Grandmaster Flash)**
WEEK 9
March 3 T

**CLOSE READING DUE THIS WEEK**
AAL Ch 20 (Search for New Directions During a Conservative Era, 1979-1991)
Norton: Toni Morrison, from Song of Solomon (2210-2287)
  Morrison, “Unspeakable Things Unspoken” (2299-2399)

March 5 Th
Norton: Morrison continued

WEEK 10
March 10 T

**CLOSE READING DUE TODAY**
Norton: August Wilson, Joe Turner’s Come & Gone (2457-2503)
Visiting Speaker, Professor Harry J. Elam Jr.

March 12 Th
AAL Ch 21 (Continuing Struggles over Rights & Identity, 1992- )
**See Marlon Riggs’ film “Black Is…Black Ain’t” in section
*Handouts on reparations and redress
*Handouts on the “post-black” exhibition at the Studio Museum of Harlem

**ESSAY #1 FINAL DUE MARCH 20 NOON**